

2021 Newark National's On-Field Safe Practices and Game Operations

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Courtesies:

- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash immediately.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing stations with soap and water are now readily available at each complex. Alternatively, you can simply clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Individuals should not congregate in common areas or the parking lot following a game or practice.
- Individuals should not exchange items or engage in any physical interactions with those not in the same household.

Social Distancing:

- All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators should practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. For situations when players are engaging in the sports activity, see On-Field Guidance below for more information.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Self-monitoring and quarantine:

- All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating in or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional.
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with a serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.

ON-FIELD PRECAUTIONS

Team Practices:

- Coaches and players must adhere to physical six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.
- Coaches must wear face coverings at all times.
- Groups of 3-4 participants is strongly advised while maintaining a six-foot distance.

Pre-Game Plate Meeting:

- Social distancing of six feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between coaches and umpires.
- Plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires.
- All participants should wear a cloth face covering.

- No players should ever be a part of plate meetings.

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as it is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 15 minutes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., should wear PPE whenever possible, such as cloth face coverings.
- Players should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.
- Players, especially at younger divisions, are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field.
- Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.

- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. There should be no use of shared or team beverages. Drinks should be labeled with a name.
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.

Dugouts:

- Managers/coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least six feet apart and must be placed behind a fence.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Players and managers/coaches should wear a cloth face-covering while in the dugout.

Player Equipment:

- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- It is in the best interest of players if they have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.

- Measures should be enacted to avoid or minimize equipment sharing when feasible.
- Some equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share limited equipment, all surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected before use by a new player.
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker at home.

Baseballs:

- Game balls should be provided by the team that is playing defense.
- Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls when possible.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds & Gum:

- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., should not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.
- All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.

Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- Fields should be mowed, raked, and lined prior to teams and spectators arriving at the complex and after they

depart. It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game (managers/coaches, umpires, and league administrator) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site.

- It is recommended that any shared field preparation equipment be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

Umpires:

- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible and wear protective gloves.
- If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.