



Martinsburg Little League Association

P. O. Box 931 • Martinsburg, West Virginia 25402

Guidelines for Starting Play at Oatesdale Park 2020 Little League Season

First of all, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you for your patience during this COVID-19 pandemic that has altered at least in some way all of our daily lives. We are still very hopeful that we will have at least a full eight weeks of baseball this season. With that being our plan, we must first provide guidelines that will keep everyone safe and healthy during this time. We want to also provide tentative dates for coming back to Oatesdale Park. All of our dates are tentative and subject to change pending advice and direction from the local and state health department, Little League Baseball, our District Administrator and our Board. The following represent our policies covering this season, dates for starting, and safety guidelines to keep us foremost safe and healthy.

1. Our target date to start the season with practices is June 8, 2020, and start play on June 13, 2020, with 8 weeks of play. Practices and games will require social distancing as much as possible.
2. Players will not spend time in the dugouts. The team that is batting will line up along the outside of the fence with designated positions on their respective dugout side of the field. When the teams change sides, the defensive team will take the field after the inning has ended and the other team has exited the field.
3. Parents are asked to bring a chair and sit outside the outfield fence to watch during all practices and games and practice safe distancing of 6 feet. Mask are not required but are recommended for spectators.
4. Managers and coaches will be required to wear a face mask during practices and games until further notice. Players are not required but are encouraged to wear masks at the discretion of parents.
5. Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. Home plate and base umpires are required to wear a mask during games. We must all remember that face mask protect not only the wearer, but also others around you.
6. If you as a parent or guardian or your players have any symptoms like a fever, cough, tightness of chest, headache or intestinal issues, please do not come to the Park. Hand sanitizer will be available for the players, coaches, managers, and umpires.
7. There will be no sharing of equipment among players (gloves, bats, and catcher's equipment). Coaches will be responsible for cleaning catcher's equipment to the best of our ability.
8. There should be no more than 2 practices and 2 games per week per team.
9. All volunteers in the concession stand will be required to wear a mask and gloves. The volunteer handling money will not handle food.

10. Any tournament play will be evaluated as the season progresses. At this point, we are focusing on having an 8 week regular season. We will consider tournament play by mid-season.
11. Practice times will be scheduled for teams with a 15 minute interval between team practices.
12. Interleague play for Intermediate, Junior, and Senior divisions will occur and a schedule will be developed.
13. Uniforms in the form of a hat and shirt will be provided as in the past contingent upon availability.
14. There will be no more than two volunteers in the press boxes at one time and social distancing will be practiced.
15. For any parent or guardian who chooses not to have their child participate this year for any reason, we will give a full credit for next year or refund your registrations fee if you so desire. I would like to advise you that our expenses continue even if a baseball season does not happen this year. During the off-season we redesigned and rebuilt the T-Ball field. Our original security system was replaced, and a new HVAC system required replacement in the meeting building. These projects were completed not expecting or foreseeing this shutdown of baseball or had we known it before. Please advise us by June 1, 2020, whether you want a credit for next year or a refund of your registration fee if you choose not to participate this year. Please contact us at martinsburglittleleague.com with your decision.
16. Players' parents will be contacted by the managers of the team where the player is assigned to play.

This opening plan is fluid and could change with future recommendations from National, State, and Local Little League Administration. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Governor and local Health Department officials. We realize we want to play baseball this summer, but we must always work to ensure the safety of our players, volunteers, and their families. The physical health of everyone involved is of utmost importance to everyone. We are all in this together. So let us all work and strive for the wellbeing of everyone involved at Oatesdale Park and Martinsburg Little League.