

Irmo Little League COVID 19 Guidelines

Due to concerns surrounding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and other health authorities, Irmo Little League is implementing some new, mandatory health and safety procedures as part of a proactive approach to preventing the spread of germs.

We are adopting these new measures effective immediately and cannot stress enough how vital it is that all Irmo participants not only adhere to these guidelines, but also step in and help out.

Team Effort

We all need to do our part to help monitor the health of each participant and spectator. All parents are encouraged take the temperature of their player and everyone coming to the park prior to leaving for the fields. Anyone with a fever, cough, or any other COVID 19 symptoms or recent exposure to those symptoms should stay home. Everyone is encouraged to wear masks and required to practice social distancing.

“No-Contact/No-Handshake” Policy

We are instituting a precautionary “no-contact, no-handshake policy” to be observed at every level of the organization until further notice. This includes all physical contact and extends to customary game-related activities, such as pre-game coaches’ handshakes, umpire-coach introductions, and post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Instead, staff, players and coaches should use verbal queues, such as saying “good game,” without shaking hands, high-fiving or fist-bumping.

Sharing of Equipment

It is recommended to not share equipment if at all possible. If you must share equipment (helmets, catcher’s equipment) please cleanse with Lysol wipes or spray to disinfect and prevent the spread of germs. It is wise for each child to have their own batting helmet.

If players or coaches have an additional set of catchers gear, they are encouraged to utilize it to reduce sharing. For the Coach Pitch division, players will not wear the full catchers gear. For that division, the catcher’s position will wear his/her batting helmet and stand to the side behind the batter’s box. We ask that all Coach Pitch managers return their catcher’s gear to the league so that they may be redistributed to other teams in an attempt to minimize shared equipment. For Minors division and up, coaches will be required to sanitize the team catcher’s gear after each game.

Practices & Games

Players are to hang bags no less than 6ft apart along the outside fence. The League will work to mark off the fence to visualize where the bags can be hung.

Between innings, each player and coach is to hand sanitize and the game balls are to be wiped down with disinfectant.

A section of bleachers will be utilized as an ‘extension’ of the dug out to minimize the number of players in the dugout at a time. No more than three (3) players will be permitted in the dugout at any time and the rest of the team will be located on the bleachers during games. Spaces will be marked for them to sit. Dugouts and player bleachers will be sanitized after each game. At the T-ball and JCP fields, players will sit along the outside fence (spacing will be marked) or with their parent until they need to be in the dugout as there are not enough bleachers to utilize.

Players and coaches coming in for the second game are not permitted to enter the dugout or player bleachers until the League has had an opportunity to disinfect them after the first game. Coaches, or other team volunteers, may assist the League and help disinfect the dugout and player bleachers in an effort to decrease wait time.

Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and space them appropriately along the outside of the field as the spectator bleachers will not be sanitized between games. In addition, we ask that you keep the number of family members to a minimum that come to watch the games. Seniors and those with significant health issues who are at risk should follow the CDC guidelines and not attend events or should take the appropriate precautions.

During practice, have no more than four players to a group and organize practice in a way that eliminates several players standing in a line (e.g., lining up outside the batting cages). Coaches should make every effort not to gather all their players close together right next to the field for between inning or post game talks.

After games and practices, we request that families not congregate at the park.

Concession Stand

No sunflower seeds or gum will be allowed at the park.

Irmo will only sell pre-packaged food and drinks from the concession stand. This will eliminate grilled food, fresh popcorn, boiled peanuts, pickles, pretzels and slushies from the menu. Sunflower seeds, roasted peanuts, and bubble gum will also be removed from the menu as they are not permitted at the park this season to prevent shells/gum from being spit out. The Board is looking into alternative options to offer meals on game nights. In addition, only 2 adults will be permitted in the concession stand at the same time (no children) and all volunteers working in the concession stand will be required to wear gloves and encouraged to wear masks. Distance indicators will be placed down to avoid standing so close in the line.

Snack tickets have always been a favorite part of the game for all players. As such, Irmo wants to keep this tradition alive. Rather than have the players or a large number of people rush the concession stand after the game, either the individual parents will come to the concession stand *during* the game to get their child's snack or *one* team representative can collect each players 'order' and ticket. That representative will bring the order to the concession stand to be filled and will distribute to the players on the team.

Common Areas

Frequently touched surfaces will be sprayed/cleaned with disinfectant periodically throughout game nights. These areas include door knobs, counters, faucets, etc. located in the restrooms, concession stand and press boxes.

We recommend that parents not permit their children to play Wall Ball (typically this takes place on the backside of the concession stand).

Overall Good Hygiene Practices

All volunteers, coaches, parents and participants in Irmo Little League events should be aware of the coronavirus risk and take the necessary precautions to avoid exposure to germs. This includes maintaining good hygiene practices. We strongly recommend the following:

- Wash your hands often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; this is suggested after any physical contact with another person or with a shared surface
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your mouth and nose – with a tissue, if possible – when coughing or sneezing, then properly discard the tissue in the trash
- Avoid close contact with anyone else who is coughing or sneezing or who is otherwise sick
- Clean or disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Advice from the CDC

[CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has a specific Q&A regarding the virus in children:

Q: Are children more susceptible to the virus that causes COVID-19 compared with the general population and how can infection be prevented?

A: No, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible...

- see here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fchildren-faq.html

All Irmo Little League events are come at your own risk (players, parents, and fans). Irmo Little League will not be held responsible for contracting an illness at any sponsored event. The top priority of Irmo Little League is keeping children and family's safe and healthy during this time.

We will provide updates related to these new measures or let you know about any additional precautions to take if and when they become necessary. We appreciate your cooperation in following these new procedures as we work together to maintain the highest health and safety standards as an organization.