

This is Much Bigger Than Little League!

With the announcement from the Governor regarding reopening the state of Georgia, we are sure that most of you are ready for the Little League baseball season to begin soon. To ensure that we are attempting to take a safe approach for our league, we are still monitoring information regarding the spread of Covid-19 in our area. With the data that is currently available, and to allow more time to monitor conditions in our area, we are recommending our league take an abundance of caution and **continue to implement a delay in all league activities until no earlier than May 11th**. During this delay our local league board of directors will be in communication with district, Georgia state Little League, Southeastern Little League and Little League International headquarters, and along with our local government officials to determine if the delay should last longer than the May 11th proposed timeline.

It is critical that we all do our part following CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19 located on their website at [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov). Little League International will also provide additional guidance and has developed a series of FAQ's at the following link LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus. Along with these guidelines our league will develop several comprehensive lists of guidelines to help protect our players, volunteers, family and fans. The league will ensure that all league coordinators communicate the plan to all coaches and parents in their respective leagues. We will also communicate these guidelines for our volunteers, concession stand personnel and umpires.

Due to the delay in the start of the season, the league is asking for your patience as we will to implement more of a "Quick Start" beginning to the season than what we would normally plan. We will likely only have 8-10 days to practice before the start of games. Hopefully this will allow each team to practice 3 or 4 times before games begin. We will likely play an 8-game schedule with a single elimination tournament for the Coach Pitch and above leagues. If we can start on the proposed date of May 11th, that will have the season run until the end of July or mid-August. Please be patient and flexible with the timing and dates. First and foremost, the safety of everyone involved is what makes this "Much Bigger Than Little League".

At this time the comprehensive safety requirements are a constant work in progress as we determine best practices from the resources mentioned above. Those requirements will include but not limited to the following:

Facility Sanitization

Concession Stand Requirements

Health Monitoring Measures

Social Distancing for Players and Coaches During Practice and Games

Social Distancing for Spectators During Practice and Games

These best practice guidelines will be shared with everyone as soon as possible so that we can all do our part in being committed to making sure that we put "Safety First".

Martinez-Evans Little League appreciates your patience, your dedication to the league, and continued support.

Facility Sanitization

Prior to opening both Kelly and Crawford Little League Parks, restrooms and the concession stand areas will receive a “Deep Cleaning”. Access to the concession stands are limited and the last occupation date was much longer than the period of time, 2-3 days for which the virus can live on a hard surface. The concession stands normally conduct a deep cleaning yearly prior to the start of the season and before they are open for concession sales. The same cleaning process will be repeated this year.

Restrooms and both parks will receive a “Deep Cleaning” by a professional cleaning service prior to the opening of both parks for practices. Professional cleaning will take place on a weekly basis until the end of the season.

Both facilities will have trash emptied from the concession stand on a daily basis and from the restrooms on a weekly basis or before is needed. Facility volunteers will also refill soap dispensers in the restrooms when needed.

Concession Stand Requirements

In order to protect our concession stand personnel, our leagues players, family members and volunteers, adherence to best practices guidelines for operation should be strictly followed. Concession stand personnel should take their temperature before coming to the parks and must receive a reading of less than 100 degrees. The best practice guidelines are posted in the concession stand. For additional protection and in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, no more than two people should occupy the concession stand at one time.

Concession stand personnel should always wear disposable gloves. The virus can live on currency and customer debit cards, so it is important not to make contact with the face area even with gloves on. After the concession stand is closed for the day, all gloves should be disposed of in the trash can which will be emptied daily. All utensils used during concession stand operation that day should be washed, dried and stored in the appropriate locations. All counters should be wiped down daily and all concession stand personnel should wash their hands before leaving each day.

Health Monitoring Measures

From CDC Guidelines located at the following link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Watch for symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

These symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus:**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills

- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

All players, parents, family members, coaches and volunteers must self monitor or be monitored for the symptoms above. Anyone entering our Little League facilities must have a temperature of less than 100 degrees. CDC guidelines define someone having a temperature if it is measured at 100.4 degrees. Without medical grade testing equipment, a tolerance has been included in the less than 100 degrees guideline.

The league reserves the right to monitor temperature of players, player family members, umpires, coaches and volunteers. Temperature monitoring will be conducted by trained personnel. Anyone found to have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be asked to leave the facility.

Government officials will contact anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19. It is important that anyone who test positive for the virus contact our league officials so that appropriate steps can be taken to protect our league.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Social Distancing for Players and Coaches During Practice and Games

It is important that our league does its best to practice social distancing when our season begins. Parents should educate all players about social distancing. Coaches will do their best to enforce social distance guidelines. These guidelines will change the way we normally practice and play baseball, but they are critical to ensure our league is taking necessary precautions. Baseball does afford us the ability to practice and play in a large open well-ventilated area. Our leagues coaches and volunteer board members will play an important role in enforcing social distancing. All coaches need to remain open to feedback regarding social distancing from other coaches and league officials throughout the season or until further guidance had been given.

Baseball dugouts, due to their design, do not allow for social distancing and will not be used except by coaches. During practice players will place their bat bags, bats, water bottles and all equipment along the first or third base fence line, spread out at least six feet apart. As games begin it will be necessary for players to place their belongings on the outside of the fence line. When social distancing guidelines have been lifted, players and coaches can return to using the dugouts.

Coaches should prepare practices plans that maintain social distancing. Coaches should prepare plans that split the players up into 2 or 3 smaller groups for practice drills. For instance, one group can be practicing in the infield while another group practices in the outfield and another in the batting cage.

Players and coaches must avoid physical contact. The normal high five used for acknowledgment will have to be suspended for now. Teams are encouraged to be creative in ways of acknowledging and encouraging each other without contact. The normal tradition of shaking hands after games will have to be suspended.

Players must avoid sharing batting helmets and equipment. The league has a number of batting helmets that can be assigned individually for the season. Parents are encouraged to disinfect personal equipment after practice and games. Each player bringing a water bottle to the field should have their name on the bottle.

The tradition of providing team snacks after the game will also be suspended until further notice.

Team meetings before and after the game will still require social distancing.

Parents should try to limit the number of family members attending practices. If younger children are brought to practice, they must sit close by the parents and be closely monitored in ensure that they are practicing social distancing. In the past they have been allowed to move freely around the park, but we need to limit that movement until further notice. The playground area will remain closed during practice and games.

Social Distancing for Spectators During Practice and Games

Until further notice, social distancing should be observed at parents and family members attending practice and games. In order to limit the number of spectators at practice, parents should consider having one parent attend practice sessions. Coaches must refrain from bringing younger children to practices and games unless they can be closely monitored by another parent or older family member in order to maintain social distancing.

While attending practice and games members of the same household may sit together and be subject to social distancing guidelines. All other spectators should practice recommended social distancing and not sit any closer than 6ft from another spectator. The league reserves the right to remove bleachers from the field area if they feel social distancing guidelines cannot be properly maintained. Parents will be notified and should plan to bring a folding chair to practice and games if this guideline is put in place. Parents will be notified if this guideline is implemented. Please remain cognizant of the social distancing guidelines while at the park. Maintain a six-foot distance while walking through the park. It might mean waiting for others to pass or clear the area, so please use patience in order to observe social distancing guidelines.

Six-foot demarcations will be placed on the ground outside of the concession stand. Please observe the demarcation points in order to maintain proper social distancing.

Restroom areas should have no more than two occupants at any time. When entering the restroom that is already occupied by two people, please return outside and remain until a vacancy occurs.

Adults age 65 and older with underlying health conditions are especially vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus. And should strictly observe the following social distancing guidelines as noted below by the following CDC warning:

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Parents should try to limit the number of family members attending practices and games if possible. If younger children are brought to practice and games, they must sit close by the parents and be closely monitored to ensure that they are practicing social distancing. In the past they have been allowed to move freely around the park, but we need to limit that movement until further notice. The playground area will remain closed during practice and games. Children who are moving unsupervised throughout the park will be asked to return to sit with their parents. Please be responsible and avoid the league from having to become babysitters to enforce this guideline.