

**NEILL**

**Return to Play Plan**

**Spring 2021**

Welcome back to baseball at Newtown Edgmont Little League. As we return to play, our mission continues to be providing athletes with the most enjoyable, competitive, and positive experience. In order to do so while ensuring the safety of all, we encourage parents, athletes, coaches, and all guests to join us in returning to play responsibly with our new ground rules.

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## Our Responsibilities

- ❖ **Hygiene/Sanitation** - Players and coaches should practice proper hygiene, wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use alcohol based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol), abstain from touching their face (mouth, eyes, or nose), and cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw tissue in the trash. The league will have hand sanitizer throughout the complex.
- ❖ **Social Distancing** - Please maintain at least 6 feet between you and others, following all posted signage throughout the facility. Coaches will limit the amount of contact with the athletes during practices and games, and are required to wear masks at all times.
- ❖ **Face Coverings** - The Pennsylvania Department of Health has mandated that face masks be worn indoors and outdoors when away from home. All volunteers are required to wear masks at all times.
- ❖ **Cleaning & Disinfecting** - Please be patient as our team performs more frequent cleaning. Help do your part by keeping your area clean and disposing of trash.
- ❖ **Health Monitoring** - Daily self-evaluated wellness screenings need to be

completed by all guests prior to entering the facility. Guests experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact a local health care facility immediately. Anyone with a temperature above 100.3 in the 24 hours prior to a scheduled activity should not enter the complex.

### **Minimizing Frequently Touched Areas**

- ❖ Please bring your own seating as the bleachers, pavilion, and picnic tables will be closed.
- ❖ The Indoor Practice facility will be closed to the public.
- ❖ Please bring your own personal water container as water fountains will be disabled.
- ❖ Doors will be left open to eliminate contact on handles.
- ❖ Concession lines will be ordered and separated according to the CDC and state/local guidelines.

### **Scheduling Features**

- ❖ Event information will be communicated digitally to minimize the hand-off of materials on-site.
- ❖ Game start times will be staggered, and we recommend teams to not arrive more than 1 hour prior to the game.

### **Umpire Rules**

- ❖ Ground Rules will be carried out at the home plate area, but coaches are asked to stay on the perimeter of the dirt while the umpire is going through the rules.
- ❖ The umpires will call the games from behind the pitcher's mound.
- ❖ In the event that a coach would like to ask for clarification on a call, or appeal, we ask that the coach does so from a 6 foot distance.

### **Pre-Game**

- ❖ Teams will have 20 minutes to hit in the cages before the next time slot is up.

Please be courteous of the other teams also needing to warm up.

- ❖ New baseballs will be designated to each individual game.
- ❖ After the completion of the previous game, please enter the field for the upcoming game through the outfield gates.

## **During The Game**

- ❖ Dugouts will be limited to coaches, and the on-deck and in the hole batters. The bleachers on either side of the dugouts will be used as the dugout for the remaining players. Coaches will be allowed in the dugouts to assist flow of the game.
- ❖ No spitting, sunflower seeds, peanuts, or gum.
- ❖ The home plate umpire will be positioned 6 feet behind the pitcher.
- ❖ Participants (including umpires) inside the field of play are required to wear a face covering.
- ❖ Equipment Sharing is prohibited.
- ❖ Player Equipment should be spaced accordingly to prevent close contact.

## **Post Game**

- ❖ Post game handshakes between teams are prohibited, we ask rather that teams stand in front of their respective dugouts and tip their caps to the opposing team and their fans.
- ❖ Post game team meetings will be prohibited on the field of play.

## **Spectators**

- ❖ Spectators will stand in the outfield of each field, maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between themselves and other families who are also watching the games.
- ❖ To limit the total number of people at the complex we are requiring that each player have no more than 2 spectators accompany them.

## **Food, Beverage, and Concessions**

- ❖ Outdoor dining areas will be closed at this time.
- ❖ Concession lines will be ordered and separated according to the CDC and state/local guide- lines.
- ❖ Bottled drinks and pre-packaged goods will be served at this time, and a mask is required when in line and ordering at the concessions stand.

## **Restrooms**

- ❖ Indoor restrooms will be available in 2 locations:
  - behind the concessions stand
  - inside the indoor building (Flanagan Center)

## **Parent/ Guardian Responsibilities**

### **Protocols & Self Reporting**

- ❖ Individuals Confirmed with COVID-19
  - Any individuals with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive test may return to practice and games when the following criteria are met:
    - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
    - A lab confirmed COVID-19 negative test
- ❖ Individuals Considered At-Risk of Exposure
  - Individuals identified as being exposed to someone with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 positive test will be quarantined based on the following:
    - 10 days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to monitor themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14
    - 7 days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to monitor

themselves daily for symptoms and take appropriate precautions through day 14

- Individuals who return to practices or games from these shorter quarantine windows should regularly monitor themselves to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions for the duration of the 14-day incubation period. Individuals who develop symptoms at any time during the 14-day incubation period should not report to practices or games.

- ❖ **Self Reporting to the League**

- All positive test cases and exposures to an individual that has tested positive must report the information to your teams manager immediately. Manager's will then notify the division directly immediately. Guidance will then be communicated back to the manager from the League on actions that will need to be taken.
- Any player who has been sent home sick from school or is under quarantine due to close contacts should not be present at the NELL complex and must contact their manager before returning.

- **Additional Links**

- ❖ Little League International has developed content to assist communities as they return to play. For more information please use the link below:

- [Organizing, Playing, and Watching Little League Baseball During COVID-19: Best Practice Guidelines](#)

## **Moving Forward**

- ❖ Throughout the season as medical and government guidance changes, our Return to Play policies will continue to evolve. All updates will be communicated to participants in advance of their

events.

- ❖ Return to play policies will have the most recently updates version available on our website,  
<https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/nellbaseball/>
- ❖ NELL directors and volunteers will be on site to help guide all players, coaches, and parents in providing a safe and enjoyable experience at Newtown Edgmont Little League.

Thank you in advance for your adherence and careful review of the above guidelines.



Daren Grande  
President, Board of DirectORS