

## WCALL COVID-19 PHASE III GUIDELINES – LETTER TO PARENTS AND COACHES

Dear Parents and Coaches:

We are writing to provide you with an update now that Rhode Island has entered phase III of its COVID-19 re-opening process. We are very happy to report that games will begin at our complexes beginning July 6 for majors, July 7 for AAA, and July 11 for AA and T-ball.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”) has provided updated guidelines for youth sports organizations as the state enters phase III re-opening. In following those guidelines, Warwick Continental American Little League (“WCALL”) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during its upcoming 2020 season. **WCALL, however, cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, participating in WCALL’s 2020 season could increase your risk and your child(ren)’s risk of contracting COVID-19.**

Parents, coaches and all others visiting our complexes must adhere to the RIDOH COVID-19 guidelines at all times. These guidelines apply not only WCALL-related activities but also to ALL participants (coaches, players, visitors, etc) to both our complexes for non-league activities, including but not limited to AAU practices, scrimmages, games and/or tournaments.

To ensure the safety and health of all of our families, the following guidelines will apply to all activities at our complexes during phase III:

**Stable groups:** Participants should be organized in teams as “stable groups.” The term “stable groups” means the same individuals, including children and coaches, that will remain in the same group / team during the remainder of the 2020 season. Children and coaches should not change from one team to another for the remainder of the season. Non-team members (non-coaching parents, siblings, friends, etc) are prohibited from the playing field and dugouts during practices, scrimmages and/or games.

**Physical distancing:** Physical distancing is encouraged during active play (practice, scrimmage and/or game), but not required. Activities where at least six feet of distance can be maintained are encouraged and 14 feet of distance is preferred. When not engaged in active play on the field, players and coaches should maintain physical distance of six feet between each person.

**Space between stable groups (teams):** When stable groups (teams) are not engaged in active play with one another, the stable groups (teams) should maintain a minimum physical distance of 14 feet from one another. WCALL will coordinate scheduled practice and games times for each team at each of our complexes with staggered start/end times where possible to cut down on large groups of people at our complexes at any given time. Players, coaches and parents should only be at our complexes during their team’s scheduled practice or game time.

Once your team's practice or game is over, please vacate the complex (including the parking lots) as soon as possible.

**Face coverings:** Coaches, staff, parents, spectators and all other visitors to our complexes should wear a face covering when unable to “easily, continuously, and measurably keep six (6) feet of physical distance from others.” Players are encouraged to wear face coverings when not engaged in active play on the baseball field (i.e. in the dugout, when entering / exiting the complex, etc.). While engaged in active play on the baseball field, players do not need to wear a face covering. Face coverings shall not be required of those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons.

**Games:** No after-game handshakes at home plate between teams.

**Spectators:** Spectators are allowed and there should be at least six feet of physical space between household groups while a spectator. Spectators should be at least 14 feet from the outer limit of play. It is highly recommended by RIDOH that no more than two (2) spectators attend from any household.

**Screening:** We require that all families diligently perform a “self-screening” on their child(ren). If your child(ren) or any coach has any symptoms of COVID-19, has had any contact within the past 14 days of anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, has traveled out of the United States or has traveled to any state with stay-at-home restrictions, or has been directed to quarantine within the past 14 days, he/she should NOT attend practice, scrimmage or game. Further, if your child, a coach and/or anyone they have come into contact with has been diagnosed by a medical professional with COVID-19, in addition to staying home, we are asking that you notify WCALL immediately. With that in mind, WCALL has designated Mario Cerullo as its COVID-19 liaison for the 2020 season. In the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in your household, please notify (401) 261-9216 (cell) /mariocerullo@ymail.com (email) immediately. Once a positive diagnosis is reported, WCALL will promptly contact the RI Department of Health for guidance (in confidence).

**Quarantine:** If a player and or coach on a team tests positive for COVID-19, the entire team or group (if they have been close contact with the athlete or coach) needs to quarantine for 14 days. This is mandated by RIDOH phase III guidelines. As noted above, it is the intention of WCALL to immediately notify RIDOH of any positive COVID-19 diagnosis of any participant and seek RIDOH's guidance. If a team in any WCALL division is required to quarantine, WCALL Board of Directors will provide further guidance as to resulting effect that team quarantine will have on game scheduling (including make ups), standings, playoffs, etc within that division.

**Equipment:** Players should bring and use their own equipment where possible. Shared equipment should be limited and sanitized between users. Equipment should be set up in the dugout, practice fields, etc. to allow physical distance between users and to limit multiple touches.

**Food / beverage:** All participants must have their own beverage items. Cups, bottles, or other beverage items are not to be shared. We highly encourage labeling beverages, water bottles etc. with your child's initials. Food (including sunflower seeds)

is prohibited on the practice fields and in the dugouts. Coaches / parents should remember to remind players to hydrate during warm weather.

**Hand cleaning:** Reinforce handwashing with all children at practices. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used. Handwashing and/or sanitizing should occur before, during, and after practices and games.

**Facilities:** Bathrooms at our Crowne complex will be closed throughout the 2020 season. Sanitized port-a-johns will be available for use at the Crowne complex. The existing bathrooms at the Crowne complex will remain closed through the end of phase III. Sanitized bathrooms will be available for single use at the Boyd (Library) Complex. Snack bars will be open to sell bottled drinks only. No food, INCLUDING sunflower seeds, is allowed in the dugouts. A daily cleaning schedule will be implemented to ensure the frequent cleaning of high-touch areas or equipment, daily cleaning, and a cleaning and disinfection between practices. Bleachers will remain open at both complexes (Crowne and Boyd) with a (6) foot physical distance requirements. At our Crowne complex, please DO NOT park in the office building parking lot – you must park in WCALL’s parking lot at the end of the street.