



South Portage Little League

4801 E. Centre Avenue
Portage, MI 49081

March 12, 2020

For Immediate Release

As an organization designed to encourage the safe and enjoyable games of softball and baseball, we have been closely monitoring the recent news about the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) throughout the world and our local community. According to guidance from the Governor of the State of Michigan, organizations are encouraged to avoid large gatherings of greater than 100 people to help limit the spread of this harmful virus. Given the serious nature of this virus, we have implemented the following proactive steps at South Portage Little League, that will last until further notice:

- Assessments planned for Saturday, March 14, 2020 will still take place; however, there will be changes to schedules to ensure that there are no gatherings of larger than 100 players at any one time. More details on these time changes will be shared with affected families shortly. Players are asked to only come during their assigned time window. Any players scheduled for Majors or Little Majors Baseball makeups should attend your pre-designated time. If you are unable to attend, please email baseball@southportagell.com immediately.
- For Assessments planned for Saturday, March 14, 2020, only one (1) adult parent/relative/guardian can accompany each player. For a family with more than one player being assessed, only one (1) adult parent/relative/guardian is allowed for all players of that family.
- For Assessments planned for Saturday, March 14, 2020, no siblings, friends, or additional family members (other than described above) will be allowed at the assessments. Any additional people that arrive with a player will be asked to remain outside the facility, preferably in their vehicle.
- During the Assessments planned for Saturday, March 14, 2020, at any time that the total count of attendees (including players, assessors, check-in staff, parents, and assistants) nears 100, additional players and their families must wait in their vehicles until there is space available for additional people inside the facility.
- As a regular precaution and as advised by Little League International, players are encouraged to use their own equipment, *when possible*. This includes (but is not limited to) batting helmets, batting gloves, bats, gloves, facemasks, hats, uniforms, and water bottles. South Portage Little League will provide bats and balls for assessments – which will be wiped down at set intervals with disinfectant wipes. Players are asked to keep their equipment in their bags or in their own pile – away from another players' equipment.
- Any player or family member that suspects that they might be ill with any type of communicable illness (cold, flu, strep throat, coronavirus, etc.) are asked to not attend assessments. Players will not be penalized if they are unable to attend assessments due to taking precautionary measures.

We understand and agree with much of the public sentiment that many of these steps are excessive and possibly overkill given the minimal viral activity in our local community. However, we have the time, space, and patience to exercise precautions that support good healthy choices – and South Portage Little League is committed to keeping all players, families, spectators, our community, and our volunteers safe.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

South Portage Little League Board of Directors

Direct Inquiries to media@southportagell.com