

Reading Little League Baseball

2020 COVID-19 Safety Plan – UPDATED 8/14/2020

RLL Baseball has developed a safety protocol following the Commonwealth of MA guidelines. Some traditional and usual aspects of baseball will be modified. Responsibilities of the league, parents, coaches, and players are summarized in this document.

League responsibilities:

- Have hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes available at each league field.
- Schedule extra time between practices/games to minimize overlap to the extent practical.
- Provide catchers' gear (AA, AAA, Majors or Intermediate, Advanced, and 50/70 Leagues in fall baseball) for the entire season to players as needed. Limited supply available. Equipment must be returned at end of season.
- Provide "modified dugouts" for AA, AAA, and Majors (Intermediate, Advanced, and 50/70 Leagues in fall baseball) to support social distancing.

Universal responsibilities:

- Conduct a symptom assessment of any member of your household (including yourself) that will be attending an RLL game or practice. This includes a temperature check. Do not attend the game or practice if symptoms exist.
- Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.
- Notify the coach and RLL if your player(s) or someone they have been in contact with is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Restrooms and Snack Shack will be closed.

Parent/guardian responsibilities:

- Limit spectators to each game/practice to 2 spectator per player in order to have no more than 50 people at a field at any time (excluding players, coaches, umpires).
- Players may not share equipment. Supply a glove, bat, batting helmet, and water bottle for your player(s) and ensure that they are labeled. For Majors, AAA, and AA (Intermediate, Advanced, and 50/70 Leagues in fall baseball), please bring a chair for your player(s) as each player will have a designated area outside the dugout for their belongings.
- Supply a mask/facial covering for your player(s).
- For Rookie and Single A teams (Beginner League for fall baseball), a parent/guardian must be present with their player(s) for the entirety of each game, as players in these divisions will sit with their parent/guardian when they are not on the field. AA, AAA, and Majors (Intermediate, Advanced, and 50/70 Leagues in fall baseball) teams will use modified "dugouts" away from spectators.
- No gum, sunflower seeds, or similar will be permitted.
- Stay out of designated player areas and maintain a six-foot distance from other spectators. Bleachers will not be used for spectators at Majors or Hunt Fields.
- Commonwealth of MA protocols require that spectators wear face masks and maintain 6' social distancing.
- Leave the field as quickly as reasonable after games/practices and do not congregate in parking lots or other common areas.
- It is recommended to not carpool with non-household members
- Review the protocols with your player and ensure they understand what is required to participate.

Coaching responsibilities:

- Understand and adhere to social distancing guidelines to the extent practical during practices/games.

- Coaches will supply their own face masks and are required to wear them at all times, this includes when performing 1st and 3rd base coach duties.
- Review the requirements for players, coaches, and umpires in detail.
- No contact between players/coaches/umpires. This means no high-fives, post-game handshake lines, etc. It is suggested that teams line up on foul lines after games to tip their caps to opponents and umpires.
- AA, AAA, and MAJORS (Intermediate, Advanced, and 50/70 Leagues in fall baseball) teams will use modified dugouts away from spectators.
 - Majors, Hunt, and Eaton fields have numbers (#1-13) hung on the fences. Please designate each player a number for the season. This will be their area to keep their belongings and stay when not on the field.
 - Note that the setup required will differ among Reading fields.
- Minimize in-person team meetings and have your team leave the field promptly when your practice/game ends.
- It is suggested that each coach have one team representative to assure all safety protocols are in place during practice/game.
- Rotate game balls every 2 innings during games.
- All high touch surface areas must be sanitized at the end of each activity.
 - Rakes, hoses, shed handles, etc.
 - Sanitizing agents will be provided by RLL at each field.
- Fields ideally are prepared prior to arrive of players
 - Completed by coaches and spectators participating
 - Equipment used cleaned after each use

Player responsibilities:

- Participants for all sports must wear facial coverings on the bench at all times and in any huddles or time-outs. Baseball batters must wear facial coverings while at bat. Once the player is at a base, they can remove the face covering. Face coverings are not required when playing defense.
- Understand and adhere to social distancing guidelines during practices and games.
- Follow your coach's instructions for where to sit and where to put your equipment.
- If you feel sick during a practice or game, tell your coach right away.
- If you feel sick before a practice or game, tell a parent right away.
- When you're not on the field:
 - Use the hand sanitizer when you come off the field/into the dugout.
 - Wear a face mask.
 - Stay six feet away from others (stay in your designated spot).
 - Keep your drinks and equipment separate from your teammates.
 - Do not use their equipment or let them use yours.
 - No spitting, seeds, gum, or similar products are allowed.
- No touching other players (or coaches, or umpires).
 - No shaking hands, high-fives, chest bumps... No handshake lines after the game.

Umpire responsibilities:

- Plate meeting should be very limited or eliminated
 - Follow social distancing (6 ft) for meetings
 - Umpires must wear a face covering
 - No players may participate in plate meetings
- Umpires (AA, AAA, Majors) will be placed behind pitcher's mound to call balls and strikes
 - Encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible