

Freehold Township Little League

Return to Play Plan - Fall 2020

The Freehold Township Little League has prepared the following guidelines for the Fall 2020 Season based on the requirements provided by the New Jersey Department of Health & Little League International. This Return to Play plan is in addition to the FTLL's 2020 ASAP Safety Plan.

All players, coaches and staff at FTLL practices, games or events must adhere to these guidelines. All, including spectators should follow the NJ State guidelines regarding masks & social distancing at all times.

1. Guidelines for Participating in the Fall 2020 Season:

- Anyone who is not comfortable participating in the Fall 2020 Season, or who does not feel comfortable following these guidelines, should NOT return for this Fall season.
- ALL players, coaches and staff will be required to sign a waiver before being allowed to participate in any practice/game. Waivers will be collected as part of the online registration process as a condition to register & play/participate.

2. Guidelines for the Use of FTLL Facilities:

2.1 Game Fields

- All dugouts & bleachers will be designated for coaches, players, umpires & staff only.
- Dugouts will be limited to the 3 players at bat or up to 3 players not in the field on defense; and a coach. The remaining players & coaches will socially distance on the bleachers.
- Spectators are not permitted to use the bleachers.

2.2 Outdoor Cages:

- Some cages will be open for the Fall Season.

2.3 Bathrooms:

- Bathrooms facilities will be subject to the Recreation Department policy as they are controlled by the Township.

2.4 Hygiene:

- All players, coaches, umpires, and spectators should practice "good hygiene" by regularly washing their hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. The FTLL will supply hand sanitizer to each team during games. Managers/Coaches should make sanitizer available for practices.
- Following games, the coaches should facilitate the cleaning of the dugouts/bleachers of debris.
- The FTLL will seek to provide sanitizing wipes to clean commonly touched areas.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Players and coaches should avoid all but the essential contact necessary during practice or competition.
- All players, coaches, and umpires should bring their own beverages. There should not be any shared food or beverages.

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- The following are not permitted:
 - Sunflower seeds
 - Chewing gum
 - All players and coaches are encouraged to refrain from spitting.

2.5 Concession Stand:

- The FTLL concession stand will only sell drinks & packaged goods (e.g. candy bars & snacks) when in operation.
- Patrons must social distance when waiting on lines.

2.6 Umpire Room:

- Umpires can be provided access to the Umpire Room by the Field Marshall or board member.
- Any shared umpire equipment will be sanitized by the field marshal or representative using sanitizing wipes provided by the FTLL.

3. Guidelines for Practices or Games:

3.1 Requirements at Arrival

- Upon arrival for games, each player, coach, umpire, & staff members will be required to have a temperature check & to answer questions facilitated by a board member or designate.
- Upon arrival for practices, each player & coach will be required to have a temperature check & to answer questions facilitated by the manager or designate.
- A parent or guardian will need to be present to answer the below questions for minors.
- The recording of temperatures & answers to the required questions will be made on the Daily Log of Team COVID-19 Entry Health Screening form (shown below). Forms will be retained by the FTLL. Managers are required to turn in those forms from practices to a FTLL representative at their next scheduled game.
- Questions administered at the temperature check will be as follows:
 - Temperature upon arrival – exceeds 100.4F will be excluded
 - Fever reducing medication administered?
 - Symptoms (Fever, cough, shortness of breath)?
 - Household members with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath?
 - Close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the Past 14 Days?
- Anyone answering 'Yes' to any of the above cannot participate and should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so.
- Any identified medical exclusions at practices or games MUST be reported to the FTLL Division Director immediately for follow up.
- All medical information should be treated with the proper confidentiality.

3.2 Coaches:

- All coaches are required to wear a mask during practices and games.
- Coaches are responsible for setting an example and ensuring social distancing between players to the best of their ability, including:

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- Additional spacing between players while playing catch.
- Changing drills so that players remain spaced out during warmups/drills.
- No congregating of players while waiting to bat.
- Spacing personal equipment in a safe manner
- Coaches should not allow players to share equipment.

3.3 Players:

- All players must use their own equipment (e.g. gloves, helmets, & bats).
- Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume. No sharing is permitted.
- Players do not need to wear a face covering while on the field.
- Players are permitted to wear a face-covering at any time if the player or their parent/guardian/caretaker deem it necessary.

3.4 Spectators:

- Spectators should follow the NJ State guidelines regarding masks & social distancing at all games & practices.
- Avoid direct hand or other contact with the players, managers, and coaches during play.
- Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- Spectators should consider their own medical condition before attending any games or practices.

4. Additional Guidelines for Games Only:

4.1 Scheduling:

- Game times will be spaced out to allow for teams to finish their game and leave the facility before other teams show up to play.
- Time limits will be employed for all games.

4.2 Pregame

- Players should not arrive more than 40 minutes before game time. Anyone arriving earlier than 40 minutes must remain in their car.
- Warm-ups should be limited as much as is reasonable.
- Congregating players in the outfield to field grounders or pop-ups is prohibited.
- Pitchers should be allowed to warm up with a catcher before each game.
- Batting practice on field is prohibited.

4.3 Baseballs /Softballs:

- Each team should use their own balls while in the field during games.
- Each team must have minimum 3 balls per game.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players and coaches. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

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4.4 During the Game:

- Coaches:
 - Coaches must call the umpire to their dugout with any questions and remain 6' away.
 - For the safety of all we will not allow aggressive arguing with any umpire.
 - Coaches must refrain from celebratory physical contact and discourage players from doing the same.
 - A coach or designate should be assigned by each team to supervise the players sitting on the bleachers.
- Players:
 - Players waiting to be in the game must sit in the bleachers maintaining social distancing guidelines. Sitting in the dugout while on defense is permitted as long as social distancing is possible.
 - Only the next 3 batters due up may be in the dugout.
 - All player equipment will be placed against the fence in front of the bleachers and 6' apart.
- Umpires
 - Junior Umpires may wear masks at their or their parent's discretion.
 - Adult umpires may wear masks at their discretion.
 - Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.

4.5 End of the Game:

- There can be no handshakes or fist bumps before or after the games. Please tip your hat to the opponents after the game.
- There will be no post game meetings between the coaches and players. Any follow up can be done via email.
- Players and their families are expected to clean up and leave the facility immediately after the game. No post game gatherings will be allowed.
- Trash must be discarded in a waste receptacle.

5. Guidelines for Handling a Positive COVID-19 Test:

- If a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19 or comes in direct contact with an outside person who tests positive for COVID-19, the league will take the following steps.
 - The activities for that team affected by a positive COVID-19 test may be suspended immediately for 2 weeks based on further guidance from health professionals.
 - The league will seek further guidance by contacting the Freehold Township Health officials and will follow their recommendations which could impact other teams/individuals.