

Linglestown Baseball Association

COVID-19 Guidelines - Spring 2021

Purpose:

Recognizing that the safety and health of players, coaches and spectators are of utmost importance to this organization, during the COVID-19 crisis, the following guidelines shall be incorporated into the administration and operations of the Linglestown Baseball Association (LBA). Because the best practices relating to risk mitigation of COVID-19 are constantly changing, these guidelines are a living document which may be updated to reflect the most current research and data. The current guidelines are based upon the recommendations and guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov). These guidelines will be reviewed regularly by the LBA Board of Directors (BOD), as well as the established advisory committee designated by the LBA BOD, and may be modified at the sole discretion of the BOD. Any updates to the guidelines will be uploaded to the LBA website as soon as practical, but shall be in effect even if not done so. All updates will be premised on current recommendations and guidelines established by the CDC.

LBA COVID-19 Advisory Committee:

As set forth by the LBA BOD at its 6/15/2020 meeting, an advisory committee made of up of no less than 3 community representatives will serve as an advisory committee, to review these guidelines and any updates that are made to the guidelines. Members of the advisory committee will serve on a voluntary basis, providing recommendations and approval of these guidelines. One LBA BOD member will be designated as the COVID-19 officer and will serve as part of this committee and will be the point of contact between the advisory committee and the LBA BOD.

Enforcement:

These guidelines as approved are to be enforced by all entities within Linglestown Baseball Association. Head Coaches of each team will ensure these guidelines are explained to each player and family. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in immediate cessation of games/practices. Instances of non-compliance will be reviewed on an individual basis by the LBA BOD. The BOD reserves the right to suspend or remove any coach or player who it deems to have failed to comply with these guidelines or otherwise poses a risk to the health, safety or welfare of any other member of the LBA. The Head Coaches have the responsibility of enforcement. At any time that the coach does not feel comfortable with actions, he/she is to immediately notify either the COVID officer or the LBA President. If neither of these individuals are available, the head coach may contact any LBA BOD member.

Parent responsibilities:

-Any questions related to these guidelines should be immediately communicated with the player's head coach. Parents should enforce these guidelines as to his/her player before the season and periodically thereafter.

- Parental screening - parents should provide screening prior to arrival at practice/games. Players should be without any fever or signs/symptoms of COVID for at least 72 hours. Fever in this case is defined as a temperature greater than 100.4 deg F. Additional signs/symptoms include chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, unexplained muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, rash or diarrhea. Furthermore, in the event that another member of the family who resides in the same home as the player tests positive for COVID, the parent should notify the Head Coach. In this case, the player will not be permitted to play for a period of 10 days (dependent upon the latest CDC Guidelines), or until cleared to return by the player's primary care physician. Parents should report any positive signs/symptoms to your player's head coach PRIOR to arrival for practice/games, and thereafter such player should only attend the game or practice upon consent of the Head Coach.
- Consideration should be made regarding transportation to and from the ball field. It is strongly encouraged that players do not car pool, but rather be dropped off at the field by parents. This will assist in the mitigation of possible transmission.
- Parents should ensure players have an adequate supply of beverages and ensure the player has all of his/her equipment for each practice and game. Each player will need to provide his/her own bat, glove and helmet. Assistance in acquiring these items can be obtained by contacting the LBA President, Bob Phillips. At no time will a player be provided a piece of equipment to borrow for a practice or game. The lack of proper equipment will result in the inability of the player to either practice or play on that date.
- Parents should recognize that post-game snacks and celebrations may not be facilitated through the spring 2021 season. Please do not bring snacks/treats for players for post-game celebrations as this encourages congregation during the post-game timeline.
- Parents should bring chairs or blankets to ensure social distancing at the ballpark. Because of social distancing requirements, there will be limited seating on the bleachers. Spectator seating will be modified from years past, with spectator seating designated by the red areas on Appendix A. Spectator seating may be modified from that identified on Exhibit A and further limited as may be identified on other instructions, markers or barriers.
- Parents are not permitted in the dugouts. If a parent needs to speak to his/her player during practice or games, the parent should approach the fence or bench and obtain the attention of the head coach. The head coach will then contact the player to exit the field of play.
- Parents should abide by social distancing protocols (at least 6 feet whenever possible) and wear a face covering whenever possible.
- Understanding the impact parents have regarding the success of these guidelines, parents are asked to assist LBA in the enforcement of these guidelines for all other spectators. Parents should also limit the number of spectators for each practice/game to assist the league in promoting social distancing in the park. Any parent or spectator who witnesses acts that may be deemed unsafe should report such acts to the Head Coach or BOD member immediately.

Player Responsibilities:

- Players will comply with the guidelines established. Non-compliance will result in the player being removed from practice/game. Future participation will be considered on an individual basis by the head coach and the LBA BOD.
- Player positions in the dugout will be established by the head coach in advance of the game. Some players will be required to stay outside the dugout, in the fence area outside of the field of play. These areas are in the attached document and will be refined based upon the number of players during a given game.
- Players will provide his/her own equipment, including bat, gloves and helmet. Assistance in acquiring these items can be obtained by contacting the LBA President, Bob Phillips.
- Players will provide his/her own beverages. The concession stand may or may not be open, depending on the most current CDC guidelines. Players will ensure his/her beverage container is clearly marked with his/her name. Any container left at the field after practice or games will be discarded.
- Players are not allowed to bring sunflower seeds, gum or any other food into the dugouts or areas of play.
- Players will not make contact with other players that are not necessitated in the field of play (ex - no high fives, handshakes, contact due to celebration, etc.) Contact caused by making a play is inevitable, but should be restricted to necessary contact only.
- Players will ensure proper social distancing at all times when not engaged in play that requires a shorter distance. Social distancing is defined as at least 6 feet in-between persons.
- Players are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Equipment which covers the face, such as helmet face masks or catcher's equipment should be disinfected after each game or practice. There should be no sharing of any equipment at any time.
- Player's equipment should be kept in his/her bag at any time the equipment is not in use. Equipment should not be placed on benches or fencing.
- If at any time, the player feels ill, he/she should report his/her condition to the head coach.
- Players will supply his/her own facemask for practices and games.
- Players who assume the position of "pitcher" are required to eliminate any motion could be interpreted as "going to the mouth." At no time will a pitcher be allowed to spit or make contact of his/her fingers to his/her mouth and then to the ball. This act will result in a determination of a "balk" and a new ball will be placed in play by the umpire.

Coach Responsibilities:

- Coaches are to be familiar with the current guidelines and provide these guidelines to assistant coaches, players and parents, and should enforce these guidelines at all times.
- Coaches are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Coaches are not to come in contact with any player, except in the event of an injury in the field of play.
- Coaches should ensure each player has adequate drinks for the practice/game. Multi-use team bottles/containers are strictly prohibited. Coaches may keep spare single-use water bottles accessible for players who run out of water. Water bottles should NOT be refilled at the park.

- A coach shall remain in his/her designated areas. Coaches should not enter the field of play to question a call, but rather call time out and ask to speak with the umpire.
- The head coach will identify 1 or 2 assistant coaches. Especially in the t-ball and rookie leagues, a parent/coach should be identified to enforce these policies while players are on the bench. This parent/coach should be seated behind the bench/seating area. For the midget level, this parent/coach should not be in the dugout, but rather seated just outside. A score keeper can be identified from the stands/seating, but this person should not be in the dugout. A book keeper is allowed in the dugout, but he/she will count as the second assistant coach. At no time will more than 3 adults be allowed in the dugout.
- The head coach will provide the designated COVID-19 officer as well as the LBA President any information related to concerns or violations related to these guidelines.
- The head coach is responsible for the enforcement of all LBA guidelines. If a head coach is to be found negligent in the enforcement of these guidelines, the LBA BOD will evaluate the negligence and make a decision regarding the continuity of the coaches participation moving forward.

Spectator Expectations:

- Spectators should abide by social distancing protocols (at least 6 feet whenever possible) and wear a face covering at all times.
- No spectators will be allowed in the press booth.
- To reduce congregation of spectators, family and players, it is recommended that spectators do not bring pets to the park.

Practice Protocols:

- All guidelines should be maintained throughout all practices.
- When possible, the number of players at practice should be limited. For example, if practice is batting cages only, the head coach should stagger the arrival times for players so we mitigate the risk which occurs with increased number of people.
- Batting practice - only the pitcher should pitch and gather the balls. At no time should batters collect the balls in the batting cages.
- Players should not be permitted to utilize the dugouts. During practice, players should stage their equipment bags and drinks along the fence at the field, providing at least 6 feet between stations.
- Coaches should divide players into groups to minimize the touch points on balls and to help promote social distancing.
- Baseballs must be disinfected by lightly spraying them with disinfectant after each practice and game.

Game Protocols:

- Players will be directed to his/her area in the dugout. Players should limit the areas he/she touches and should be restricted to only that area in the dugout. Players should not slide up

and down on the bench and should restrict the movement in the dugout to only times of going to the on-deck circle or to the field of play.

- Players should not leave the dugout unless directed by the head coach.
- Players should not congregate on the field of play to celebrate a hit or homerun. Players are encouraged to cheer, but no contact should be made.
- Players not in the game (due to injury or player restrictions) are not be in the dugout. He/she is encouraged to attend, but should be seated in a chair along the fence.
- Catcher's equipment should be kept in an area outside the dugout, separate from other equipment. This equipment should not be shared and should be disinfected after each game.
- Players should keep his/her batting gloves on or in their pockets. At no time should the batting gloves be given the coach to hold.
- Adult umpires must wear a face covering and maintain as much distance as possible from the catcher.
- Umpires for pony and midget will call games from behind the pitcher. For games when two umpires are available, the second umpire will take a position behind the batter near backstop. This umpire will call fair/foul, calls at the plate, dropped third strikes (midget) and will call runners leaving early.
- Umpires for teener games, when available, will umpire from behind the catcher. Second umpires will assume normal fielding positions. (This is subject to change based upon most current COVID guidelines from DOH or CDC)

Post Practice/Game Protocols:

- In lieu of handshakes, a "tip the cap" can provide adequate display of sportsmanship.
- A short team meeting can occur outside the dugout, maintaining social distancing.
- Players should gather equipment and leave the dugout/field of play, maintaining social distancing. Players/family are encouraged not to congregate at the park.
- Immediate hand washing is encouraged, along with the use of hand sanitizer when available.
- All landscaping equipment (rakes, shovels, etc) will be disinfected by the head coach at the end of the game. Adequate cleaning wipes and spray will be made available and will be kept at strategic locations at each field. If a head coach notices a limited supply, he/she will notify the COVID-19 officer.
- No end of season gatherings are permitted.

Exposure Protocol

- In the event a player or coach becomes ill and subsequently is tested positive for COVID-19, this should be reported immediately to LBA's COVID-19 officer. Practices and games will be suspended for 14 days and the players/parents of that team will be notified. Parents/players are encouraged to his/her primary care physician to seek recommendations on next steps.

LBA COVID-19 Committee:

Dr. Randy Applefeld

Dr. Jon Anson

Mark Emery, Esquire

LBA BOD:

Bob Phillips, President

Brett Bentz, 1st Vice-President (concession)

Bob Stakem, 2nd Vice-President (umpires and COVID officer)

Bob Chernicoff, Secretary

Brad Simpson, Treasurer

Bryan Hoover (equipment)

Drew Painter

Scott Cordner (website)

Barry Shipley

Mike Benkovich

Policy Revision:

~~7/17/2020~~

2/17/2021