

2021 SPRING COVID-19 Safety Plan



Palm Harbor Little League [PHLL] is committed to the safety and well being of our players, families, and communities. We are implementing a COVID-19 plan to try to mitigate as much as we can to limit the possibility of spreading the virus. We are working with the CDC guidelines, Pinellas County, and the Palm Harbor CSA to ensure the safest experience as possible. Safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of our players, coaches, volunteers, family members and support personnel is our number one priority. Specific measures will be introduced so everyone can continue to play, coach and help take care of the children in our league. This COVID-19 safety plan should be viewed, in conjunction with, PHLL Little League's 2021 Safety Plan. This plan is not intended to replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or by state and local authorities.

Parents and families

- Players are required to stay home if they are feeling ill. Parents are requested to help everyone by keeping their kids' home if they are not feeling well in order to protect everyone.
- All volunteers and coaches are required to stay home if they are feeling ill.
- Any player or volunteer who has tested positive for COVID-19 must **immediately** notify the league of their diagnosis by letting a coach or manager know. It will then be important to notify the respective league VP and the League safety officer. The player or volunteer must provide a doctor's note with a negative diagnosis in order to return to league activities.
- Parents are encouraged to provide their players with sanitizer or antibacterial hand wipes for use during practices and games.
- Masks or face coverings should be worn if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- While we want everyone to enjoy the Little League experience, during this time we are requesting to keep non players from roaming all over the complex. Families should stay together, and as adults please responsible and respectful to our Palm Harbor Little league families

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Practices

- The team manager **MUST** keep attendance electronically for all players and volunteers. **This is required for COVID tracing purposes.**
- Fields in use will be limited to adhere to gathering requirements in accordance with city, county and state regulations (*limiting the amounts of players, parents and volunteers at the fields at any one time*)
- Practices will be scheduled to allow time for a team to exit the fields before the next team arrives, no less than a 15-minute window or gap.
- Teams should arrive at their scheduled practice time and wait in their cars until the previous team has left the field.
- Parents are not to be seated in any of the bleachers. If a parent wishes to watch their child, they must bring their own chairs. **PHLL recommends sitting past the dugout around the outfield and adhering to social distancing guidelines.**

Game Play

- The team manager **MUST** keep attendance electronically for all players and volunteers. **This is required for COVID tracing purposes.**
- The area behind home plate and between the dugouts should be left empty in order to allow the teams to socially distance themselves. The only person allowed to be in this area is 1 approved rostered volunteer to keep score.
- Field use will be limited to adhere to gathering requirements in accordance with CSA, County, and state regulations (limiting the number of players, parents, spectators, visitors and volunteers at the fields at any one time).
- Games will be scheduled to allow time for a team to exit the fields before the next team arrives, no less than 15 minutes.
- Games will end by the designated division scheduled end time
- Team meetings should occur after the game ends, on the field or **where social distancing is available** in the dugouts. Teams **MUST** exit the fields immediately. Coaches **should** exit once the dugout cleared **and sanitized**. There **should** be no team huddles or cheers between innings. Also, discussions between players and managers/coaches should be done within social distancing guidelines.
- Teams will be asked to wait in their cars until the previous game has ended and the teams have completely exited the fields.

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- Home plate umpires may call strikes and balls from behind the plate. The league understands that there are times where proper social distancing may not be feasible such as between the batter and catcher.
- Managers meeting at home plate should be limited to one coach per team plus the umpire (no players at the plate). Eliminate the meeting if possible or establish a social distancing meeting.
- Players should use only their equipment and not share bats if possible.
- Eliminate or minimize player to player and player to coach contact when possible. Players will be encouraged to not socialize or touch one another when on base. There will be **NO** high-fives or handshakes after the game. Players and coaches should tip their hat or wave to the opposing team. Cheers and other sportsmanship gestures are encouraged, but from the baselines.
- **PHLL recommends that spectators try to social distance themselves when applicable**, there will be a marked designated spectator area for families to sit for both games and practices. This should provide ample space for people to spread out and still see the game.