

2021 NKWLL Resumption of Play/Covid-19 Guidelines

The following information has been compiled from the CDC Recommendations on Youth Sports, the State of RI Youth Sports Guidelines, and RI Little League District 3 Safety Guidelines. Guidelines are subject to change to adhere to current Covid-19 recommendations.

Little League Best Practices: <https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/>

1. Stable Groups

- The stable group size for youth practices and games (including players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators) will be in accordance with the State of RI executive order and RIDOH regulations at the time of play
- Recommended that caregivers choose one stable group for their child per season
- Volunteers are encouraged to be from the same household as players, as much as possible
- All parents/players must sign Covid-19 waiver to participate in league activities

2. Social Distancing

- Encouraged but not required within each stable group; however, activities where at least 6 feet of distance can be maintained are encouraged and 14 feet of distance is preferred
- When not engaged in active play, members of stable groups should maintain physical distance of 6 feet between each person
- Stable groups are required to maintain a minimum of 14 feet between outer limit of their group and any other stable group or passersby
- Caregivers are to utilize “contactless” communication with coaching staff (email, phone, etc.)
- Caregivers should drop their player off for practices and either wait in their car or come back when practice is over. Coaches will confirm best contact number with caregivers in case of an emergency
- Spectators at games are to maintain 6 feet of social distancing and are required to wear masks

3. Covid-19 Screening / Contact Tracing / Pending Tests / Positive Case & Quarantine

- Coaching staff and players will be screened by a designated individual for any symptoms of COVID-19 prior to practices
 - All teams will use the Game Changer/Team Manager App to manage schedules and team communication. Caregivers will use the Covid-19 pre-screen tool on this app prior to each practice and game.
 - The screening tool doubles as a contact tracing tool for the league to utilize in the event of a positive case

- o Team rosters including full player/parent contact information are created by the NKWLL player agent and distributed to coaches and the league safety officer to utilize for contact tracing purposes
- Caregivers must inform managers if player has traveled to any Covid-19 “hot spots” and follow current RI DOH guidelines for quarantine prior to returning to play
- Any person exhibiting signs of illness or who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>.
- Coaches, staff, athletes, officials and spectators should not attend games, practices, or any related sports activities while waiting for Covid-19 test results
- If a player, coach, official or member of a team, sports organization, or a stable group tests positive for COVID-19, the entire team or group, who have been in close contact with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19, needs to quarantine for up to ten days or in accordance with Executive Orders and directions from the RIDOH at <https://covid.ri.gov/covid-19-prevention/quarantine-and-isolation>
- Managers must report positive cases to the respective division commissioner, who will inform the league safety officer, vice president and president

4. Hand Washing / Hand Sanitizing

- Reinforce with players the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds
- Each team will be provided with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol and players are encouraged to bring their own sanitizer for personal use
- Hand washing/sanitizing should occur before, during, and after sports activities
- Athletes and coaches are encouraged to avoid hugging, handshakes and fist bumps

5. Facilities

- Bathrooms
 - o Regular disinfection completed by the North Kingstown Public Works Dept.
 - o “One in one out” policy will be enforced
- Dugouts
 - o Use should be limited as this is a closed shared space. Limit to 2-3 people.
 - o Remaining players will sit on the bleachers on designated spots marked 6 feet apart by tape
- Concession stand
 - o In the event that the concessions stand is open, guidelines from the RI DOH will be followed
- Indoor spaces
 - o Prior to use, mitigation procedures for the facility will be reviewed along with state and local guidance
 - o The league board, coaches, and volunteers will communicate the mitigation needs (masks, number of participants, etc.) to the families of those players participating and volunteers

6. Shared Equipment/Objects

- No sharing of water bottles
- No food allowed on the field or in the dugouts
- No spitting allowed
- Sharing of equipment is discouraged and players should bring their own equipment whenever possible; however, league issued helmets, bats, and catcher's equipment will be available to those who do not have personal equipment and will be disinfected between use by either the coaching staff or designated parent volunteer
 - Disinfectant spray will be available at all fields
- Please label personal equipment
- Baseballs will be rotated through on a regular basis (at least every 2 innings)
- Spectators will not retrieve foul balls and should bring their own seating

7. Face Coverings

- Coaches, staff, officials, volunteers, and spectators are required to always wear face coverings in accordance with the current executive orders and RIDOH regulations
- Players are encouraged to wear face coverings when **not** engaged in active play
- Face coverings are not required to those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons. This includes occlusion of vision.

8. Game Operations / Umpire Guidance / Scheduling / Field Preparation & Maintenance

- When possible, eliminate plate meetings or practice social distancing with masks
- Plate meetings will be limited to one manager or coach per team and game umpires
- No player should ever be a part of plate meetings
- Enough time will be scheduled between practices and games to facilitate evacuation of individuals from the fields and cleaning and disinfecting before the next group enters
- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires encouraged to keep a safe distance as much as possible
- If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear face coverings while umpiring
- Field should be mowed, raked, and lined prior to teams and spectators arriving at the complex and after they depart. It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game complete the field prep and maintenance

9. Plan and Communication

- This NKWLL resumption of play plan will be provided to NKWLL board members, coaches, and parents prior to the start of the 2021 season and will be updated routinely in accordance with the updates from the State of RI Dept. of Health
- Each team is encouraged to appoint a team parents to support coaches in monitoring compliance with COVID-19 guidelines during practices and games
- Board meetings will primarily be held virtually. When in person meetings take place, social distancing will be practiced and participants reduced.

For additional information, questions, and/or concerns contact

NKWLL safety officer Frank McGee at mcgee06@cox.net

NKWLL COVID-19 PLAYER SCREENING TOOL

Use this tool to screen coaches, players, and/or parent volunteers for symptoms of COVID-19

	Player Name	Cough	Trouble Breathing	Fever or Chills	Sore Throat	Headache	Nausea, Vomiting	Close contact with anyone COVID positive in the past 14 days?	Directed to quarantine in the past 14 days?	Travel outside the US in the past 14 days?
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