

# Pawcatuck Little League

CT District 10  
League ID# 2071012

## Plan for a Safe Return to Play during COVID-19

June 2020



## League Statement

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented sports environment globally. Professional and youth sports has suffered greatly with players at all levels being side-lined. Recent national, state, and local guidelines have allowed sporting events to begin to re-open with safety guidelines in place. The Pawcatuck Little League has decided to re-open baseball and softball participation with these guidelines being implemented so as to create a safe environment for our players, coaches, officials and spectators. Participant and spectator safety will always be a first consideration for the Pawcatuck Little League. However, all participants and spectators must realize that there will always be an inherent risk of infection due to the nature of the COVID-19 virus. All participants and spectators, especially those over the age of 65 or with other health conditions, should assess that risk before they choose to play, coach, officiate or attend Pawcatuck Little League events.

**NOTE: The Pawcatuck Little League is referenced as “PLL” throughout this safety plan. A “PLL event” includes any game, practice, clinic or drills offered by the Pawcatuck Little League and taking place within the Pawcatuck Little League Complex.**

## **I. General Safety Guidelines**

1. Any player, coach, official or spectator who has an active COVID-19 infection OR who has had known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19 should NOT participate or attend any PLL event and should NOT be on premises at the PLL complex.
2. Any player, coach, official or spectator who is experiencing any sign of sickness to include a fever, chills, sore throat, cough, loss of taste/smell, should NOT participate in any PLL event and should NOT be on premises at the PLL complex.
3. Maintain social distancing of at least 6-feet as outlined in this Plan at all times while at the PLL complex. This includes seating in the stands and along the fenceline. League officials and coaches may make routine requests and reminders relative to social distancing.
4. Wearing of a face mask is required as specified in this Plan unless contrary to an individuals health or safety due to a medical condition. League officials and coaches may make routine requests and reminders relative to the wearing of face masks.
5. Individuals shall NOT congregate in common areas or parking lots prior to or following an event or practice.
6. Do NOT touch items not belonging to you.
7. Do NOT spit while at the PLL complex to include the spitting of sunflower or similar seeds.
8. Do NOT leave any items at the PLL Complex/stands to include bottles, containers, wrappers or any used/unused items. Please take with you ALL items that you brought in.
9. Spectator stands will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every PLL event.

10. Due to associated risks and issues associated with COVID-19 and food service, the Concession Stand will NOT be open for the 2020 season.
11. Open restrooms will be cleaned/disinfected before and after every PLL event and will be cleaned/disinfected at least one time during any PLL event.
12. Hand sanitizer will be made available outside of the Concession Stand.
13. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case for any player, coach, official or spectator, the PLL will make proper notification in accordance with State of Connecticut requirements.
14. Any player, coach, official or spectator who refuses to comply with the safety measures contained in this Plan, may be asked to leave the PLL Complex.

## **II. Players**

1. Players will be asked by coaches prior to every PLL event if they are experiencing any symptoms of sickness. If a player is experiencing sickness, their parent/guardian will be contacted as soon as possible in order to properly address the issue.
2. Players should utilize their own baseball and batting gloves, as well as bats and helmets. There should be NO sharing of equipment. Should a player NOT have proper equipment for a PLL event, please notify the coach who will properly address the situation.
3. Players should bring their own water/drink bottles/containers for self-use only which should be name labeled. There should be NO sharing of any food or drink.
4. There shall be no gum or sunflower or similar seeds allowed.
5. Players should maintain social distancing of at least 6-feet while in the dugout/fenceline or when not actively participating in a game/practice in accordance with this Plan.
6. Facemasks are NOT required when players are actively participating in play. Players must wear a face mask at all other times to include while in the dugout or along the fenceline.

### **III. Coaches and Officials**

1. Prior to initiating any PLL event, coaches and officials shall self-assess for symptoms of sickness. Any coach or official experiencing symptoms of sickness, shall not participate in any PLL event. Coaches shall inquire of their players if they are experiencing any symptoms of sickness. If any player is in fact experiencing such symptoms, the coach will immediately notify the player's parents/guardian so they can take appropriate action. The League President/Vice president and Safety Officer shall be so notified as soon as possible. Coaches shall ensure that any player experiencing sickness, shall be socially distanced from all other players, coaches/officials and spectators.
2. Coaches shall be responsible for ensuring social distancing of at least 6-feet of all their players unless actively participating in play in accordance with this Plan. This distancing includes while in the dugout and along the fenceline.
3. Coaches shall be responsible for ensuring the wearing of face masks of all their players in accordance with this Plan.
4. Coaches shall be responsible for cleaning/disinfecting their respective dugout/bench and used equipment/balls before and after each PLL event and in accordance with this Plan.
5. Each coach shall ensure that they have sufficient hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray available for each PLL event.
6. Coaches shall ensure that their respective players follow these PLL safety guidelines.

### **IV. Spectators/Parents**

1. Spectators/parents shall maintain social distancing from individuals outside their household and should remain at least 6-feet apart from others while in the PLL Complex to include the stands or along the fenceline. League officials and coaches may make routine requests and reminders relative to social distancing.
2. Spectators/parents are encouraged to bring and utilize their own portable seats and hand sanitizer.
3. Spectators/parents should NOT approach the dugout/bench or any player. Spectators/parents should avoid direct hand or other contact with any players/coaches during play. Spectators/parents should make any requests verbally and directly to the coach while maintaining social distancing.

4. Spectators/parents attending any PLL event shall wear a face mask unless contrary to an individual's health or safety due to a medical condition. League officials and coaches may make routine requests and reminders relative to the wearing of face masks.

## **V. Field Preparation and Safety Administration**

1. Fields 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 (managers/coaches, umpires, and league officials) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site. It is recommended that any shared field preparation equipment be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.
2. Spectator stands will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every PLL event.
3. Press boxes should NOT be utilized unless there is ample room for social distancing to occur within them AND arrangements have been made to properly clean/disinfect the press box before and after the game is over.
4. For each game, there should only be the required team managers/coaches, umpires, on the field/dugout.
5. Pre-game plate meeting should be eliminated if possible.
6. Players/families/spectators are instructed NOT to show up to fields more than 40-minutes before game time.
7. If there is a game or practice prior to your event, players/families/spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play/warm-ups to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
8. Players and spectators/parents should vacate the complex as soon as their PLL event has ended. NO loitering or congregating is allowed.

## **VI. Equipment**

1. Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, batting gloves and catcher's equipment. There should be no sharing of player equipment other than possibly critical equipment as set forth below.
2. Player equipment/bags, will be kept with the player and when not in use, placed under the player's assigned seat or space along the fence line.
3. Measures should be enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible. Some critical equipment (catchers gear) may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected by a coach with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player.
4. Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
5. Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/ guardian/caretaker, where applicable.
6. Increased attention should be paid to a detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
7. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all frequently touched surfaces/items are cleaned/disinfected after any PLL event and during any PLL event as feasible.

## **VII. Playing Guidelines**

1. Practices will be scheduled with at least a 15-minute buffer to prevent overlap of participants and spectators, and allow for time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces including, but not limited to benches/dugouts.
2. Games will be scheduled with at least a 30-minute buffer to prevent overlap of participants and spectators and allow for time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces including, but not limited to benches/dugouts.
3. On-field warm-up should be limited as much as is reasonably possible and no more than 30-minutes.
4. Players are NOT required to wear face masks when they are actively participating in play. Players must wear a facemask at all other times to include while in the dugout or along the fenceline.
5. Coaches/officials should wear face masks when in the dugout

6. Coaches/officials and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or along the fence line or the bleachers so that they are distanced at least 6-feet. All players/coaches should stay in these assigned spots when NOT actively playing to include waiting their turn at bat.
7. Balls will be disinfected at least every 1-hour and will also be disinfected before and after every clinic, practice, and game. Disinfected game balls will be routinely disinfected and rotated into game play.
8. During any GAME, the Home Team shall be responsible for disinfecting game balls BEFORE and AFTER every game and at least every 1-hour during the game.
9. Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated and disinfected before and after each game as well as at least every 1-hour during a game.
10. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball. Should a spectator retrieve a ball, it must be taken out of play and disinfected before returning to play.
11. Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Players shall line-up outside the dugout and tip caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
12. No spitting within the PLL complex or using saliva on game balls or baseball/batting gloves.
13. Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible and wear protective gloves.
14. Umpires are encouraged to wear face masks while umpiring if physically possible.

## **VIII. Restrooms**

1. Access to public restrooms will be limited. A “one-in-one-out” policy, shall be implemented where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time, in order to ensure adequate distancing in the confined restroom space.
2. Individuals wishing to use the restroom should notify the Event Safety Officer in attendance who shall open/close the restroom.
3. Before and after any league activity, open restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected. Additionally, during any event where the restrooms are open, they will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.

## **IX. Event Safety Officer**

1. The PLL will assign an Event Safety Officer to each Game who shall be on premises within the PLL Complex.
2. The Event Safety Officer shall be responsible to monitoring all protocols described within this Plan and may make routine requests and reminders relative required protocols, as well as to social distancing and the wearing of face masks.
3. The Event Safety Officer shall control the restrooms via key and clean and disinfect the restrooms as outlined.
4. The Event Safety Officer shall also control PLL provided hand sanitizers and disinfectants.
5. Any violations of this Plan observed during a PLL event, should be brought to the attention of the Event Safety Officer for appropriate action.

