

Johnston Little League 2020 Fall Ball



Safety Guidelines



Masks

- Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing their child with a mask.
- Players are NOT required to wear a mask while playing in the field, hitting or running the bases. Youth Participants are encouraged to wear face coverings when not engaged in active play. Players will be required to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible (such as in the physical dugout during lightning/rain).
- All coaches are required to wear masks at all times while on the field and when with other players/coaches/spectators.
- Spectators are encouraged to wear a mask while on Johnston Park grounds. Spectators under the age of two years old should not wear a mask.
- Umpires working the game are required to wear masks.

Pre-game

- All players, coaches, and spectators should be screened for symptoms related to COVID-19 prior to the beginning of each activity. Any person exhibiting signs of illness and any person who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RIDOH guidelines.
- Each team will follow contact tracing guidelines from the State and will keep a log with the date/location/time/names of players/coaches in attendance at each game/practice.
- Parents/guardians must check their child's temperature and sign a form prior to each activity ensuring their child is not exhibiting the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, fatigue, recent loss of taste or smell.
- If a player on a team tests positive for COVID-19, all players and coaches must quarantine for 14 days. Johnston Little League reserves the right to suspend the season if a positive test occurs.
- Parents/guardians whose child is playing at Kennedy Field should park in the Kennedy parking lot. Those whose child is playing at Susi Field should park in the main lot of Johnston Park.
- Players and spectators are not to arrive or leave their vehicles until 40 minutes prior to game/practice time.

Game-Day/Practice Protocols

- Social distancing will be practiced and encouraged for all players, coaches and spectators (maintaining six feet of distance at minimum from others whenever possible).
- Commonly used surfaces such as entrance gates will be disinfected before and after games.
- Players will not be allowed inside the dugout and instead will be outside the fence when not in the game. The fence and bleachers will be marked off so each player will have space for their equipment while social distancing. In the event of rain, players and coaches will be allowed into the physical dugout but MUST wear a mask. In the event of a delay, players are also allowed to return to their vehicle if the player/parent/guardian does not feel comfortable inside the dugout.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in the modified dugout area; however, parents/guardians are encouraged to provide their child with personal supplies.



- Each team will be given baseballs prior to game time that only their pitcher/defense is allowed to use. When changing sides, the team exiting the field must take their baseball back with them and the team taking the field must use their own baseball.
- Baseballs used for infield/outfield warm-up will be isolated from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls are to be retrieved by a player or a designated coach/volunteer. Any ball retrieved by another spectator will be immediately taken out of play and disinfected.
- Bathrooms will ONLY be open to players/coaches in emergency situations. If a bathroom is used, a coach/volunteer will sanitize the seat/faucets/knobs following the game and document the date/time/child/member that disinfected it on the contact tracing sheet.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own drink that is labeled with their name. No sharing of drinks will be allowed. The concession stand will not be open.
- Sunflower seeds and gum are not permitted for players/coaches. Spitting is not permitted for players/coaches.
- No handshakes/fist bumps/etc. before, during and after games amongst players/coaches. A coach or designated volunteer will be assigned for each team to ensure all of the safety procedures are being followed by the players.

Postgame/Post-Practice

- In lieu of postgame handshakes, players will line up outside their dugout and tip their caps at the end of the game as a show of sportsmanship.
- No team huddles are allowed. A coach addressing the team must ensure all players and coaches are at least six feet apart or wearing a mask.
- Players and parents/guardians are to leave Johnston Park immediately following the conclusion of any game or practice. Teams are not permitted to socialize outside of their “Stable Group” of players, parents and coaches.

Equipment

- Players will not be allowed to share equipment, such as helmets, bats, gloves or catcher’s gear.
- Team equipment (such as a team bat, etc.) that is used will be disinfected by a coach after each use.
- No personal or team equipment bags will be allowed inside of the dugout. In the event of rain, players will be allowed to bring their bags in the dugout but must wear a mask.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to disinfect their child’s gear after each game.
- If your child does not have the necessary gear required to play, please let a coach or league official know ASAP.

Spectators

- Spectators are strongly encouraged to social distance and wear a mask while on Johnston Park grounds. Spectators under the age of two years old are not required to wear a mask.
- Spectators are strongly encouraged to bring their own chairs, but will not be allowed to set up any closer than 14 feet from the field/dugout. Spectators must remain at least 14 feet away from the field/dugout at all times. Bleachers not being used for the players will be marked off every six feet and every other row will be used to maintain social distance.
- Per Rhode Island guidelines, it is recommended that no more than two spectators from the same household attend a Little League game.
- No concessions or public bathrooms will be available; however, it is permissible to bring your own food/beverage.

