

# Port Neches Little League

## COVID-19 Return to Play Guide

While Port Neches Little League is returning to play our Spring 2020 season, the health and safety of our players and families remains our top priority. Outlined below are the procedures and guidelines which should be followed when attending Port Neches Little League event.

*\*\*The below guidelines, procedures, and recommendations do not replace or supersede any protocols or restrictions outlined by our state and local authorities for both Texas and Jefferson County. It is imperative that state and local guidelines are followed at all times.\*\**

This document is available at [www.pnlittleleague.com](http://www.pnlittleleague.com). All parents/guardians should fully review this document. In addition, parents should review with their children to help them understand in which the extent they are able to. At the first practice back, Managers should also review guidelines with their teams as appropriate depending on age. It will be important that coaches help kids during practices and games to remind them of the processes and procedures.

Port Neches Little League (PNLL) Safety Procedures as related to COVID-19:

### **General guidelines:**

- Follow all state and local guidelines
- If a player or spectator comes in contact with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 and they have been to the Port Neches Little League fields, and e-mail should immediately be sent to [portnecheslittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:portnecheslittleleague@gmail.com) that teams who have come in contact with that person can be notified
- If a player or spectator comes in contact with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 they will not be permitted to return for two weeks from the last contact with that person

### **General PNLL complex guidelines**

- Restrooms will be disinfected routinely
- Social distancing should be practiced when standing in line at the concession stand. There will be markings to ensure the proper distance is maintained
- Batting cages are not to be used prior to games to limit the congregation of crowds. They can be used for practices but only during your scheduled time. No teams may use the batting cages prior to their practice start time.
- NO SMOKING, NO CHEWING TOBACCO, NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS

### **General spectator guidelines:**

- Any spectator or attendee experiencing symptoms of sickness should not attend any event at PNLL. A list of symptoms can be found [HERE](#)
- As best as you can, please limit the number of attendees to the PNLL fields. While we enjoy having extended family come watch the kids play ball, it is important that we limit crowd size as much as possible

- All event attendees should practice social distancing. Guidelines can be found [HERE](#)
- Protective masks for spectators are encouraged, but not required, as to align with the state of Texas
- Unless using the restroom or going to the concession stand, spectators should remain at the field in which their family member is playing.
- During games parents should not approach the dugout. Please ensure your player has everything he/she needs prior to the game or practice
- Parents are encouraged to supply their players with wipes or hand sanitizer to use between innings
- **All spectators/players should remain in their cars until the previous game is finished and crowds have cleared out**

#### **General player guidelines:**

- Any player or attendee experiencing symptoms of sickness should not attend any event at PNLL. A list of symptoms can be found [HERE](#). Coaches should monitor this and alert parents if they see any symptoms
- Players should avoid handshakes/high fives, etc. Coaches will need to continually monitor this and remind kids, especially the younger players
- Players can wear masks if they choose to do so, but are not required to
- No sunflower seeds or gum should be brought to a game/practice. Kids should also refrain from spitting
- All players must use their own equipment. This includes gloves, bats, helmets, etc. Sharing of catcher's equipment is explained in the general coach guidelines section
- If a player contracts COVID-19 he/she will not be permitted to return without a doctor's note
- Players should sanitize hands before and after game by the coach (league provided)
- Should a player not have the ability to provide own helmet, PNLL will provide for the 2020 season only (contact team manager for details)

#### **General coach guidelines:**

- Coaches should sanitize hands before and after game (league provided)
  - Coach should sanitize players hands before and after game by coach
- Sanitize bat handles prior to start of game
- At the end of a game coaches must ensure all trash is removed from the dugout
- Coaches must sanitize shared equipment (ex – catchers gear) after each practice/game prior to their next practice/game
  - Catchers are encouraged to use their own equipment if at all possible
  - In the scenario in which multiple kids will be using the same league provided catchers gear: if multiple players will be using the team catchers gear, the equipment must be wiped down and disinfected prior to additional kids using the gear. For any parents who do not want their child to use shared catchers' equipment, please discuss with your teams Manager
- Post-game meetings should be held on the field immediately after the game (managers discretion). Teams should use social distancing during this time. If a manager does not have a post-game meeting, we encourage coaches to send your team a short video post-game "speech" after games via a form of electronic communication

- Player Pitch Counts will need to be submitted each night to via Coaches GroupMe (Division, Coaches Name, Players Name & Pitch Count).

### Practices:

- **Only one spectator/parent should attend practice per player**
- Player bags should be spread out on in foul territory at least 6 feet apart to allow players to practice social distancing when they are taking out or putting away equipment
- Spectators should follow social distancing guidelines
- As much as possible, players and coaches should practice social distancing during practice

### Games

- No team water coolers should be provided in the dugout or in the stands. Parents should provide their kids with their own drinks
- Umpire/Coach pre-game meeting will be limited to the umpires and one coach from each team. Social distancing during this meeting should be followed. No shaking of hands, fist bumps, etc should occur
- The “home plate” umpire will be positioned behind pitcher’s mound
- End of game handshakes will be eliminated. Instead, teams can tip their caps from the other side of the field to the other team. We still want to encourage good sportsmanship
- Bases should be left on the field and disinfected between games
- Teams should not share in any team post game snacks or drinks
- **All spectators/players should remain in their cars until the previous game is finished and crowds have cleared out**
- Teams will be responsible for keeping their own scorebook.
  - Player Pitch Counts will need to be submitted each night to via Coaches GroupMe (Division, Coaches Name, Players Name & Pitch Count).
  - Foul balls should be returned to the concession stand and placed in bucket for a sno-cone!

### Further guidance

- Little League Coronavirus FAQ can be found [HERE](#)
- Little League Coronavirus updates can be found [HERE](#)
- Little League on field guidance can be found [HERE](#)
- Specific Texas guidelines can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Should you have any questions please contact us at [portnecheslittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:portnecheslittleleague@gmail.com)