



**Little
League**

WINDSOR LOCKS

COVID-19

GUIDELINES FOR LEAGUE PLAY

Windsor Locks Little League strives to ensure that our athletes remain safely active and engaged in baseball this year. WLLL adheres to safety guidelines for all players, families, spectators and coaches through the protective measures & safety protocols put in place to meet the State of CT Guidelines for Return To Play.

As a youth sport organization, the most important consideration is the health and safety of athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators. Windsor Locks Little League must exercise caution, ensuring strict adherence to the protocols listed here. With these rules, WLLL provides a way to resume play in as safe a manner as possible while mitigating risks. Athletes, coaches, volunteers & spectators who choose to visit/partake in these activities should be fully aware of potential risks. Windsor Locks Little League takes these rules as the minimum baseline of precautions needed to protect public health in Windsor Locks and urge everyone, including spectators, to stay vigilant.

Windsor Locks Little League will reinforce:

- Social distancing, personal contact and snack/beverage protocols
- Practice, scrimmage, and game protocols
- Personal protective equipment and player equipment protocols
- Disinfection and cleaning protocols

Social Distancing

Visual signs will be posted to encourage and reinforce social distancing protocols (e.g., 6 feet apart).

Personal Contact

Players and coaches plan to limit personal contact, including refraining from huddles, handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, slaps, and group celebrations. Little League International suggests lining up and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game. Players and families will vacate the field as soon as reasonably possible to minimize unnecessary contact with others.

Face Masks & PPE

Managers/coaches, umpires, volunteers, and spectators are required to bring and wear a facemask or cloth face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth. Players should wear facemask or cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as dugouts or baselines. Players are not required to wear facemask or cloth face covering when engaged in active play. Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian/caretaker.

Player Equipment

No personal player equipment will be allowed in the dugout. Dugouts will be closed. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact. There will be markings and signs directing appropriate social distancing spacing. Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment. Players' equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use (e.g., practice or game) by a parent/guardian, where applicable. Players will be assigned seats adhering to social distancing while on the bench (or its equivalent, e.g., personal chairs outside the field of play) or while waiting their turn to bat. No personal player equipment will be allowed in the dugout. Dugouts will be closed.

GUIDELINES FOR LEAGUE PLAY

Active Play: Coaches should keep players in small groups at practice to allow for physical distancing. Practices will be scheduled with at least a 15 minute buffer to prevent overlap of participants, and allow for time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces, including, but not limited to: benches/dugouts (if used) and fence entrances and exits.

Baseballs and Softballs: Baseballs and softballs will be disinfected before and after every practice, and game. In addition, baseballs and softballs used during games should be rotated through on a regular basis at least every two innings to limit individual contact. Balls used in infield and outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches/officials, and umpires only. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

Dugouts, Benches & Bleachers: Traditional dugouts/benches will not be used. Players, coaches, and officials should have a safe area, outside of the field of play, with at least 6 feet of distance enforced (e.g., personal chairs). Grandstands and bleachers will be open and thoroughly cleaned before and after every use and 6 feet of distance must be maintained.

Snacks and Beverages: The Concession Stand is currently closed. Athletes, coaches/officials and umpires will bring their own personal drinks/snacks to all team activities. There will be no use of shared beverages, snacks or food. No chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds by athletes, coaches/officials, and spectators on the fields. All players, coaches/officials and spectators are to refrain from spitting at all times including in dugouts (or their equivalent, e.g., in the area of players' personal chairs) and on playing fields.

Crowd Control: Spectator compliance with social distancing should be encouraged through periodic checks and announcements. Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots following an event or practice.

Risk Assessment: There must be daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation) before participating in practices, games, and scrimmages. Please stay home when appropriate. Individuals, including coaches, officials, players and families, should stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms (fever above 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell). Individuals should stay home if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19. Please refer to CDC criteria and guidelines for a safe return to play. Please check in with WLL's President Mike Oney (windsorlocksleague@gmail.com) for clearance prior to your return.

In The Event of a Positive Covid-19 Case: Players, families, coaches and/or officials shall inform WLL's President and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols.

Sanitizer: Hand sanitizer shall be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible. All players will have access to hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol to sanitize hands prior to getting on and off the field. All fields will have access to first aid kits, hand sanitizer and PPE as necessary.

Restrooms: Restrooms are cleaned and disinfected frequently.

Travel: Players are strongly recommended to travel to the venue with their immediate household only, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the venue, walking in and out of the venue, and while not actively participating. When traveling please take note of the different protocols and procedures of the towns you are traveling to. In closing we are prioritizing the health and safety of all our WLL members.

**If you observe a violation of these rules, and wish to report it,
please contact the State of Connecticut Hotline at 211**