



COVID MITIGATION POLICY

(last edited: 3/17/21)

General

- The Whitemarsh Little League Board of Directors has prepared these guidelines to help educate players and families on playing Little League baseball during the ongoing COVID pandemic.
- This plan provides guidelines, but we cannot guarantee adherence by all participants at all times. We ask families to help us keep the kids safe while still enjoying their baseball experience. Of course, families should make their own choice on whether to participate based on the best interest of their family.
- WLL reserves the right to regularly review, update and adjust these guidelines.
- Families should conduct daily wellness screenings before coming to the fields. If you or a member of your household has a 100.4 degree temperature or above, please stay home.
- If you or a member of your household begins experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you must stay home, and you must notify your child's coach immediately and send an email to whitemarshlittleleague@gmail.com.
- If you or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, you must stay home, and you must notify your child's coach immediately and send an email to whitemarshlittleleague@gmail.com.
- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted to return to play until cleared by a medical professional; that information must be forwarded to whitemarshlittleleague@gmail.com and reviewed by the WLL Officers.

Game/Practice Modifications

- Teams are encouraged to enforce social distancing at all times and coaches should be mindful NOT to gather teams in a huddle.
- Players should consider bringing a pop-up chair to add seating around and outside of the dugout.
- Only players and coaches should retrieve foul balls.
- In lieu of handshaking lines, each team will line up on their respective foul line, tip their caps to the opposing team and then to their fans.
- Coaches will create distance between coaches and players when explaining drills or conducting team meetings.

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Health and Wellness

- Players and coaches should try to avoid unnecessary physical contact with others, including high fives and handshakes.
- No eating or sunflower seeds in the dugout.
- No spitting at the ballpark.
- Please cough/sneeze into your sleeve/arm, not your hands!
- Use hand sanitizer between innings. We will try to make sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available at the fields, but each kid should bring their own supply in their baseball bag.
- Please keep the park clean by disposing of trash.
- We encourage everyone to bring their own chair. The bleachers will be open for those that do not have seating, but WLL is not responsible for cleaning the bleachers before/after each game.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are strongly recommended for all coaches, staff, officials, parents, and spectators as much as possible.
- Coaches **MUST** wear a mask while addressing individual players (e.g., on the mound, up to bat, in the dugout, etc.)
- Coaches do not have to wear masks while coaching bases unless speaking directly to a player on that base.
- Players are not required to wear face coverings while playing in the field or up to bat, except for Quickball since they do not play a traditional baseball game and kids play games/drills in small groups.
- *Players and coaches are required to wear face coverings in the dugout.*

Reduced Shared Equipment

- All players need their own batting helmet and glove.
- Sharing batting gloves is prohibited.

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- Sharing water is prohibited, and all bottles MUST have the player's name on it; unmarked bottles may be discarded.
- Sharing bats is discouraged but not prohibited. The league understands that using a teammate's bat often provides players with a better opportunity to excel and enjoy the game. Thus, disinfectant wipes will be available so that players can share bats; however, if a parent does not want their child sharing their own bat, they should tell their child/coach and their child should take proper care of the bat.
- Extra sets of catcher's equipment will be available at each field and will be wiped down with disinfectant between uses and after games. If your child wants to play catcher, we encourage you to purchase his/her own catcher's gear as a safety precaution. We will not make your child share their personal equipment.
- When warming up a pitcher between innings, sharing gloves is prohibited; if a coach/volunteer helps warm up a pitcher, they must use their own glove.

Physical Distancing

- We will try to expand the size of the dugouts so that all of the kids and their equipment are not in the dugout together. This will include space around the outside of the dugout, but all players and volunteers must remain off of the walking trail.
- Spectators will not be permitted to sit behind the backstop or near the dugouts, and we ask that you respect the distancing guidelines and sit closer to the outfield.
- Spectators should maintain 6' distance between each other while watching games.
- We encourage players to wait in their cars with their guardians until just before the beginning of a practice or game, instead of forming a group and standing around together outside the dugout.
- Please limit the use of carpools and we encourage players to ride to the field with members of the same household.

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Guidance:

- CDC Guidance and Considerations for Youth Sports:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- Little League Baseball, <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/>
- Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, <https://www.montcopa.org/513/Public-Health>
- PA Department of Health,
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- PA Recreation and Park Society, <https://www.prps.org>
- Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Department,
<http://www.whitemarshtwp.org/208/Parks-Recreation>

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