

DALLASTOWN COUGAR LITTLE LEAGUE

2021 PARTICIPANT SAFETY POLICY



In response to the current national health crisis and in conjunction with local, state, and federal health and governmental policies, Dallastown Cougar Little League has adopted the following safety protocols for players, coaches, and spectators for the 2021 Little League season.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. All participants shall follow all local and state guidelines and directives.
2. All participants are encouraged to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Person-to-person contact should be limited wherever practical.
3. Any player who is experiencing symptoms or has potentially been exposed to someone who is sick WILL NOT BE PERMITTED to participate in practice or a game. Coaches have the authority to send a player home immediately if they are exhibiting any symptoms.
4. Players may wear PPE items if they choose, so long as the PPE items do not compromise the safety of any or all participants.
5. COVID-19 Response
 - If a player is symptomatic of COVID-19, they must wait 14 days or have medical clearance before rejoining the team.
 - If a player tests positive for COVID-19, they may not rejoin the team without medical clearance.
 - If a member of a player's immediate family tests positive, that player must self-quarantine and the family must notify DCLL. DCLL will notify that player's team of the situation without identifying the player or family member.
 - If a player tests positive for COVID-19, that player must self-quarantine and notify DCLL. DCLL will notify the player's team of a positive test on that team. DCLL will notify the entire league of a positive player test and the division the player participates in. The player and player's individual team will not be identified to the league, division only.
6. Parents are encouraged to:
 - Provide their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer to clean hands and equipment between innings.
 - Provide their players with a folding camp-style chair to help coaches "expand the dugout".
 - Disinfect their players' equipment after each practice and game.
 - Practice appropriate social distancing as spectators.
7. Coaches are required to:
 - Disinfect hard surface areas (benches, railings, etc) upon first arrival to each practice/game.
 - Clean dugout of all trash and other items after each practice/game.
 - Disinfect hard surface areas (benches, railings, etc) prior to leaving each practice/game. *This complies with CDC recommendation of a two-step process for cleaning and disinfecting.*

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ON-FIELD PROTOCOL

1. The pre-game managers meeting at home plate is limited to one coach from each team plus the umpires, no players. Eliminate the meeting if possible.
2. Teams should spread out as much as practical during practices and games. Expand the dugout area when room permits and ONLY IF PLAYER SAFETY WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED. Expansion of the team dugouts will need to be determined on a field by field basis based on available safety fencing.
3. Only a head coach and two assistant coaches are permitted in the dugout area with the players.
4. Each player will be required to provide their own helmet, bat, glove, and other equipment (sunglasses, batting glove). No shared personal equipment is permitted.
5. All players wishing to catch are highly encouraged to provide their own catching equipment. Where individual equipment is not possible, team equipment will be provided. Coaches shall disinfect all shared equipment in between each inning.
6. Player equipment should be spaced out to prevent direct contact.
7. Umpires shall limit contact with balls, catchers shall retrieve foul balls wherever possible.
8. All foul balls shall be retrieved by participants. Spectators shall not retrieve foul balls.
9. In lieu of the traditional post-game handshake line, teams should line up in front of their dugouts and tip their caps to the opposing team after each game.
10. No shared "team" snacks or drinks are permitted. Each player shall bring their own water bottle for during a game and snack/drink for after a game if desired.
11. Use of sunflower seeds, chewing gum, and spitting is prohibited.