



Hughesville Little League Return to Play Safety Plan

July 23, 2020

References

A: Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Interim Guidance for Limited Outdoor Sports, Updated July 6, 2020

The Hughesville Little League (HLL) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our youth to return to the field of play. With the safety of all as the priority, HLL will be implementing the following mandatory guidelines for all HLL volunteers, players, and spectators:

In accordance with guidelines set forth in Reference A and the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the following must always be adhered to during the current COVID-19 pandemic or until such time that these guidelines are lifted by HLL.

- **A maximum of 25 people are permitted on the field of play at any one time.** *For example: 10 players from each team, 2 coaches, and 1 umpire = 25 maximum*
- **Social Distancing of no less than 6' must be maintained:**
 - To ensure proper distancing, all players will place their equipment outside of the dugout along each fence line separated by 6'. Temporary markers such as chalk lines, cones, or ribbons will be placed along the fence to clearly mark each player's space. Bleachers will be reserved for players only and properly marked as such.
 - No more than 4 people may be in the dugout at all times. Players not in the game or waiting to enter as a hitter will sit on the bleachers properly distanced or may stand with their equipment in their assigned area. *For example: 2 Coaches and the next two hitters ("on deck batter" and the "in the hole batter") or 2 Coaches and 2 players not currently in the field if on defense may be in the dugout.*
 - All spectators will be properly distanced along the outer perimeter of the field. Coaches and volunteers will ensure during play that all spectators are



adhering to social distancing. Families and persons in the same household may sit together within the 6' distancing guidelines.

- **All coaches and umpires will wear face coverings while on the field of play or in the dugouts.**
 - HLL will provide face coverings to all volunteers to include coaches and umpires to adhere to guidelines set forth by Charles County. Players will not be required to wear face coverings; however, a player may wear a face covering if they desire.

- **To adhere to social distancing guidelines, all umpires will call games from behind the pitcher's mound with a minimum of 6' between the umpire and pitcher**

- **Sharing of Equipment should be minimized as much as possible. Any shared equipment MUST be properly sanitized by a coach or volunteer after each use and prior to any future use.**
 - HLL will provide all coaches with approved sanitizing means (wipes and/or spray) for cleaning equipment and common areas used by players/coaches. HLL will also provide hand sanitizer for all participants to utilize between innings.
 - Game balls will not be shared between the teams. Each team will provide two game balls from those that are supplied by HLL that they will keep and use while playing defense. Only players or coaches from the defensive team should retrieve foul balls. If a spectator retrieves a foul ball, the ball must first be sanitized by a coach or volunteer prior to being returned to the playing field.

- **All participants will refrain from team huddles, handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or any physical gesture.**
 - Plate meetings between coaches and umpires will maintain a minimum of 6' apart and will NOT contain the traditional handshake of sportsmanship between parties. Instead verbal sportsmanship such as "Good luck" will be utilized.



- Players and coaches will refrain from the traditional handshake or high fives at all times to include upon completion of games. Instead, Players and Coaches will line up and tip their caps, visors, etc. or any similar non-contact sportsmanship gesture and verbally recognize each other such as “good game”.
- **Sunflower seeds & chewing gum will not be permitted on any fields. (Tobacco products are already prohibited on County Fields).**
- **All participants to include coaches, volunteers, and players will be required to sign a return to play COVID – 19 waiver prior to any participation and will be provided with a copy of the HLL Return to Play Safety Plan.**
- **Any player or coach who is feeling ill WILL NOT be permitted to participate and asked to not attend any league event for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of any symptoms or until such person can provide HLL with evidence of a negative COVID–19 test. Should HLL be notified of a coach or player on a team that has tested positive for COVID-19, that coach’s or player’s entire team must cease all activity and may not attend any future league activities for a minimum of 14 days from the last date where there was team activity. If HLL is notified of an ill person or positive test, HLL will abide by HIPA and the Privacy Act to protect the individual’s privacy and confidentiality and will not release any protected information outside of the HLL Board of Directors unless required by law.**

It is of the utmost importance that the guidelines set forth in this plan are strictly followed. Any person(s) not abiding by these guidelines WILL NOT be permitted to participate. HLL Coaches and Volunteers will be responsible for ensuring the safety of all participants to the best of their ability. Any participant or spectators who fail to comply with this plan will be asked to leave the field and return to the parking lot. Any refusal will be reported to park staff and HLL coaches and volunteers will take no further action.

Let’s Safely “Play Ball!”