

COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

This is the current version of the COVID-19 Precautionary Measures. These measures may be amended, adjusted, supplemented, or removed depending upon the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 as well as amendments to any of the guidelines provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any local governing authority

While many of these Precautionary Measures have been provided by Little League International, we will first and foremost be following regulations provided to us from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to the extent that there is any conflict, we will defer to those provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Current guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can be found [here](#).

General Guidelines

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

On field guidance

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations

Players and coaches shall take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, or group celebrations. Southborough Little League suggests lining up outside your respective dugout and tipping caps to your opponents as a sign of good sportsmanship after the game. This practice is to be left to coaches and players on how best to acknowledge a “good game” statement.

Field Presence pre- and post-game/practice

Players and family members from the same household shall vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators.

Practices are to be populated by coaches/managers and players only. Parents/family members shall not remain at the facility for practice sessions.

Precautionary measures will be taken at practices as well to ensure that groups are kept to less than 10 and players and coaches remain a safe distance whenever possible. The same requirements for personal gear/bags will be upheld during practices as they are during games. In addition, facemasks will be provided and should be worn by players and coaches when a safe distance is not possible to be obtained.

Drinks and Snacks

Southborough Little League will not operate a snack-shack for any part of the 2020 season.

Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires shall bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. There should be no use of shared or team beverages.

Any snacks or food brought to a game shall be consumed outside of the field of play and/or dugout. Sunflower seeds or any other food that is discarded by spitting shells or other materials are prohibited.

Restroom facilities

Southborough Little League will not be providing restroom facilities this year to avoid unnecessary surface contact.

Player Equipment

No personal bat bags/equipment bags shall be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment shall be spaced outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.

Players shall have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment. The league has limited equipment available for borrowing during the season.

Baseballs and Softballs

Baseballs and softballs will be rotated through and/or sanitized on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.

Umpires will limit their contact with the ball, as catchers will be instructed to retrieve foul and passed balls where possible.

Personal Protective Equipment

All managers/coaches, volunteers, and umpires shall wear cloth face coverings whenever it is not possible to maintain six feet of social distance from another member of the game.

Players and managers/coaches shall wear cloth face coverings while in the dugout during games.

Players are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play.

Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if directed to do so by a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian/caretaker.

Game Operations and Umpire Guidelines

Pre-Game Plate Meetings

If possible, plate meetings should be eliminated.

If a plate meeting is determined to be required by coaches of both teams, they should consist of only one manager/coach from each team and one umpire. All participants shall wear a cloth face covering. No players shall be involved in plate meetings.

Limits to League/Game Volunteers

For each game, there should only be the required team managers/coaches, umpires, and one (1) league administrator (i.e. Safety Officer, player agent) in attendance.

Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.

Scorekeeping should be done by team coaches or team parent/guardian.

Press boxes should not be utilized unless there is ample room for social distancing to occur within them.

Umpire Placement

Umpires shall be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes.

Umpires are encouraged to follow best social distancing practices during games as much as possible.

Spectator Attendance Guidelines

All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household and avoid direct hand contact with players, managers or coaches during play.

Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible and use the areas clearly designated as spectator space. The diagram below depicts our intended approach to these areas and there will be signs to indicate as such at the fields.

Mooney Complex with indications of where players and spectators should be during games and how best to get to these areas.

