



6/5/2020

Dear PA District 14 Little League Parents,

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We have received questions from the community about if and how COVID-19 will change this year's Little League season. We know this outbreak has been stressful to many and recognize that exercising and participating in activities like sports can be a healthy way to cope with stress and connect with our community. After careful thought and planning, we are excited to let you know that we plan to resume PA District 14 Little League activities, while following both Little League International's "Best Practices Guidelines" and the CDC considerations to protect players, families, and our community.

The health and safety of our young athletes and volunteers remain our highest priority and are central to your league's considerations in the returning to field. Youth sports are recognized as an extremely healthy activity both physically and emotionally for the youth of our community.

The Local Leagues, along with the PA D14 staff have been actively preparing for the time when we may safely resume Little League activities. With the recent announcement of the "green" phase on June 12th for 3 of the 4 Counties we serve, and the strong likelihood the 4th will follow shortly behind we have finally reached the point that so many of us have patiently for. As the process of transitioning from a "holding" pattern to an "implementation" pattern begins we are positioned to communicate what the "new normal" will look like and provide answers to many of the question that until this point were unknown.

The leagues of PA D14 have developed a set of District-wide guidelines to provide a framework that we believe will allow us to safely and responsibly return the field. They will provide individual families the information necessary to make an informed decision whether participation this season is in their child's best interest.

Your individual league's Board of Directors are currently in the process of reviewing these guidance documents and determining the best path forward for your organization. Your leagues will be sharing both the District Guidance Documents along with their league specific plans addressing the many considerations necessary and we prepare to resume play.

While the risks associated with this terrible virus cannot be completely eliminated, the very nature of youth baseball and softball imposes a natural social distancing for much of the activity thereby providing a unique platform to begin to return to some normalcy. These guidelines have been developed in accordance with Little League International and CDC guidelines and are intended to supplement the games natural benefit and mitigate additional risks as much as practical given the nature of the activity. We are all navigating uncharted territory and the implementation will remain a learning process for all involved. As we engage in this reopening process it is likely we will identify concerns, and considerations that necessitate changes to the guidance. I'm confident that all of our Little League Community participants are as committed to the safety and health of the community as we are and that we can responsibly, respectfully and safely adjust and adapt as is appropriate.

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PA DISTRICT 14 LITTLE LEAGUE

Below, are just a few of examples of the considerations and actions we are taking to ensure we are lowering the COVID-19 risk as much as possible while also allowing our athletes to play.

- Reducing physical closeness or contact between players as much as possible by developing facility “social distancing” plan for dugouts and spectators by extending the “dugout”, discouraging unnecessary physical contact such as high-fives, fist bumps and post-game handshakes and encouraging social distancing by spectators.
- Limiting the sharing of equipment, rotating the use of baseballs/softballs and spacing player equipment to prevent direct contact.
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfection at the facilities by developing facility cleaning and disinfection plans to identify and address areas requiring cleaning and disinfection, notably high touch surfaces, dugout areas before and after each use, disinfecting shared objects and equipment between each use, when sharing is necessary, and ensuring safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants.
- Promoting healthy hygiene practices such as banning sunflower seeds and gum, eliminating shared drinks and snacks, requesting attendees at all events measure their body temperature prior to arrival and avoid attendance in the event of coronavirus symptoms or known exposure to coronavirus.
- Requesting, while not requiring, that coaches, volunteers, officials, parents, and spectators wear a cloth face covering as much as practical during practice and games. Players may opt to wear a cloth face covering on the sidelines and the dugouts, and during play if desired.
- If a known case of COVID-19 should be identified within the program, we have plans in place to communicate with local health officials and to notify known close contacts while maintaining confidentiality.

I strongly encourage you to take the time to thoroughly review all the information provided, ask questions and provide positive feedback and input as you make your participation decisions. Should you have any questions regarding the details of the plans and information provided do not hesitate to reach out to your local league officers or myself directly.

I look forward to seeing you on the field with the game and the players I love. Now, let's PLAY BALL!

Pete Kline



District Administrator

PA District 14

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*Our coaches are trained in the Double Goal Coaching Philosophy*

***“Where we Strive to Win & Teach Life Lessons”***