



Licking Heights Youth Association COVID-19 Baseball & Softball Policy

As a condition to return to play for the summer and fall seasons of LHYA rec baseball, softball and Ohio Stingers Travel Baseball, there will be requirements in-place that will be required to be followed at our various facilities. A summary of the requirements and guidelines is below. All coaches, parents, spectators and any players 18 and over will be required to review this policy, sign the appropriate waivers at the end of this packet and e-mail a copy of the signed waivers to board@lhya-sports.org.

Any field usage at **Jersey Elementary** and **Licking Heights West** fields will be required to follow the guidelines set forth in the **Ohio Department of Health Responsible Restart Ohio** document for baseball, softball & batting cages that was released on 5/22/2020. This includes mandatory physical six-foot distancing (for spectators, coaches and athletes who are not on the field of play), daily symptom assessments, no shared water coolers or drinking stations, no shared personal belongings, no touch rule for players and coaches and are not permitted to congregate in common areas or parking lots following any events, games or practices. There are further suggestions which include face coverings, travel restrictions, hand sanitizing, etc. Spectators are also not permitted to enter the player area (field of play or bench areas) and must remain more than six-feet from the backstop at all times. The document outlining these mandatory requirements and recommended best practices is included with this policy and should be reviewed very carefully prior to signing any waivers at the end of this packet.

Any field usage at **Licking Heights High School** and **Licking Heights Central Middle** School fields will be required to follow the guidelines set forth in the **LH Summer Protocols for Coaches** document that was provided by the Licking Heights Local School District and was created as dictated by the OHSAA. This includes a phased plan to re-open facilities. A limited number of participants will be allowed at each session and facilities will be limited to players and coaches only. No community members or alumni will be permitted to attend events at the schools during the three phases. There are many more restrictions and anyone participating at any of these locations must review and adhere to the protocol. The document outlining these mandatory requirements is included with this policy and should be reviewed very carefully prior to signing the Licking Heights Local School District Waiver of Liability and Acceptance of Terms and Conditions at the end of this packet. There are separate waivers for students and spectators and both must be filled out by all attending any function.

COACHES are required to adhere to all guidelines for the facility they are participating and to ensure their players and spectators are also complying with these guidelines at all times. They are also required to keep a log of all people in attendance at all events and practices including players, coaches and spectators. They can designate a representative from their team to complete this log. All logs must be sent to board@lhya-sports.org immediately upon completion of the event or practice. A blank log sheet can be found in the attachments to this document. Coaches will be required to sanitize their dugout and player bench areas at the conclusion of their game or practice prior to leaving the facility using the spray cleaner solution available at the concession stand or field sheds.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS are required to adhere to all social distancing guidelines and any other requirements listed in the attached documents for the facility they are attending. They are not to congregate in common areas or parking lots before, during or after events or practices. They are not permitted to enter the field of play or bench/dugout areas. They will also be expected to ensure their players are adhering to all guidelines.

PLAYERS are required to adhere to all social distancing guidelines when not on the field of play and any other requirements listed in the attached documents for the facility they are attending. They are not to share equipment or water coolers with other players.

During games and practices, players shall not congregate in the dugouts. Only the pitcher and catcher from the previous inning will be permitted to sit in the dugout when their team is on offense. All remaining players should sit in chairs outside of the fence line, maintaining six-foot distancing requirements. When coaches are meeting with players before, during or after games and practices, they must also maintain six-foot distancing requirements. During games, each team must utilize their own game balls. At the conclusion of each game, there will be no handshake line. Teams may line up on their foul line and "tip their cap" to the opposing team.

All families enrolling in fall ball will be required to work the concession stand during the season. Those working the concession stand during games will be required to follow all guidelines posted in the stand including wearing masks which must be provided by the person working. No person under the age of 18 will be permitted in the concession stand at any time. A waiver from the Licking County Health Department will be required as will prior to working. Blank forms will be at the concession stand.



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If any person in attendance at an event comes down with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within 14 days of attending that event, they must report it immediately to board@lhya-sports.org.

Below is a summary of additional requirements at each location to confirm compliance:

Licking Heights High School

- No groups larger than those listed in the LH Summer Protocols for Coaches will be permitted at the facility at one time. For instance, during phase 1 no more than 10 people can attend a practice **including** coaches. No crossover between groups is permitted. For instance, one coach can not work with multiple groups of players. Practices will need to be divided accordingly.
- Coaches must keep an accurate log of attendance and symptom monitoring. This should include attendees name and temperature at time of arrival. Logs must be sent to board@lhya-sports.org immediately upon completion of the practice. If any attendee shows any signs or symptoms of illness or has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, this needs to be documented on the log sheet and that person must be sent home immediately.
- At the completion of a practice session, coaches must sanitize the surfaces of any dugouts, fences or equipment that was touched during the practice session. There must be a delay of 30 minutes from the conclusion of one practice until the start of the next practice to ensure adequate time for sanitation.

Practices at Jersey Elementary and Licking Heights West

- One coach or parent must be responsible to log all coaches, parents and spectators in attendance at all practices. Logs must be sent to board@lhya-sports.org immediately upon completion of the practice. Anyone experiencing symptoms defined in the ODH Safestart document must stay home. An attendance log that can be printed and used can be found at the end of this packet.
- Players are not permitted to use the dugouts during practices. If coaches use the dugout for storage of equipment, they must be sanitized at the conclusion of practice before the next team arrives.
- Players should place their equipment along the fenceline a minimum of six feet apart and adhere to six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.
- When working with groups or during team meetings, coaches are to ensure players and coaches maintain six-foot distancing.
- Spectators in attendance must adhere to six-foot distancing from anyone not in the same family and are not permitted to sit within six feet of the backstop.

Games at Jersey Elementary and Licking Heights West

- One coach or parent must be responsible to log all coaches, parents and spectators in attendance at all games. Logs must be sent to board@lhya-sports.org immediately upon completion of the game. Anyone experiencing symptoms defined in the ODH Safestart document must stay home. An attendance log that can be printed and used can be found at the end of this packet.
- Player equipment should be hung along the fence outside of the field of play a minimum of six feet apart and parents should bring a chair for their player to sit in adjacent to their equipment when not on the field of play.
- Only the pitcher and catcher from the previous inning will be permitted in the dugout between defensive innings and they must maintain six-foot distancing.
- When a team is on offense, players should sit in their chairs next to their equipment. A coach will be responsible to ensure there is one player in the on-deck circle and the player who is in the hole can stand next to the fence opening to be prepared to enter the on-deck circle when it is their turn.
- When a team is on defense, any players not in the game should sit in their chairs next to their equipment.
- Each team will be required to provide their own game balls for when their team is on defense. Balls should not be shared between teams.
- At the conclusion of each game, instead of the typical handshake/high five line, players are permitted to line up along their foul line and give a tip of the cap to the opposing players.
- If catchers equipment (or other equipment) must be shared, Coaches will be required to sanitize this equipment between users.
- At the conclusion of the game, Coaches will be required to sanitize all surfaces touched in the dugout prior to the next team arriving. Sanitation products will be made available in the concession stand or in the dugout.