

Ocean View Little League (OVLL) FY 2021 COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Rev 1.28.2021

CONSIDERATIONS

- Governor's office has publicly stated support for resuming organized baseball and softball.
- Medical experts suggest "Play ball! The risk is likely to be lower now than in the Fall."
- Goal of resuming play: provide opportunities for as many community children possible.
- Families should decide what is best for them according to own comfort levels.
 - Participation in league play is willful consent to abide by the outlined safety measures
 - Refusal to abide by outlined safety measures (*gross negligence*) jeopardizes community safety AND the entire league's ability to play baseball
- Well communicated return to play strategies/measures to **minimize** risk.
 - Resources for informed decision making
 - General Safety Measures
 - Organized Practice and Game Procedures

RESOURCES

- CDC COVID19 Considerations for Youth Sports
- Little League Season Resumption Guide
- Little League Best Practices: Organizing, Playing, Watching Games (Jun 2020)
- VA Phase 2 guidelines for rec sports
- USA Baseball statement
- South County LL Safety Video

GENERAL SAFETY MEASURES

Our goal is to keep all Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Umpires, and any others Safe and Healthy while allowing the children to return to normality of their Baseball /Softball season. The following is the changes to procedures that OVLL and other surrounding Little Leagues have made to in effort to promote safety at the ball fields. PARTICIPATION in this season, is contingent on adherence to the following safety practices.

ANYONE WHO REFUSES TO ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **FIRST OFFENSE – WILL BE WARNED**
- **SECOND OFFENSE --REMOVAL FROM THE FIELDS IMMEDIATELY**
- **THIRD OFFENSE -- REMOVAL FROM THE FIELDS THEN LEAGUE FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.**

- All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators should practice **social distancing** from individuals not residing within their household - 6' with mask, 10' without mask - wherever possible.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as reasonably possible, ideally in 20 mins or less.
- Sanitizing solutions, wipes, or disinfectant sprays will be provided for each team with equipment and shall stay with such equipment and readily available at each practice and game.

NO UNNECESSARY CONTACT

- Handshakes/high fives, fist bumps, contact celebrations, or huddles.
- No "group" runs. Players must

NO EQUIPMENT SHARING gloves, bats, batting gloves, helmets, catcher's gear, etc.

- When possible, each player should bring their own equipment.
- If equipment is to be shared, there should be sanitation between use by different players.

NO FOOD/BEVERAGE SHARING

- Please label items w/ player's name to easily identify.
- No chewing gum / sunflower seeds to be consumed /spit at the field by players, coaches or umpires.

USE SANITIZER OFTEN

- Strongly advised that all players have their own sanitizers to use at the field. In the case this is not available, there will be hand sanitizer and spray disinfectant at the field.
- The balls used will be sanitized daily at the completion of practice, and when deemed necessary.

TRAINING PLANS

- Training /retraining to be completed with all board members in January 2021.
- Training of Covid-19 to be included in all Coaches/manager's training during February-March 2021. Dates TBD.
- All volunteers must be trained sign knowledge of training.
- All players must have a family representative present at initial team meeting and that representative must sign the acknowledgement of procedures and policies. Family representative is also responsible for relaying COVID-19 information/protocols to other family members, friends, or anyone else who be at baseball/softball games.
- Once chosen, "COVID Captain" and Team Parents will attend additional training session.

"COVID CAPTAINS"

- Each team **MUST** appoint a "COVID Captain" to help with procedural change implementation/enforcement. "Captains" must be a league approved volunteer, and can double as team parent, or assistant coach but **CANNOT** be Team Manager.
- "Captains" are vital in ensuring protocols are being followed.

- This person's responsibilities include but are not limited to:
 - Be a role model of the COVID-19 protocol.
 - Ensuring that the necessary sanitizing supplies are at practice and games. If they run out of supplies, this person must notify a league official to receive more.
 - Ensuring to remind players, coaches, parents to any COVID-19 guidelines that are not being followed.
 - Ensuring that every child at practice or game has completed the COVID-19 pre-screen paperwork.
 - Any issues need to be reported to Safety officer, Matt Allain at safetyovllva@gmail.com. and any other league official that may be present. All issues need to go through the safety officer.

OVLL HOME FIELD PLANS

- Children shall sit on bench 6ft apart, then continue to bleachers as an extension of the dugout.
- All parents and spectators shall sit along the fence to spectate, past the dugouts on both sides. Families that reside together may sit together. Families shall sit a minimum of 6ft between other families.
- Bleachers are reserved for player's and for all purposes shall be considered an extension of the dugout. **BLEACHERS ARE NOT FOR FANS.** Dugouts and bleachers shall have a "X" to designate player spots. Players shall sit on the same "X" while in the dugout for entire game.
- Coaches to maintain a safe environment by sanitizing helmets and bats between batters when needed.
- Before game umpire conference shall include one coach from each team, and the umpire and all parties must wear a mask.
- Umpiring shall take place from the pitcher's mound to allow social distance.
- Teams shall use their own balls while in the field. Coaches must switch out every half inning.
- Base coaches shall stay in coaching box, and not come within 6ft of any players, parents, or coaches. Highly recommend wearing a mask but not mandatory.
- Catcher's will not touch bats from the other team. Only a coach shall retrieve a bat after a player has hit the ball or the batter will carry own bat back to dugout.
- Team pre- or post-game meetings, players must be at least 6ft apart.

DAILY SCREENINGS

To be conducted by parents, coaches, volunteers before attending practice, games or any OVLL event. This screening shall include the following conditions (CDC guidelines):

- A fever of 100.4°F or higher
- A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- Shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- Chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A change in senses of smell and/or taste
- A headache that cannot be attributed to another health condition.

If the player, coaches, or any other person attending an OVLL function answers yes any of the above questionnaire, then said person, or parents of said person shall:

- **Immediate report any symptoms from above list, or feeling ill or been in contact with someone suspected, known, or tested for COVID-19**
- **PLAYER AND VOLUNTEER WELLNESS CHECK FORM** is a formalized self-screen tool that **MUST BE COMPLETED** for each player and coach ahead of practices AND games. If there are no changes in symptoms reported on the front side, simply sign/date the back of the form.
- **RESTRICTIONS : NO** player, coach, volunteer, staff member, umpire or fan is allowed to attend any league practices or games if they have a fever, feel unwell or display the symptoms associated with COVID19 **until symptom-free for 72 hours or cleared by a medical doctor.**
- If any player, coach, volunteer, staff member and/or umpire tests positive for COVID-19 infection or are otherwise diagnosed as infected with COVID-19, the individual will **self-quarantine for at least 10 days**, and will not attempt to return to any league activity until they have been fever-free (unmedicated by any fever-reducing medication) for 72 hours or have been cleared by a medical doctor.

PRACTICE PLAN

- Player equipment must also be spread out: Player A's bag must be 10 feet from Player B's bag. This should prevent being too close when it is time to get equipment or pack up. In general, the chain-link metal fence poles surrounding the fields are roughly 10 feet apart.
- Keep things basic, then progress:
 - Throwing as outlined
 - Ground balls to each other
 - Field at assigned position - 1 per position
- No batter/catcher – batting practice can occur, just no catcher. Pitchers can throw “bullpen” sessions, just no live batter.
- Teams can work on everything baseball that maintains the 10-foot rule
- Parents/guardians attending practices should refrain from getting any foul balls; please allow the coaches and players to retrieve foul balls to limit contact.

GAME PLANS

- Every effort will be made to maintain 10 feet boundaries between players during all aspects of the game.
- (Minors and above) Dugouts and bullpens will be used at the managers' discretion, whether used for a pitcher/catcher duo OR the next 3 batters due up, capacity WILL NOT exceed 4 people.
- (T-ball and Coach Pitch) Players shall sit with family instead of sitting in a dugout. Families that live together shall sit together but maintain 6-10ft from next family group. Parents will be responsible for children on the bench during batting.
- Each manager will provide game balls for their team while fielding.

- Players should sanitize their hands between innings.
- Bat racks will NOT be used; as such, bats may only be retrieved by coaches, managers, or the player owning it.
- Foul balls will be retrieved by coaches or players.
- At the end of the game both teams shall line up, along each respective baseline, 6ft apart, and do either hats off or wave to the other team as good game measures.

OTHER VISTING BALLFIELDS PROCEDURES

- Follow all rules of the home field.
- IF you must go inside to access a bathroom (Azalea, Plaza, etc.) you must wear a mask inside these facilities.
- When another field has rules that are not as stringent as OVLL, Parents, Coaches, and Players will continue to follow OVLL COVID-19 protocols.

ASK OF PARENTS

- Follow all COVID-19 rules and model for all children what proper behavior is.
- Go over these procedures with your child/children and ensure they understand.
- Spectators should be sitting by family at least 6ft apart preferably 10ft apart by family.
- Complete the COVID-19 pre-screen form, every practice, game, event. Without this form completed, children cannot participate for that event that day.
- Label your child's water bottle, to prevent cross contamination.
- Be supportive and flexible during these difficult times. OVLL has committed to keeping teams on the fields but as things evolve, evolve with us!

****This COVID-19 Action Plan was Originally created July 2020 and has be revised on 1.28.21. Revisions include lessons learned both benefits and opportunities from Fall 2020, improvements in efficiency and procedures, added information about "COVID Coach," specific OVLL field rules and OVLL as an entity. ****

President name: Crissy Dassow President's Signature: Crissy Dassow Date: 01/28/2021

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