

Guidelines for Resumption of Play as Recommended by Little League International

PRE-SEASON: Starting on or about 6/5/20, a week after Clearfield county enters the green phase, DuBois Area Little League will begin practicing for the upcoming season. During uncertain times, parents will sign a release waiver declaring their understanding of the risks assumed by participating and attending baseball events. Parents will also sign an agreement in assuming responsibility to check their child's temperature before all practices and games.

SEASON BEGINS: As game schedules need to be firmed up, especially for the older divisions that play interleague, we anticipate starting the season the week of June 15th to allow some time to practice yet allow time to maximize time for games during an unconventional season. The season will wrap up at or around July 31, 2020.

The goal of resuming play is to provide as many opportunities for as many children as possible. The League will strive to provide the most positive experience that we can for all players and families, while also making sure that we are following local and state health authority guidelines for social distancing, organized activities, and large gatherings. We anticipate that certain of these guidelines may be inconvenient, so we thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES: To ensure a positive and safe experience for all participants:

***Before games and practices:** Parents will agree to monitor and check their child's temperature prior to all games and practices and refrain from attending if their temperature is above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit

*** Hand Sanitizers & Disinfecting Wipes:** The League will make best efforts to provide these items in dugouts, press boxes, bathrooms, and concession stands. Due to supply shortages, it is requested that adults bring these items for their children to use, and have the kids wash their hands before game time.

*** Social Distancing/Dugouts/Bleachers:** Much like proposed by MLB, coaches and players will need to be at least 6' apart while off the field. This means that players and coaches will need to use both the dugouts and the 1st and 3rd base bleachers. Parents & Family spectators will need to similarly spread out along the LF and RF fenced area, as well as behind the outfield fencing. Seating for fans in attendance will begin at least 10 feet beyond the right and left field bleachers indicated by signage. The area immediately surrounding bleachers and designated team areas will be off limits to anyone other than team members, coaching, and necessary medical supervision during the course of the game.

Dugouts, per Little League International recommendations, will be off limits to promote distancing. The on deck batter will be allowed at the top of steps inside the dugout area. The next batter will be outside the fence at a marked area at least 6 feet away followed by the batter "in the hole" at least 6 feet away at a designated area.

Players for each team will sit in an assigned seat in the bleachers with respect to spot in batting order which will be numerically marked on the bleacher. Seating will go with 4 kids a row six feet apart. At

least 1 row behind seating will be kept empty to accommodate distancing as well as to allow each player's gear.

A bench coach will be allowed in the restricted area at proper distancing.

Spectators in the outfield will be required to provide their own seating. Parents for the home team will be encouraged to watch from the left field portion of the outfield while the fans of visitors will be encouraged to sit in the right field section.

The restrooms within the dugouts will be off limits.

* **Facial Masks:** To minimize the possible spread of germs and as a courtesy to others, facial masks are recommended for all, including players and coaches when off the playing field. While on defense, no masks will be required while on the field. Umpires are encouraged to wear masks and hygienic gloves, and may be positioned behind the mound to call balls & strikes.

* **Drinks/Seeds:** Players and coaches will need to bring their own individual (reusable or disposable) drink containers (water or Gatorade), and keep that container with them at their designated area when on offense. No communal coolers. No seeds or gum will be permitted.

* **Equipment:** Players' gloves, bats, bat bag, helmets, hats, etc., should remain in their individually designated area (designated space behind them in the bleachers), when not in use on the field. Any equipment used by multiple players needs to be sanitized before the next use, especially catchers' masks.

* **Baseballs/Softballs:** These, of course, will be touched by multiple players during play, and sanitization would make the balls wet and slippery, thus The League will attempt to rotate balls into the game more frequently, and fouts balls should only be retrieved by players in the dugouts or grandstand.

* **Player Contact:** We want the games to remain fun, of course, and encourage team comradery, however there can be no handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc., at this time.

* **Starting & Ending Games:** Efforts should be made to minimize contact between teams arriving for and departing from games, such as nightly double-headers.

* **Press Boxes:** While LL International has recommended no press boxes, The League feels that we can safely "man" the press boxes with two socially distanced workers, to keep the scorebook, pitch counts, and PA system.

* **50/50:** While this practice generates needed revenue for The League, at this time, we feel that the 50/50 should be suspended due to it requiring too much contact and the handling of cash. We, of course, welcome any donations that fans may wish to make to League officials in attendance.

* **Concession Stands:** Due to Little League International recommendations, there will be no concession stand