

NORTH SMITHFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES UNDER COVID-19

North Smithfield Little League is instituting a series of regulations designed to protect the health and safety of all involved. It is important all players, coaches and parents strictly follow these guidelines.

In accordance with the State of Rhode Island regulations governing the re-opening of the state and re-instituting of youth sports under COVID-19, NSLL participants will adhere to the following guidelines:

Teams will be limited to no more than 15 participants, including players and coaches. A team shall be considered a “stable group.” Within the stable group, the same individuals, including players, coaches, staff and volunteers, remain in the same group over the course of the entire program. Participants are encouraged not to change from one group to another.

One team will be assigned to a field

There will be a 30-minute gap in between practices and games so that teams are not on the same field simultaneously.

Use of dugouts will be prohibited.

Equipment bags will be hung on fences outside the field in designated areas marked 6 feet apart.

Guidelines for Players

Players will use hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of practice, and at regular intervals throughout practice.

Players will be prohibited from sharing equipment and water bottles

All player equipment must be stored in a players' bag when not in use.

Players will be required to wear face covering when not in active play on the field

Guidelines for Managers and Coaches

Per the CDC and an Executive Order by the Governor of Rhode Island, face coverings must be worn by coaches.

Coaches will be provided new baseballs at the start of the season for the exclusive use of that team.

Coaches will rotate the use of baseballs using approved sanitizer on balls that have been used.

Coaches will conduct practices in a manner that allows players to maintain appropriate social distancing

At least two adults must be present for each practice.

Only those individuals who have submitted BCI checks will be permitted with children at the field.

Guidelines for Parents/Families

Parents may not be present on the field, however, they may remain in their vehicles should they wish to view practices. (An exception to this rule is if a child has a pre-existing health condition that requires strict parental supervision.). Spectators for games shall be limited to two (2) per player.

Families will be strongly encouraged to wipe down all baseball gear after games and practices with an approved disinfectant.

If your child has a fever, please do not bring them to practice

Managers will be provided a pre-practice health screening questionnaire and should verbally ask each player prior to the start of practice or game.

If a player on a team or in a stable group tests positive for COVID-19, the entire team or group (if they have been in close contact with the athlete) needs to quarantine for 14 days.

Per [CDC guidance](#), if you think or know a player has had COVID-19, and symptoms, the player may be around others after:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
- Symptoms have improved

Per [CDC Guidance](#), if you tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, you can be with others after:

- 10 days have passed since test
- Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

Per [CDC Guidance](#), it is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness.

Game Play Modifications

Teams will be assigned a time frame during which they may have access to each field. Teams may arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game; if they arrive early, they may not exit the vehicle until a manager gives the OK.

Team meetings may not take place after games; teams must immediately depart. There will be no shaking of hands after each game. Instead, teams shall yell "good game" at the conclusion of the game. Under no circumstances should players line-up.

No one may enter the dugout or field area outside of their assigned times.

Spectators

Spectators should ensure at least six feet of physical distance between household groups and maintain at least 14 feet of space from the outer limit of play.

No more than two spectators attend from any household.

Spectators must wear face coverings in accordance with current executive orders on face coverings. Those individuals who opt to not to wear a mask - or cannot wear a mask due to a legitimate health issue - are asked to remain 14 feet from others - unless from the same household.

Umpires

Per Little League Guidance, only one umpire will be assigned to each game and is restricted from positioning themselves behind home plate. The umpire may position him or herself behind the mound to call balls and strikes. An umpire's call is final; there is no appeal of calls, etc. to ensure that the limited time may be used to play as much baseball as possible.

Concession Stand

The league has suspended the use of all concession stand activity until 2021.

Restroom Facilities

At present, the town is prohibiting the use of bathroom facilities at all fields. Opening these facilities will be at the town's discretion.

Additional Resources

<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices-on-field-guidance/>

https://reopeningri.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/7-2-20-Phase-III-youth-and-adult-sports_FINAL-evan-edits-1-v.F.1.pdf?189db0&189db0