

Reading Little League Baseball

2021 COVID-19 Safety Plan – UPDATED 5/18/2021

RLL Baseball has developed a safety protocol following the Commonwealth of MA guidelines. Some traditional and usual aspects of baseball will be modified. Responsibilities of the league, parents, coaches, and players are summarized in this document.

League responsibilities:

- Have hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes available at each league field.
- Provide catchers' gear (Majors, AAA, AA, and A divisions) for the entire season to players as needed. Limited supply available. Equipment must be returned at end of season.
- Provide "modified dugouts" for Majors, AAA, AA, and A divisions to support social distancing.
- Schedules will include time buffers to prevent the overlap of games/practices.
- Keep rosters of all participants with appropriate contact information and make the information available upon request by state officials, local boards of health or their authorized agents.

Universal responsibilities:

- To participate or attend, participants, volunteers, coaches, and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. Per the CDC, symptoms can be found [HERE](#).
- If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.
- Notify the coach and RLL if your player(s) or someone they have been in contact with is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Snack Shack will be closed.

Parent/guardian responsibilities:

- Wear a face mask when 6' of social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Players may not share equipment. Supply a glove, bat, batting helmet, and water bottle for your player(s) and ensure that they are labeled. For Majors, AAA, AA, and A divisions, please bring a chair for your player(s) as each player will have a designated area outside the dugout for their belongings.
- For the Rookie Division, a parent/guardian must be present with their player(s) for the entirety of each game, as players in this division will sit with their parent/guardian when they are not on the field. Majors, AAA, AA, and A division teams will use modified "dugouts" away from spectators.
- No gum, sunflower seeds, or similar will be permitted.
- Stay out of designated player areas and maintain a six-foot distance from other spectators.
- Leave the field as quickly as reasonable after games/practices and do not congregate in parking lots or other common areas.
- It is strongly recommended to not carpool with non-household members. In the event that transportation of non-family members becomes necessary, all parties in the vehicle must wear cloth face coverings or face masks and to the extent possible have external air circulating in the vehicle such as opening a window.
- Any Massachusetts-based athlete that travels to another state and does not comply with the Commonwealth's Travel Order may risk suspension of team or league practices and/or games.
- Review the protocols with your player and ensure they understand what is required to participate.

Coaching responsibilities:

- Understand and adhere to social distancing guidelines to the extent practical during practices/games.
- Coaches need to continue to wear face coverings when they cannot consistently maintain 6' of social distancing. This means in team huddles and in the dugout. They will not need to wear a face covering when coaching 1st or 3rd base as long as they stay 6' from the players/other coaches.
- Review the requirements for players, coaches, and umpires in detail.
- No contact between players/coaches/umpires. This means no high-fives, post-game handshake lines, etc. It is suggested that teams line up on foul lines after games to tip their caps to opponents and umpires.
- Majors, AAA, AA, and A division teams will use modified dugouts away from spectators.
 - Majors, Hunt, and Eaton fields have numbers (#1-13) hung on the fences. Please designate each player a number for the season. This will be their area to keep their belongings and stay when not on the field.
 - Note that the setup required will differ among Reading fields.
- Minimize in-person team meetings and have your team leave the field promptly when your practice/game ends.
- It is suggested that each coach have one team representative to assure all safety protocols are in place during practice/game.
- Fields ideally are prepared prior to arrive of players
- While in-person, team-based social events are often considered an integral component of recreational sports leagues, more frequent, extended physical or close contact increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission between team members should an outbreak occur. In the interest of reducing preventable transmission events, we must ensure that team-based social gatherings do not occur until all other COVID-19-specific restrictions regulating sports leagues are fully lifted.

Player responsibilities:

- Facial coverings are no longer required for youth sport participants. This includes in the dugouts and team huddles.
- Follow your coach's instructions for where to sit and where to put your equipment.
- If you feel sick during a practice or game, tell your coach right away.
- If you feel sick before a practice or game, tell a parent/guardian right away.
- When you're not on the field:
 - Keep your drinks and equipment separate from your teammates.
 - Do not use their equipment or let them use yours.
 - No spitting, seeds, gum, or similar products are allowed.
- No touching other players (or coaches, or umpires).
 - No shaking hands, high-fives, chest bumps... No handshake lines after the game.

Umpire responsibilities:

- Plate meeting should be very limited or eliminated
 - Follow social distancing (6 ft) for meetings
 - Facial coverings are no longer required for umpires
 - No players may participate in plate meetings
- Umpires (Majors, AAA, AA, and A divisions) will be placed behind pitcher's mound to call balls and strikes
 - Encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible