



2020 SEASON SAFETY PROTOCOLS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

These protocols describe most of what our league is going to implement and do this season to try to ensure everyone's safety as we begin league activities in the coming weeks. As you know, moving to the "Green Phase" of Governor Wolf's phased reopening plan does not mean that things are completely opened up as normal and everyone can be carefree. Instead, we all need to continue to monitor the guidance provided by authorities like:

- World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>
- PA Department of Health: <https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx#>

As enthusiastic as we are to get started, safety must remain paramount, and while we will do everything we can on our end, much of the responsibility ultimately falls to the parents. Monitor your child(ren) and any other spectators joining you daily, and if they show any potential symptoms, keep them home. That, alone, will be a huge help in preventing the spread of the virus.

Hermitage Little League encourages every player, coach, and spectator to remember to....

- 1. Wash hands often, and use hand sanitizer frequently**
- 2. Maintain social distancing when possible.**
- 3. Cover mouth and nose when around others and social distancing is not possible**
- 4. Avoid touching eyes nose and mouth**
- 5. Cover coughs and sneezes**
- 6. Self-monitor symptoms and temperature, and do not attend if feeling sick or temperature is elevated**

Practice

- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players only.
- Coaches and players must adhere to physical six-foot distancing to the best of their ability except when the ball is in play.
- All managers/coaches, players (at the discretion of the parents), volunteers, etc., should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts or bench areas.
- All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each/any Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional.
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory conditions should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home and report their condition to the manager/coach.
- No team water coolers or shared drinking stations permitted.
- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., will not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.
- All players and coaches must refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.

- Whenever possible, equipment and personal items must have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitization should be administered between users.
- For each practice session, it is recommended that coaches divide players into groups and establish rotating shifts as much as possible to aid in proper social distancing.
- It is strongly recommended that players travel to the venue with a member(s) of their immediate household when possible. Sharing rides is highly discouraged unless absolutely necessary.
- Social gatherings outside the field are highly discouraged.
- Coaches should keep group speeches to a minimum and brief. Weather permitting, group/team speeches should be held on the field so players and coaches can be safely spaced.
- Players, Coaches, Volunteers, and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of practice to allow for proper sanitization of the facility and to aid in greater social distancing.
- A fifteen-minute window should be scheduled between each practice to allow for proper sanitization of facility and equipment.
- No players or coaches scheduled to play or practice next may step foot on the field until sanitization is complete unless they are the ones performing the sanitizing protocols.
- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 15 minutes before practice time. If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game or practice to prevent the unnecessary overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.

Games

- For each game only the required team managers/coaches (preapproved by division VP) should be on the field or in player areas.
- No handshakes/personal contact celebrations. Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitization or use single-use bottles. There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.
- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., will not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.
- All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., should wear PPE such as cloth face coverings whenever applicable and possible.
- Players (at the discretion of the parents) and managers/coaches should wear a cloth face covering while in the dugout.
- Players, especially at younger divisions, are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play. If physically able to do so, players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play based on a directive from a medical provider or the individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.
- All managers, coaches, players, and umpires are expected to self check their temperature prior to arriving to the game. An elevated temperature would disqualify the individual from participation for that entire day. All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity.
- Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional.
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.

- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home and report their condition to the manager/coach.
- Managers/coaches are encouraged to assign players individual spots inside and outside the dugout to encourage social distancing. Players are to stay in their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat or enter field of play.
- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- In the event of rain or lightning delay, players must take shelter in their parent or guardian's vehicle.
- It is recommended that players have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment. Measures should be enacted to avoid, or minimize, equipment sharing when feasible. Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. *If you are unable to afford to pay to purchase and of the listed equipment, please contact the league discreetly through our facebook messenger, and we will make accommodations.*
- When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player.
- Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (e.g. catcher's masks, helmets).
- Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each game/practice by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable. Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use.
- All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area, out of reach of children.
- Any/all shared field preparation equipment is to be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.
- Baseballs should be rotated through on a regular basis to limit contact. Home team when on defense shall use the Home team's baseballs. Away team when on defense shall use the Away's team baseballs. Umpires should limit their contact with the ball and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls when possible.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- It is strongly recommended that players travel to the venue with a member(s) of their immediate household when possible. Sharing rides is highly discouraged unless absolutely necessary.
- Coaches should keep group speeches to a minimum and brief. Weather permitting, group/team speeches should be held on the field so players and coaches can be safely spaced.
- Players, Coaches, Volunteers, and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of a game to allow for proper sanitization of the facility and to aid in greater social distancing.
- Scoreboard controller and microphone must be wiped off after every game. Only one volunteer (or more than one if volunteers live in the same household) in the press box.
- Concession stand operation/hours will be very limited, and only pre-packaged food and drinks will be sold.
- Social distancing is required for the entire complex, and the wearing of face covering is highly recommended when social distancing cannot be accomplished.
- A fifteen-minute window should be scheduled between each game to allow for proper sanitization of facility and equipment. No players or coaches scheduled to play next may step foot on the field until sanitization is complete unless they are performing the sanitization protocols.
- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 60 minutes before their scheduled game time. If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.

- Facility Frequently touched surfaces shall be cleaned AND disinfected daily and in between all facility uses, including practices and games. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, facility equipment, dugouts, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Spectators

- Spectators must maintain social distancing when possible.
- Spectators shall have NO access to the field, batting cages or player areas.
- Spectators shall cover mouth and nose when around others and social distancing is not possible.
- Cover all coughs and sneezes.
- Self-Monitoring: anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home!
- All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.
- Players/families/spectators should bring their own portable chairs. Bleachers and picnic tables will not be available for use for spectators.
- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 60 minutes before game/practice time. If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- Families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of practice/games.

Hermitage Little League reserves the right to remove or amend these protocols/rules at any time, for any reason. Additionally, Division-specific provisions may be imposed, and will be communicated through the division VP and team managers if so.