

## 2021 NY DISTRICT 20 LITTLE LEAGUE SAFETY PLAN

D20 plans to implement the below plans and procedures in order to help ensure the safest possible re-introduction of little league baseball and softball within NY District 20 for all regular season, interleague play & Tournament play. All participants (including coaches, umpires and players) will be notified of the below prior to the start of the season and will be required to expressly agree to endeavor to comply with the same to the best of their ability. League Presidents are responsible to have parents of all Interleague & Tournament participants sign their leagues Covid-19 Return to Play Waiver release form & must have it present at all interleague & tournament games.



1. Coaches, players and umpires must adhere to physical six-foot distancing except when the ball is in play.
2. Contact by players must be avoided on the field of play whenever possible. Baserunners will be required to give themselves up in order to avoid physical contact.
3. Coaches and umpires must wear face coverings at all times and players must wear face coverings at all times [except when actively participating in the field of play].
  - a. Participants will be expected to provide their own face coverings.
  - b. Any coach, umpire or player without a face covering will not be permitted to participate
4. All spectators must adhere to six-foot physical distancing with non-household members. Those observed not adhering to distancing requirement will be asked to comply or leave the premises. All spectators must wear a face covering while on the premises. Those not wearing a face covering will be asked to comply or leave the premises.
  - Umpires, coaches and D20 personnel reserve the right to suspend the applicable game if spectators continue to fail to adhere to required physical distancing.
5. Coaches, players and umpires must conduct symptom self-assessments (self-evaluation) prior to arriving at each event, including the taking of temperature, and anyone experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, etc.) must stay home:
  - a. Any participant that is exhibiting symptoms, as determined in the reasonable judgment of the coaches, umpires or D20 personnel, will be prohibited from participating and asked to leave the premises. If any such

Participant is unable to leave (e.g., for lack of a ride, etc.), they will be quarantined from the remainder of the participants in a reasonable manner, under adult supervision, until they are able to leave.

6. Athletes are recommended to travel alone to a venue or field or only with members of their immediate household.
7. Players, coaches and umpires will be encouraged to use sanitizing wipes, cleansers, etc., between innings on their hands, game balls and other applicable equipment.
8. Shared drinking stations, team water coolers, spitting, eating sunflower seeds and gum chewing is prohibited.
9. There shall be no more than 1 coach and 3 players in any enclosed dugout at any time during the game – additional participants will be required to remain in foul territory in a socially distant manner, under coach/adult supervision at all times.
10. Equipment and belongings should be used only by the individual owner or operator including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, helmets, catcher's equipment and other on- and off-field gear. Catcher's equipment must be sanitized before another player can use it.
11. Players should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans (a "tip of the cap" can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line).
12. Compliant game balls must be designated to each team for use while that team is playing defense. Each pitcher will have their own designated ball. Balls must be taken out of play after 2 innings, and replaced with a sanitized ball.
13. A foul ball into the stands may only be retrieved by a current player. If the ball is touched by a fan, the ball must be sanitized before returning to play.
14. Umpires must avoid exchanging documents (including lineup cards) or equipment with players, coaches, or spectators.
15. The home plate umpire may call balls and strikes from a position between the pitcher and 2nd base (6 feet behind the pitcher) or from no less than 6 feet behind the catcher.
16. All participants (adults & players) will be required to sign a waiver prior to commencement of the season, pursuant to which they agree to hold their local league, District 20, the city, local governments and their respective affiliates, agents, officers and employees harmless from any and all matters pertaining to exposure to communicable diseases, including Covid-19.
17. Each league will have a Safety Officer on premises at each game, in order to endeavor to ensure compliance with the foregoing.

18. Leagues may open their concession stands, but must abide by both the Board of Health and Little League Internationals guidelines.
19. All divisions / age groups will use roster batting except Majors, which will be line-up batting.
20. Teams may play with 8 players. You may start the game with 8 players. You should borrow the last batted out from your opponent for defensive half innings. No penalty or automatic out. The 9<sup>th</sup> spot in the batting order is skipped over.
21. When having multiple games at a complex with more than one field, please stagger start times to avoid too many people coming & going at the same time to help with social distancing.
22. Batting cages can be open for usage:
  - a. Two adults are required with each team. One inside to pitch & one to supervise outside the cage.
  - b. One player in the cage at a time. All other players must be positioned 6 feet apart outside the cage, and must wear a face covering. Coaches must wear face coverings as well.
  - c. Only the coach pitching is allowed to pick up the balls. Players are not allowed.
  - d. After session has ended, the cages and baseballs must be wiped down & sanitized.
23. If you are having multiple games on the same day (not double headers with the same two teams):
  - a. Please schedule game times allowing enough time in between games for players and spectators to leave the complex before the next group arrives. Also enough time for the complex to be cleaned and disinfected.
  - b. Only if there are multiple games, no inning may start after 1 hour & 45 minutes and has a drop dead time of 2 hours. This applies to all games on that day. Even the last game.
24. All fields must be disinfected & sanitized before the first game of the day, after each game & including after the last game of the day.
25. Each team will be allowed three adult coaches plus one (+1) volunteer. All adults must wear face coverings the entire time. One coach will be in the dugout & two coaches in the extended dugout when their team is on defense, and while on offense they will have a 3<sup>rd</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> base coach, and one coach in the dugout. The (+1) volunteer will be in charge of the players in the extended dugout located outside of the regular dugout. This person must stay in the designated area during the entire game, and cannot enter the spectator area, or else he/she will be deemed contaminated. The minimum amount of adults per game is two. One must be in the regular

dugout & one in the extended dugout. If you only have two adults or three, then you may use players to coach the bases. They must wear a helmet & face covering. Base coaches must stay 6 feet away from the baserunner & defensive player.

26. Extended dugout:

- a. It is recommended that each league mark off a designated area outside the team's dugout in foul territory on the opposite side of the fence from the playing field.
- b. Area should be marked off with tape or plastic fencing and poles with a sign restricted for players & coaches only. There should also be enough seating for the team 6 feet apart. Players must sit in the same chair the entire game, and cannot switch seats. Only 3 players are allowed in the dugout at a time. All players in the dugout & extended dugout must wear a face covering.
- c. There should be a table set up in the extended dugout with hand sanitizer and wipes.

27. All leagues must put together their own Return to Play Waiver form to be signed by parents/guardians & all volunteers. Please make sure to have the document reviewed by a lawyer.

28. All guidelines above are subject to change due to Little League and/or NY State official guidelines.

29. Bathrooms will be open at the discretion of each league. If the bathroom is open, you must have an attendant on duty to sanitize after each usage & to make sure people waiting are spaced 6 feet apart.

Updated March 30, 2021