

# LMLL Baseball/Softball

## COVID-19 Guidelines

Last  
updated  
~~3/8/21-12/1~~  
~~2/20~~



### MANDATORY FOR PLAYERS & COACHES/INSTRUCTORS

- **All participants must wear face coverings satisfying [CDC guidelines](#) and covering the nose and mouth at all times** except defensive players (fielders) actively participating outside on the field, maintaining 6' social distancing from one another except briefly during an active play (and except when eating or drinking distanced at least 6' from others). Masks will NOT be required to, but MAY at the player's option, be worn by defensive players (fielders) during outdoor on-field play (all batters, baserunners, and base coaches must wear masks). Each participant must provide their own face mask, and will not be permitted to participate without a mask except as noted above. These requirements apply during both game play and practice.
- **Batting team: Dugout limited to next 3 players to bat + 1 coach/scorekeeper - must be socially distanced and wear masks at all times. All other players must be socially distanced behind the dugout or out of the field of play (wherever adequate open space). No bags or equipment may be brought into the dugout**, except equipment player has with them in preparation for batting. **No gatherings of players to address the team**, except as can be accomplished with social distancing.
- **Hand washing or sanitizing required between innings.** Coaches shall perform a **full wipe down** of dugouts, bench area and any other areas used or surfaces touched by the players **before each game/practice**.
- Players should ultimately only arrive with a member of their own household (**players should not carpool with anyone outside their household**).
- **No participants permitted to share equipment or personal items** (glove, bat, batting helmet, etc – all players must have their own). Gear should be used by the individual owner only and should be sanitized before and after game play. Team catcher's gear supplied by the league must be sanitized by the coaches before each game or practice, and may only be used by one player during that game or practice (it is expected that each team will have two sets of catcher's gear).
- **All participants must adhere to 6-foot distancing guidelines when off field of play.** This includes maintaining proper spacing when entering/exiting the field of play during inning change-overs.
- **Players' parents & coaches/instructors must conduct daily symptom self-evaluation assessments. Anybody** (1) experiencing [symptoms](#), or living with somebody experiencing symptoms, now or in the past 14 days and not cleared by a doctor, or (2) who has **tested positive** for COVID-19 in the past 14 days and not been cleared by a doctor, or (3) who has had "[close contact](#)" in the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and not been cleared by a doctor, or (4) who is **required or advised to quarantine** following travel or otherwise under [New York State requirements](#), [CDC guidance](#), or directions from any other applicable authority, **must stay home**.
- **Any player that is exhibiting symptoms** as reasonably determined by umpires, coaches, or LMLL safety officer, shall not be permitted to continue in the game/practice, and will be asked to leave the premises. If for some reason said player can't leave (no ride home, etc.); he/she will be quarantined at a safe distance away from other participants.
- **If any player or coach/instructor, or any member of their household, tests positive for COVID-19**, they shall immediately notify LMLL at [Admin@LMLittleLeague.org](mailto:Admin@LMLittleLeague.org). LMLL will consult with local health authorities for appropriate precautionary measures, which particularly in the case of an infected player/coach may result in the team's activities being put on temporary hold for a period of time. LMLL will notify all impacted players/coaches on the affected team(s) of any such action.

- **Each team will supply baseballs to be used exclusively for their team in the field** to minimize the number of people using the same ball. Coaches must sanitize baseballs with disinfectant between innings.
- **Teams keep their own lineup cards and/or use online scorebook**, teams will not exchange lineup cards.
- **No sharing of food or drinks. Team drink coolers are prohibited.** All players must bring their own drinks or snacks, and must be consumed at least 6ft away from fellow players and coaches. **No after game team snacks.**
- **When a fielder possess the ball at or near a base being advanced or returned to**, such that the umpire believes in his/her judgment that the runner is likely to be tagged out, or if a runner is caught in a rundown, **the runner shall be called out and "give him/herself up" in order to avoid unnecessary additional contact.**
- **No spitting or chewing seeds, gum or other similar products.**
- **Universal No touch rule:** Players, coaches, umpires must refrain from physical contact with each other or opponents on and off the field of play. A tip of the hat or wave shall replace the customary post-game handshake.
- **Each LMLL game venue will be represented by a league "safety officer" designated for that day/time.** This officer will be a member of or designated by the LMLL General Board of Directors or Executive Board of Directors. Safety officer will help to monitor proper social distancing, adherence to all stated guidelines, and general jurisdiction for the game site.
- **~~15-minute buffer between practices~~ & 30 minute buffers between games to allow for safe exit for Players, Coaches, Umpires, & Spectators.** Games will end at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled game. All participants should leave the venue promptly. No arrival more than 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- **All participants will be required to sign a waiver** prior to commencement of the season, pursuant to which they agree to hold their local league, 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.
- **Practices and other team activities** may only occur in outdoor spaces, and indoors as allowed by local authorities. **Indoor practice/workout spaces** are subject to any applicable capacity limitation, currently 50% of maximum capacity. **No parents/spectators are permitted in indoor facilities**, only coaches/instructors/officials (drop-off/pick-up must take place outside). **All players and adult participants must conduct a self-assessment** (see above) before arriving at the facility. **Players may not carpool** (may only travel with members of their own household) and **may not arrive more than 5 minutes early for the session**; if they do, they may not enter and must remain in their cars. All players, coaches, instructors and officials must (i) wear **face coverings satisfying CDC guidelines** and **covering the nose and mouth at all times** (even when participating in practice activities, but not when eating or drinking distanced at least 6' from others and (ii) **sanitize their hands immediately upon entering the facility.** **All participants must maintain 6' distancing at all times** except for players wearing face coverings engaged in a practice activity which requires lesser separation. When using **batting cages** (indoor & outdoor), two adults are required, one to pitch & one to supervise outside the cage, only one player in the cage at a time, all other players must be positioned 6 feet apart outside the cage. Only the coach pitching is allowed to pick up the balls. High-touch surfaces of the facility (door, pitching screen, etc) and baseballs must be wiped down & sanitized before each session. **All indoor activities are also subject to the rules of the specific facility**; in the event of a conflict between those rules and these, such that it is not possible to comply with both, the more restrictive/protective rule shall govern.
- **All these rules apply to both Rec and Travel teams** (whether home or away), provided that in the event of any conflict between these rules and the rules of a league or tournament in which a Travel team is participating, such that it is not possible to comply with both, the rule of the specific league or tournament will govern.

## SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES

- **Coaches must ensure that their players, assistant coaches and team's spectators are following COVID-19 prevention measures** mentioned herein, including wearing masks, sanitizing hands, and adhering to social distancing in and around the dugout as well as other seating areas while not actively participating in the field of play.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR UMPIRES, SCOREKEEPERS & OFFICIALS

- **Must wear face coverings satisfying CDC guidelines and covering the nose and mouth at all times.**
- **Hand washing or hand sanitizing** at least once between each inning during the game (umpires), or once before game/session (scorekeepers/officials)
- **Equipment and/or personal items should remain separate from teams.**
- **Primary umpires will work positioned at least 6' behind the pitchers plate** to call balls and strikes. Additional umpires, if any, shall be positioned elsewhere in the field as appropriate, and all umpires shall maintain proper social distancing from players as much as possible.
- **Scorekeepers shall sanitize the scorekeeping equipment before each game** (using sanitizing materials from one of the coaches), and ensure that no one else touches it during the game.
- **Must adhere to 6-foot distancing guidelines** when interacting with players, coaches and spectators both on and off the field of play.
- **Must conduct daily symptom self-evaluation assessments** as described for Players/Coaches above. **If experiencing symptoms during game/session**, shall not continue, and must leave or quarantine at a safe distance away from other participants.
- **If any umpire/scorekeeper/official, or any member of their household, tests positive for COVID-19**, they shall immediately notify LMLL at [Admin@LMLittleLeague.org](mailto:Admin@LMLittleLeague.org). LMLL will consult with local health authorities for appropriate precautionary measures to take.
- All participants will be required to sign a waiver prior to commencement of the season, pursuant to which they agree to hold their local league, 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.

## MANDATORY FOR SPECTATORS

- **Must adhere to 6-foot distancing guidelines for anyone not in the same family.** Only immediate family (living in the same household) are permitted to attend games, subject to a max of 2 per player.
- **Must wear face coverings satisfying [CDC guidelines](#) and covering the nose and mouth at all times** (if at least 2 years old).
- **Must conduct daily symptom self-evaluation assessments** as described for Players/Coaches above. **If experiencing symptoms during game**, must leave or quarantine at a safe distance away from other participants.
- **Must not enter player areas** on the field, behind the backstop or in/around team dugouts and player & coach areas.
- **Must not touch other players' equipment or any balls** (any ball touched by a spectator must be disinfected before further use).
- **Any persons not wearing a mask or practicing social distancing may be asked to leave the premises.** Umpires, league officials, and safety officer are empowered to suspend any contest where effective safety precautions are not being adhered to upon request.

*ALL REQUIREMENTS ABOVE IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

## FIELD-SPECIFIC SOCIAL DISTANCING PLANS

See the field maps on the [COVID-19 Safety Guidance section](#) of our website, [www.LMLittleLeague.org](http://www.LMLittleLeague.org)