

COVID-19 BASEBALL/SOFT BALL GUIDANCE

Screening:

- Players and coaches temperatures should be checked prior to participation in any SAS sporting event along with screening for fever 100.4 or above, cough, respiratory symptoms, loss of sense of taste/smell, or any known exposure to COVID-19.

No handshakes/personal contact:

- No handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, or group celebrations. Little League recommends lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after the game.

Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Individuals should take their own containers home each day and clean/sanitize them.
- No shared team beverages.
- No sharing of snacks. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food if needed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All managers/coaches/umpires/volunteers should wear face cloth coverings at all times when on the field or when less than 6 feet from others.
- Players should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas (such as dugouts) where social distancing is challenging.

Dugouts:

- Coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least 6 feet apart.
- Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- Coaches and players should wear face coverings while in the dugout.

Player Equipment:

- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced according outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Players should have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment.
- Measures should be taken to minimize the sharing of equipment.
- If equipment must be shared, disinfection using an approved disinfectant should be performed. The equipment should be allowed to dry according to the disinfectant's instructions for use.

- Player's personal equipment should be cleaned by parents after every use (bats, helmets, gloves, catcher's equipment).
- The person disinfecting equipment between use should wear gloves, discard after use, and clean their hands using hand sanitizer.
- Players should not share towels.

Baseballs and Softballs:

- Baseballs and softballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls when possible.
- Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve a ball.

Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum:

- Sunflower seeds, gum, and spitting should not be allowed in dugouts or on the playing field by coaches, players, and umpires.

Umpire Guidance:

- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes if necessary. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible.
- If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

Parent Guidance:

- Please maintain social distancing, wear a mask, and make sure your child has everything needed in their own bag.
- Grandparents are allowed.
- Please sit in family pods or bring own chairs when possible for better distancing.

References

Little League. (2020). *Best practices on organizing, playing, and watching Little League baseball and softball during coronavirus pandemic: Organizing, playing, and watching games*. Retrieved from <https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/>