



## WSLL ADJUSTED RULES FOR COVID-19 SAFETY

*This is a guideline for all in person WSLI activities and should be followed to its fullest extent while the current COVID-19 Pandemic.*

WSLL Parents, Players and Volunteers are responsible for enforcing this policy together. Parents are asked to review this policy with players before team functions to make sure that their child or children follow both the policy and its intended purposes. Together we can make this work.

WSLL Parents will be required to sign a waiver for all players registered to play ball.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Players, Parents, and Volunteers – if you are not feeling well, **STAY HOME**. If a member of your family tests positive for COVID-19, we ask that you please report this to your team manager and WSLI will notify families anonymously that there was potential exposure to a “member of the WSLI” community. **Anyone directly exposed to COVID-19 should stay home until they receive written clearance by a medical professional.**
  - The CDC defines close contact as: *“Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”* ([here](#))
- All families will take their child’s temperature before any WSLI in person function, all attendees, players and volunteers with a fever (a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or any of these other symptoms (see below) cannot participate or attend WSLI in-person functions. Parents will be required to report to their manager and covid coach prior to a practice and a game that their child does not have a fever or other symptoms. Prior to games Umpires will ask managers if all players are healthy enough to play the game and if all players have reported to not have a fever by their parents. By participating in a WSLI in-person function, you are certifying that your child does not have a fever, COVID-19 symptoms, and is cleared to play. Symptoms that would prevent a player or volunteer from participating include:
  - Shortness of breath
  - Cough
  - Sore Throat
  - Congestion
  - Nausea & vomiting
  - Headache
  - Unexplained Muscle/Joint pain
  - Diarrhea
  - Chills
  - Loss of taste & smell
- In accordance with the Phase 3 guidelines for the Commonwealth of Virginia, “outdoor recreational sports should maintain ten feet of physical distance between all instructors, participants, and spectators, where practicable.” Any portable shelters (like shade tents) should not be shared by multiple families. Fans and parents should refrain from entering the sections outside of the fenced area of the field that will be used by teams as expanded dugout spaces.

- **WSLL MASK POLICY.** Pursuant to guidance from the Commonwealth, use of masks outdoors is "strongly recommended" when persons are not able to maintain at least six feet of social distance from others. See Frequently Asked Questions, Executive Order 63, p. 4. To best accomplish this recommendation, all managers, coaches, umpires, and other volunteers are required to wear masks while inside the field fences during games and practices. However, managers and coaches have the discretion to remove masks during practice when conducting drills in which the adult volunteer is able to maintain sufficient distance from players and other adults on the field (e.g., when hitting balls from homeplate with no catcher present, receiving balls at 1B when no other persons are nearby, pitching from the mound, etc.). All attendees (outside of the fence) are required to follow state guidelines for use of a mask. During games, all players must wear a face covering while on the bench and during team meetings. Face coverings are optional for players while on the field.
- **NO SHARING OF EQUIPMENT OF ANY KIND DURING GAME PLAY UNLESS IT IS SANITIZED BY A VOLUNTEER FIRST.** Shared equipment will be issued at the start of a game to the player using the equipment and will be cleaned and sanitized following the game. The league will make an effort to maximize the use of available equipment for events (for example provide extra catchers gear to allow multiple catchers during a game). Managers, CORs and the Covid Coach will be responsible for cleaning/sanitizing shared gear between uses (i.e. catchers gear will be cleaned by a COR before the next player uses the gear).
- Players are required to have a parent, guardian or responsible adult, available during all activities (practices, games, etc) in case there is inclement weather that would require a player to shelter in a car per WSLI Thunder and Lighting Policy in the Gray Book.
- **NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS, CHEWING GUM, OR SHARED BEVERAGE BOTTLES. NO SPITTING.**
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing whenever possible. Player coming off the field after an inning or an at bat must wash or sanitizing their hands before returning to the field.

#### COVID COACH:

- Each team must have a parent or coach who is in charge of make sure the team is compliant with all COVID safety rules. This includes:
  - Social distancing / Hand sanitizer / Equipment / Seeds / Spitting / Wipes
  - Collecting screening documents
  - Marking off the extended dugout and assigning players seating area before games to ensure social distancing.
  - All other WSLI COVID related items.
- COVID COACH, must be identified in SSUPLAY before games start.
- Managers and/or Team parents will be responsible for all of these functions if a COVID COACH is not identified.
- COVID COACH like other team volunteers in close proximity with our players must wear a mask.

#### PRACTICES:

- Managers and coaches should use extra caution to space out practices, do not show up early if there is a practice at that location beforehand and do not leave late if there is one afterwards.
- Parents are encouraged to either watch from a distance or in their car. Per the general guidelines a parent or guardian must stay at practice location in case of inclement weather.
- Team practice equipment will be sanitized following each practice.
- All team volunteers (Managers, COR, Practice Coaches, and any parents helping with practice) must wear a mask during practice, unless they are actively participating in a drill **and** adequately distance from players (i.e. throwing Batting Practice, hitting balls to fielders, etc.) as stated in the general guidelines.

## GAMES:

### *Arrival*

- Players and volunteers must wear a mask upon leaving their vehicle, until they are actively warming up on the field or in the cage.
- Families will arrive no earlier than their designated time to arrive.
- Families should stick to their designated field and parking area. Parking areas will be assigned to each field by WSLI and families are asked NOT to park outside of their designated field area. Forbes & Phillips (Church Lot), Yankee (Dirt Lot – closer to cell tower), Ebbets (dirt lot closer to the Accotink trail), Wrigley (Paved Lot). Individuals requiring a handicap parking space are exempt from this policy.
- Families should keep their distance from other families while in the parking areas and at their designated field.
- Visitors should not congregate at the concession stand or other general areas.

### *Pre-Game*

- Field preparation should be done by coaches, designated volunteer, or by the gray hats on duty. Volunteers must be masked.
- Managers should work with their team and the other team's manager to maintain space during warm-ups.
- Managers using the cage for pre-game batting practice will need to make sure the players waiting for the cage are separated. Only three players (including the batter) should be at the cage at one time.
- Managers should not pass paper line-ups pre-game; phone cameras or email should be used. Plate conferences should be done at a distance of 6 feet or more.
- **Pregame Plate Conference:**
  - In addition to topics already addressed in WSLI Local Rules, at all pregame plate conferences during the Summer 2020 season, managers must (a) certify to the umpire that no player has reported with a high temperature or other Covid-19 symptoms; (b) identify the team's "COVID Coach" for the game; and (c) declare whether his/her team will bat the order or follow regular WSLI substitution rules for his/her team's batting order.

### *Game*

- Teams will be responsible for game balls used when in the field. At the end of each half inning, players will return ball to pitcher or catcher and will keep it until next half inning. Offensive team should refrain from touching the ball. Umpires may inspect the ball but should not be in regular contact. Each team should be prepared to have at least 3 game balls.
- Individuals retrieving bats should hold bat by the barrel. Bats should be wiped down following use.
- Coaches and players should be responsible for retrieving foul balls.
- Contact between players should be minimized. Players should refrain from physical contact that does not involve making a play in the field.
- Player must wear a mask when not on the field.
- Scorekeeper boxes can be used by a volunteer to use the electronic score board only. The microphone equipment should not be used. Scoreboard control panel should be sanitized before and after the game.
- Dugouts will be expanded where possible to areas near the fence gate to allow more room for players.
  - **Extended Dugout Procedures:**  
Areas behind Homeplate (to include bleachers) are off-limits to spectators. Prior to the start of each game, each team should mark off its Extended Dugout area. The area may proceed from Homeplate as far down the baseline as the team deems necessary. Every player must be assigned a designated spot within the Extended Dugout. Spots must be at least 10 feet from

one another. Players should bring chairs or stools to use at their designated spots. Players shall leave all personal gear at their designated spot, except bats, which will be located inside the dugout. During the game, players must return to and remain at their designated spot unless actively participating in the game (playing the field; batting, or preparing to bat). When not actively participating in the game, all players must wear a face covering (mask/gaiter). Only the on-deck and in-the-hole batters may be in the dugout. Prior to the game, all bats shall be lined up along the fence inside the dugout. A player may grab his/her bat when exiting the dugout to bat. If a player strikes out, he/she should return his/her bat to the dugout, and then return to his/her designated spot. Any coach or player may retrieve bats from the home plate area, but bats should be handled by the barrel. Once a bat is returned to the dugout, a coach or player must wipe it down with disinfectant, and return it to the fence inside the dugout. A retired player shall return to his/her designated spot.

- **COVID COACH:**

Prior to each game, every team must designate a "Covid Coach" responsible for: (1) assisting the manager with symptom checks for team players and coaches; (2) marking off the boundaries of the Extended Dugout and designated spots for all players; (3) monitoring and enforcing social distancing requirements and limitations on shared equipment, drinks, seeds, gum, spitting, etc.; and (4) ensuring spectators do not enter the Extended Dugout area. The Covid Coach is required to wear a facemask.

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- Only 2 players are allowed in the dugout at one time. This is the batter "on deck" and the batter "in the hole".
- Failure to comply with game policies, will result in a warning from the Umpire. Continued warning may result in removal from the game.

### *Post-Game*

- There will be no post-game handshakes. Players will be encouraged to stand at a distance to recognize each other's efforts – tip of the hat, applause, and shouts of thank you follow each game. Sportsmanship is important.
- Managers and coaches will be responsible for clearing out each dugout area, and garbage removed.
- Families should promptly leave the park following the game.
- Post-game conferences will not take place on the field, or in the park where the game took place unless it is the last game of the day. These meetings can be done on-line or during a practice.
- GO HOME

FINAL NOTE: These guidelines are designed to limit our children's and family's exposure to Covid-19 while participating in activities with WSSL. If we all follow these guidelines, we should be successful in allowing youth baseball to be played to West Springfield. You and your family's participation are paramount to our success now more than ever.