

Northeast Little League
COVID-19 Return to
Play Action Plan

CLEANING AND SANITIZING:

- All participants, including players, coaches or volunteers, are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds on arrival or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol that covers all surfaces of your hands and is rubbed in until the hands feel dry.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations at the facilities, including at the entrance, common areas, and dugouts. Bathrooms will be available with soap and water.
- Each player will be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use
- Players and coaches will refrain from spitting, including the dugout areas and the playing field.

CONCESSIONS

- Concession stands will not be open until deemed appropriate.

TEAM SNACKS AND DRINKS

- Athletes, coaches, umpires, and spectators should bring their own personal drinks to the fields. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name. Drinks should not be shared.
- No food will be allowed in the dugout. If snacks are needed, they must be kept with the player's parent and consumed outside of the dugout.
- Nuts, Sunflower seeds and gum will not be allowed at the facility.

SPECTATORS AND SEATING

- Social Distancing: All players, coaches/volunteers, and spectators will practice social distancing of six feet from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. For situations when players are engaging in sports activity, see the "During Play" section later in this Action Plan for more information.
- Spectators will be encouraged to bring their own seating or portable chairs. When utilizing the bleachers, individual families will maintain social distancing.
- Cloth masks are encouraged when spectators are watching games and practice, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. Masks are allowed to be worn by coaches and players if desired.

EQUIPMENT

- Player equipment will be placed at their assigned spot in or outside the dugout to prevent direct contact as much as possible. Players should have their own batter's helmet, glove, and bat. Catchers are encouraged to use their own personal equipment. For any equipment that must be shared, all surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed time to dry before next use.

RESTROOMS

- Restrooms will be "one-in-one out", where only one individual/family is permitted within the restroom at one time. This policy will be communicated to all league participants and a sign will be posted.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis. Hands should be washed with soap and water prior to leaving the restroom.
- All public water fountains on the premises will be disabled and will be marked with a sign indicating as such.

SCHEDULING

- On weeknights, typically only one game or practice is scheduled per field. On weekends, when multiple games or practices could be scheduled, the grace period between events will be at least 30 minutes to facilitate transition and allow teams to not overlap when arriving and leaving. In the event on a weeknight that multiple games or practices are scheduled, the 30-minute grace period will also be applied.

ENTRANCE AND EXITS

Entering and Exiting the Facility

- There are multiple entrances at each complex that may be utilized to help maintain social distancing.
- Each team will exit the field from the dugout on their side of the field. At the 62nd Avenue/Northeast Park facility, the space outside each dugout is open to the adjacent parking lots with no further gates to exit. At the Shorey complex on 1st Street, participants should use the exit closest to their dugout to the parking lot to allow for better social distancing (there are multiple exits to the facility).

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS/OFFICIALS

Field Preparation

- Fields will be raked and lined prior to the game by volunteers already participating in the game (typically by coaches involved in the game or a league administrator). Equipment used for field preparations such as rakes, shovels, and Chalker's will be disinfected regularly.

Game Operations

- Pre-game plate meetings can be held but proper social distancing should be maintained.
- Managers are encouraged to share lineups in a digital picture format if possible.
- Scorekeeping will be done by an assigned individual for each team. Press boxes will not be utilized.
- Umpires will be kept a safe distance from players.

Practices

- Regarding practices, the same guidelines as outlined elsewhere in this action plan will apply. Social distancing will be maintained. Hands should be sanitized upon arrival and periodically during practice, such as during water breaks. Social distancing will be maintained during practice drills as much as possible.

DURING PLAY

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations

- Players and coaches will take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This includes refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, and team huddles. Opposing teams will tip caps to each other to promote sportsmanship after the game.

Dugouts

- Coaches and players will be assigned spots in the dugout or outside the dugout so that all participants are at least six feet apart while their team is batting. If they are outside the dugout, they will still be behind a fence. The bullpen areas near the dugouts will be utilized for extra space when possible.
- Players will also have the option to sit with their family in the stands while waiting their turn to bat and summoned when they are on deck.
- Team instruction (such as before or after the game, between innings) will be limited to outside the dugout with the participants properly spread out to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

- During games, all players will be encouraged to sanitize hands when leaving the dugout in between innings. Participants should sanitize their hands upon leaving the fields after the practice or game.

ENFORCEMENT

- The NELL board of directors will monitor on a regular basis that the guidelines of this action plan are followed.
- Information contained in this action plan will be disseminated to all families, coaches, and volunteers involved in our league and posted on the league website. Parents, players, coaches, and volunteers will be educated on these new protocols. The plan may be modified from time to time as appropriate as conditions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic evolve.
- The decision to resume baseball activities under these mitigation efforts will ultimately be up to each individual family. Each family will need to sign a waiver and release of liability form prior to resuming participation in league activities.
- The consequence for lack of compliance by the league will result in suspension from any activity on or in City facilities for a minimum of 14 days. Continued lack of compliance may lead to termination of the contract with the City of St. Petersburg.

IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING ILLNESS

- All individuals should monitor, and parents monitor their players, for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Anyone with these symptoms should not attend any activity at our facilities until cleared by a medical professional. If any participant develops a fever at any time, they should isolate themselves for 72 hours and have a note from a medical professional clearing them to return.
- Anyone with known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidelines if symptoms develop.
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with a serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend league activities with permission from a medical professional.
- If a participant was to become ill during a game, they will be isolated away from other participants and will leave the facility as soon as possible. If a player was to become ill during a practice, a coach (teams typically have 3-4 coaches) will need to immediately isolate the individual outside of the field away from the other participants and arrangements be made for the affected individual to be picked up as soon as possible. The participant or parent of the participant should contact their healthcare provider.

- We will ask that knowledge of any player, parent, or family member diagnosed with COVID-19 must be reported to the league immediately to the league President or Safety officer. If this were to occur the name of the affected person will be kept confidential. The City of St. Petersburg Athletics Division will be notified of the case immediately.

Northeast Little League

City of St. Petersburg

Authorized Representative:

Authorized Representative:

Print/Type Name: _____

Print/Type Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Date _____



NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The undersigned as parent or legal guardian of _____ (Print Name), on behalf of said minor and his/her heirs, personal representatives and or administrators, hereby forever discharges and releases NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE, their respective agents, directors, officers, managers, coaches, volunteers and/or assigns from any and all injuries, liabilities, claims, demands, costs, expenses, damages or causes of action, to include but not be limited to claims of negligence that the undersigned may incur or acquire during the course of their participation in, involvement with, or attendance at softball or baseball practice/games and/or any other use of the facilities. This release is to include, but not be limited to, contraction of the COVID-19 virus and any and all complications, injuries permanent or otherwise to include possible death as a result thereof.

The undersigned acknowledges that NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE has made no assurances or representations regarding the safety or viability of participating in softball or baseball practice/games or other uses of the facilities in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the undersigned acknowledges that NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE has advised that each parent or legal guardian must make the determination that is best for their child regarding the safety of participation in softball or baseball practice/games and/or any other use of the facilities.

This "Waiver and Release of Liability" is given for and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in softball or baseball practice/games and/or other uses of the facilities, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged. The undersigned hereby represents that he/she has the authority to execute this "Waiver and Release of Liability" on behalf of said minor.

PLEASE CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY PRIOR TO SIGNING THIS WAIVER

Name (Print)

Signature

Date