

# Radnor Wayne Little League (RWLL)

## 2020 SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES

June 21, 2020



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Radnor Wayne Little League (RWLL) has developed these 2020 Safe Play Guidelines in an effort to keep its players, volunteers and league officials safe during Little League play in 2020. RWLL can not ensure that its participants will not contract COVID-19 or suffer any injury or illness during Little League Play. However, these guidelines are believed to be best practices on organizing, playing and watching Little League Baseball in accordance with COVID-19 guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The World Health Organization (WHO), Little League International (LLI), local Little League District 27, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and local governmental entities and health officials.

Participation in RWLL is strictly voluntary. Families may decide not to participate in the league this season or until the COVID-19 pandemic is over given the potential risks involved. All Little League officials, managers, coaches, umpires and families that do choose to participate are mandated to review these guidelines and to comply with the guidance offered herein for everyone's safety. Individuals who participate but fail to abide by these guidelines may be asked to leave a practice, game or be dismissed from a team, at their own expense.

All persons reviewing these 2020 Safe Play Guidelines should also review Little League International's "Best Practices on Organizing, Playing and Watching Little League Baseball and Softball During the Coronavirus Pandemic," a copy of which is attached to the RWLL website and can be directly accessed at <https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/>.

Questions related to the 2020 Safe Play Guidelines should be directed to RWLL's Safety Officer, David Zaslow, J.D., EMT-P ([DaveZaslow@RWLL.org](mailto:DaveZaslow@RWLL.org)) or the RWLL Board of Directors (<https://rwll.teamsnapsites.com>), which has resolved to promulgate and enforce these guidelines to the best of its ability.

## **II. DISEASE PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

### **A. Pre-Arrival / When to Stay at Home**

Any RWLL officials, volunteers, players or family members should stay at home and NOT attend practices, games, or other league sponsored events if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC continues to update this list as more is learned about COVID-19, and reference to the CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) website area pertaining to considerations for youth sports is recommended.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

All persons planning to attend a RWLL practice, game and / or league event should check to be sure that those who will be present at any RWLL facility are not exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 BEFORE leaving their home. In addition, parents should check their players' temperature BEFORE arriving for practice, games and / or league events. Any player with a temperature reading greater than 100.4 F and/or who displays ANY of the listed COVID-19 symptoms MUST STAY HOME.

## **B. Arrival at Practice / Games / League Events**

On arrival at the field, all players will be given a "well-screen" by a league official, their coach or someone designated by the coach that will include general questioning about how the player is feeling and whether or not the player is exhibiting any of the above listed COVID-19 symptoms. Additionally, all players will have their temperature checked with non-contact infrared thermometers that will be available at all RWLL playing locations. Any player that "fails" the "well-screen" will NOT be permitted to engage in the practice, game or event and will be asked to leave the facility immediately in order to ensure the health and safety of everyone else present. Further, any player who exhibits emerging symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness during a practice, game or event will likewise be asked to leave the facility immediately.

To the extent that supplies are available and practical, all players and coaches will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand cleaner upon arrival and before the commencement of the practice, game or league event.

### **C. Occupancy Limits**

Each individual game or practice at a RWLL facility must adhere to the current Pennsylvania gathering occupancy limits (25 in the yellow phase and 250 in the green phase), and the facility as a whole may not exceed 50% of total occupancy otherwise permitted by law.

If multiple games are to be held at the same facility, adequate time shall be scheduled between contests to allow for facilities to be cleaned and disinfected as feasible, and to minimize interaction between athletes. Radnor Township sports complexes with multiple fields may operate simultaneous games or practices on fields within a complex, only if social distancing can be maintained.

### **D. Use of Baseball / Softball Equipment**

During the 2020 season, RWLL discourages the use of any shared equipment. To the extent possible, all players and coaches shall refrain from sharing and use ONLY their own personal baseball / softball and protective equipment. This includes all uniform accessories (i.e. hat, jerseys, belts, etc.), as well as batting gloves, helmets, bats, fielding gloves, catching gear, warm up equipment, etc.). If equipment must be shared (as may be the case in the younger divisions where players do not own their own bats and catching gear), then all shared equipment MUST be properly disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 between users by a coach or a designated parent. RWLL will endeavor to provide said disinfectant solutions at all facilities to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies.

During pre-game warm-ups, only the coach who is throwing batting practice in a batting cage should touch and / or retrieve the balls that he or she has thrown. Once the entire team has completed batting practice, those balls should be disinfected before being used in a game setting. (Coaches may choose to have separate practice balls, only, to the extent available, in order to avoid the need to disinfect those balls before use in a game).

RWLL will either: provide enough baseballs / softballs for all games in order to assure that each baseball / softball is removed after a play is made and is either disinfected before re-entry or removed from play for the duration; or provide 2 sets of game balls, i.e., 1 set for each team, such that game balls are cleaned between each half inning.

During games, umpires should limit their contact with the ball to the extent possible. Catchers should retrieve passed balls and only players should retrieve foul balls, where possible. Foul balls that leave the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

## **E. The Dugouts and Playing Fields**

RWLL will endeavor to sanitize all dugouts with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 before every practice and game, to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies.

During all games, players shall store their equipment OUTSIDE of the dugout along the exterior back wall of the dugout and / or along the fence in the player-waiting area adjacent to the dugout at a distance of 6 feet apart. Players are to obtain their equipment for hitting and fielding from their bags without moving their bags during game-play. At practices, only, players may keep their equipment either along the exterior back wall of the dugout and /or along the fence in front of the dugout at a distance of 6 feet apart.

The maximum number of people in a dugout at any given time is 4 people, to include up to 3 players and 1 dugout coach (with the other 2 coaches at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base).

When on offense, the current batter will be on the field of play. The “on-deck” batter will be in the “on-deck” area adjacent to the dugout that is still behind fencing and /or the backstop. The next 3 players in the batting order may be in the dugout spaced 6 feet apart. All of the remaining players should be lined up or seated behind the fence line outside of the dugout area towards the bleachers and / or in the designated player-waiting area (as each RWLL facility allows), and spaced out 6 feet apart. This creates a rotating line of players that transition “from the batter’s box to the bleachers.”

When on defense, each player shall gather the equipment needed and take his or her position on the field. Reserve / substitute players may sit in the dugout, with a maximum of 3 players in the dugout spaced 6 feet apart.

Nonessential visitors and spectators at games should be limited, when possible. Parents should refrain from attending practices and instead plan to drop off and pick up their players, noting, however, that parents MUST be available by cell phone during all practices and games in the event that their player exhibits signs of emerging illness while at the facility.

Family members, friends and any other spectators shall NOT be permitted to enter the dugout, field of play or any designated player waiting area at any time or for any reason (other than to attend to an injured player when requested by an umpire or a coach). Family members, friends and any other spectators shall watch the game around the outer perimeter of the field of play, beyond 1<sup>st</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base (i.e. past the infield and outside the designated-player waiting area), while also maintaining a distance of 6 feet from all other families and any non-family members.

Radnor Township and RWLL reserve the right to erect barricades and / or to otherwise demarcate entrances and exits, pick-up and drop-off locations and spectator viewing areas at all facilities in order to prevent or limit unsafe congregation or crowding. Family members, friends

and other spectators in attendance must strictly adhere to all field signs and / or directions from Township officials, league officials, umpires and coaches.

## **F. Public Facilities & Snack Shacks**

Radnor Township will make all decisions as to whether or not public restrooms and water fountains will be available for use during the 2020 RWLL season.

RWLL recommends that all players, coaches, and spectators bring their own water / drinks to practices and games. Teams will not be permitted to set up shared water coolers or any other type of shared beverages or food in the dugouts during the 2020 season. Coaches and players should label their own water / beverage bottles prior to arriving at the facility, and these should be kept with each player's equipment so as to avoid any confusion or unintentional shared use.

If the public restrooms are open at RWLL facilities during the 2020 season, then RWLL recommends that only 1 person be inside and using the restroom at a time. Parents should accompany their child to the restroom to be sure that this practice is being followed. Everyone using a public restroom should ALWAYS be sure to wash their hands with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom. If soap and water is not immediately available, then an alcohol based hand sanitizer should be used instead.

Decisions will be forthcoming as to whether or not the various RWLL Snack Shacks will be permitted to operate during the 2020 season and, if so, what limitations may apply in terms of the food and beverage services that are allowed to be sold and how the transaction may be consummated. To the extent these facilities do operate, social distancing must be followed at all times, and the following of any signs or published rules of use will be mandatory.

## **G. Social Distancing**

All players, coaches, volunteers, league officials, umpires and spectators should practice social distancing of 6 feet from individuals not residing within their household, wherever and whenever possible, and during all RWLL practices, games (when the ball is not in play) and league events.

## **H. Personal Protective Equipment**

Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from the person wearing the mask (who may not have any symptoms of disease). Face coverings may be challenging for players (especially younger players) to wear while playing. Face coverings should be worn by players, coaches, and umpires when practicable and in accordance with the guidance offered herein. Face coverings should also be worn by all by league officials, parents, and spectators who are present at RWLL facilities. Wearing face coverings is most important when physical distancing is difficult.

Players and coaches should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible. This will be mandated in all RWLL dugouts. Players are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play. However, players are permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if they are physically able to safely do so, and /or based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/ parent / guardian. Face coverings are not required, but are highly recommended, for the batter and the catcher.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.

### **III. MODIFIED GAME PROCEDURES & RULES**

#### **A. Pre-Game Plate Meetings**

The holding of pre-game plate meetings will be within the discretion of the umpire. If a meeting is to be held, then social distancing of 6 feet between individuals should be implemented during the meeting. Plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires. All participants should wear a cloth face covering. No players should ever be a part of plate meetings.

#### **B. Umpire Positioning**

Umpires will be placed by RWLL behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes for the 2020 season. Umpires should keep a safe distance from all players, preferably 6 feet, as much as possible. If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

#### **C. Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.**

Sunflower seeds, gum, etc. will NOT be allowed in RWLL dugouts or playing fields during the 2020 season. All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.

#### **D. Effort to Avoid Collisions and Close Proximity of Players**

For the 2020 season, RWLL herein modifies its Rules of Play as follows:

No steals of home, including on a passed ball or wild pitch, at any level of play younger than the Minors Division.

No game play at 50/70 distance for baseball at ages 12U and under.

### **E. Mound Visits**

During the 2020 season, only the coach and the catcher may approach the pitcher during a mound visit. All other position players must stay in the general area of their positions. A coach may be permitted to share a defensive strategy with other infielders by approaching each infielder individually, subject to the discretion of the umpire. However, at all times, the coach and players will maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another during a mound / defensive visit.

### **F. Traditions and Sportsmanship**

Players must avoid huddles, shaking hands, fist bumps, high fives or other displays of unity or sportsmanship before, during and after games and practices. Players should limit unnecessary physical contact with teammates, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. The post-game “handshake” with the opposing team should be replaced with a “tip of the cap,” “salute” or other creative gesture.

## **IV. NOTIFICATION OF ILLNESS**

The RWLL President (Tom McWilliams) or Safety Officer (David Zaslow) **MUST** be contacted if any RWLL player tests positive for COVID-19 or becomes symptomatic of the disease.

In accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, RWLL will notify local health officials, umpires/officials, and any families that were in “close contact” with the affected player within the past 14 days so that those individuals can then determine whether or not they need to be tested for COVID-19 and / or isolated / quarantined.

In order to assist with proper notifications and contact tracing, all RWLL coaches are required to keep a log of all players who attend practices and games. Correspondingly, families **MUST** update TeamSnap at least 48 hours **BEFORE** any practice or game, and **MUST** keep TeamSnap updated with any changes through the occurrence of the practice or game. Families should also be prepared to arrive 15 minutes earlier than usual to all events in order to allow sufficient time for each player to have a “well-screen.”

Tom McWilliams  
RWLL President

David R. Zaslow  
RWLL Safety Officer

## **RWLL SAFE PLAY CHECKLIST FOR 2020 SEASON**

### **Pre-Game/Pre-Practice Logistics**

- Pre-arrival symptom-check (including temperature less than 100.4)
- Drop off ONLY for practices
- On-site "Well Screen" (including contactless temperature check) for all players
- Pre-game and pre-practice dugout disinfection
- Batting practice balls retrieved ONLY by the coach who threw the BP
- Store player equipment OUTSIDE of the dugout along the exterior back wall of the dugout and / or along the fence in the player-waiting area adjacent to the dugout at a distance of 6 feet apart

### **Practice and Game Logistics**

- Avoid equipment sharing
- Disinfection of shared equipment between users
- Disinfection or replacement of ball in play
- Ball retrieval limited to players
- Players retrieve playing equipment and beverages from their individual equipment placement location without moving their equipment bags from the placement location
- No more than 4 people in the dugout at any time
- Masks REQUIRED in dugout
- Players only in the dugout-adjacent player-waiting area (which may include the bleachers at some facilities)
- NO non-players or non-coaches in the dugout or on the field of play
- Spectators only allowed beyond the designated player-waiting area and around the outfield, with 6 feet between persons from different households
- One person in the restroom at a time

### **Game Play Modifications**

- Umpires behind the pitcher
- NO mound huddles, i.e., pitcher, catcher and one coach only, 6 feet apart
- NO spitting, sunflower seeds or gum
- NO steals of home, including on a passed ball or wild pitch, at any level of play younger than Minors
- NO game play at 50/70 distance for baseball at ages 12U and under
- NO huddles, shaking hands, fist bumps, high fives or other displays of unity or sportsmanship before, during and after games and practices
- NO post-game "handshake" with the opposing team - should be replaced with a "tip of the cap," "salute" or other creative gesture

### **Required Notifications**

- MUST notify RWLL if any player tests positive for COVID-19 or becomes symptomatic
- MUST keep TeamSnap updated to allow for contact tracing
- Coaches MUST keep attendance listing for all practices and games

## **RWLL 2020 SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES**

### **The Player “Well-Screen”**

This well-screen should be performed either by a RWLL league official, coach or coach’s designee prior to the commencement of any game, practice or league event. The screening process should occur in a confidential, 1 on 1 discussion between the screener and the player (not collectively as a team or group of players).

#### **Screening Questions**

- 1) Have you tested positive for COVID-19 or recently been in close contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- 2) Are you presently waiting for a COVID-19 test result?
- 3) Are you experiencing or have you experienced any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours:

Fever or chills  
Cough  
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing  
Fatigue  
Muscle or body aches  
Headache  
New loss of taste or smell  
Sore throat  
Congestion or runny nose  
Nausea or vomiting  
Diarrhea

#### **Temperature Check**

The infrared thermometer provided by RWLL should be used to take the player’s current temperature at the field PRIOR to engaging in any activity.

#### **Screening Results**

If the player answers affirmatively / yes to any of the screening questions, or if the player has a temperature reading of 100.4 F or greater, then the player MUST not be allowed to participate and MUST be sent home immediately pending recovery or further medical screening or treatment by a professional medical provider, as indicated.