

# Radnor Wayne Little League (RWLL)

## 2021 SAFE PLAY COVID-RELATED GUIDELINES

March 23, 2021



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Radnor Wayne Little League (RWLL) has developed these 2021 Safe Play Guidelines in an effort to keep its players, volunteers and league officials safe during Little League play in 2021. RWLL cannot 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), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Radnor Township School District (RTSD), Little League International (LLI), the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletics Association (PIAA), 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 strongly encouraged 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 2021 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 these Guidelines for ease of reference.

Questions related to the 2021 Safe Play Guidelines should be directed to RWLL's Safety Officer, David Zaslav, J.D., EMT-P ([DaveZaslav@RWLL.org](mailto:DaveZaslav@RWLL.org)) or the RWLL Board of Directors (<https://rwl.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 who has tested positive or has 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, and reference to the CDC’s Coronavirus Disease website area is recommended.

Vaccinated individuals are not exempt from COVID-19 precautions, and thus must follow all governmental and regulatory requirements. Those persons should also follow the recommendations laid out in this plan.

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. All players are required to complete the TeamSnap Health Check (using the TeamSnap App or online) before arriving at any RWLL practice or game. If the player receives a FAILED clearance from the Health Check screening (i.e., receives a RED “FAILED” indicator in TeamSnap App), then the player MUST STAY HOME, and the player’s coach should be informed of the situation. Failure to complete the TeamSnap Health Check and / or failure to comply with the screening result may result in dismissal from the practice, the game, or the league.

Please note: TeamSnap Health Checks open up 12 hours before the scheduled time for each player’s games/practice. You can find the Health Check by selecting the game/practice from the player’s schedule. If the Health Check does not work properly, your TeamSnap App may need to be closed and refreshed, or may need to be updated. Updating may require downloading an update from the “App Store”, or may necessitate removing and reinstalling the app on your mobile device.

To the extent it can be avoided, it is recommended that RWLL participants NOT engage in car-pooling during the 2021 season.

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

On arrival at the field, all players will be given a “well-screen” by a league official or their 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” at the field 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. If a player’s parents are contacted to pick up their player at the field, the player will be separated at a reasonable distance from others while awaiting the parent’s arrival and will be required to wear a mask while waiting, unless immediate medical attention is needed.

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 / sanitizer upon arrival and before the commencement of the practice, game or league event. It is recommended that players also use personal hand sanitizer before a practice or game, between innings of a game, and at the end of the game or practice.

## **C. Occupancy Limits**

Each individual game or practice at a RWLL facility must adhere to any and all Pennsylvania gathering occupancy limits. If necessary, players, coaches or spectators may be asked to leave any RWLL facility at any time by a RWLL official.

If multiple games are to be held at the same facility, adequate time shall be scheduled between contests so as to minimize interaction between athletes in any enclosed space, including the dugout area, or in any other area where social distancing is difficult. Please note, Radnor Township sports complexes with multiple fields, and other facilities at which RWLL teams may play, may operate simultaneous games or practices on fields within a complex, and athletes must socially distance in their respective spaces in all such circumstances.

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

During the 2021 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, socks, etc.), as well as batting gloves, helmets, bats, fielding gloves, face guards (for softball), 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 should be properly disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 between users by or overseen by a coach or a designated parent. RWLL will endeavor to provide said disinfectant solutions/wipes at all facilities, to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies. Coaches, players and parents are encouraged to carry a personal supply of disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer, as appropriate for the relevant age group.

New game balls must be used for all RWLL baseball and softball games. Umpires may decide to limit their contact with game balls and rely upon the coaches or players to return retrieved balls or new balls to the catcher or pitcher during the game.

### **E. The Dugouts, Benches, Bleachers and Playing Fields**

RWLL will endeavor to sanitize all dugouts with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 after practices and games, to the extent practicable and based upon availability of supplies.

During all games and practices, players should store their personal equipment at a distance of at least 3.5 feet apart, preferably outside of any enclosed dugout space (or player area) when practicable given the logistics of each field/facility. Players are to obtain their equipment for hitting and fielding from their bags without moving their bags closer together during a game or practice.

The maximum number of people in an enclosed dugout at any given time should be 4-8 people, based upon the available social distancing capabilities given the size of enclosed dugouts at certain RWLL facilities, which is to include 1 dugout coach (with the other 2 coaches at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base or elsewhere socially distant).

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 (but still behind fencing and /or the backstop). The other players may be in the dugout, with masks, if at least 3.5 feet of space can be maintained between those players in the dugout. This also applies to player areas having benches or bleachers. This creates a rotating line of socially-distanced players that transition to the batter’s box, around the bases, and back to the dugout area. To the extent that the players cannot maintain at least 3.5 feet of social distance in the dugout, then those players who are further down in the line-up should social distance either outside of the fencing up the first or third baseline, or behind the dugout until it gets closer to their respective turn to prepare to bat. All coaches are responsible to make sure that the players are “spread out in the dugout,” or on the benches, bleachers and in adjacent player areas.

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, so long as those players are masked and maintain social distance.

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, or remain a significant distance from the field areas so as to discourage congregation of persons not in the same household. Please note, 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 any RWLL 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 beyond the dugout and outside of any designated player-only area), while also maintaining social distance from all other families and any non-family members. PLEASE NOTE: Some fields are equipped with benches or spectator bleachers immediately adjacent to the dugout area. ONLY PLAYERS AND COACHES should use these immediately adjacent benches or bleachers, with social distancing and masks (i.e., same as in the dugouts).

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, RWLL 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 2021 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 2021 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 personal equipment so as to avoid any confusion or unintentional shared use.

If the public restrooms are open at RWLL facilities during the 2021 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. Of course, for young children, a parent may accompany his/her own child to use a restroom. 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.

The various RWLL Snack Shacks will be permitted to operate during the 2021 season. However, RWLL reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to apply any limitations in terms of the food and beverage services that are sold and how transactions may be consummated. Social distancing must be followed at all times, both inside and outside of the RWLL Snack Shacks, and the following of any signs or published rules of use is mandatory. Those waiting to purchase items from the Snack Shacks must maintain 6 feet social distance. No congregating of persons outside of the same household or cohort in the Snack Shack area is permitted.

Some facilities are equipped with picnic tables, some near to the Snack Shack or elsewhere in areas adjacent to the playing fields. These picnic tables should only be used by families residing in the same household or cohort and only if social distancing from other people can be maintained.

### **G. Social Distancing**

All players, coaches, volunteers, league officials, umpires and spectators should practice social distancing of 3.5 feet for those under age 16, and of 6 feet for those over age 16, from individuals not residing within their household or cohort, wherever and whenever possible and even when masked, and during all RWLL practices, games (when the ball is not in play) and league events.

### **H. Personal Protective Equipment**

Face masks 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 masks may be challenging for players (especially younger players) to wear while playing. A surgical or cloth face mask should be worn by players, coaches, and umpires when practicable and in accordance with the guidance offered herein. A surgical or cloth face mask should also be worn by all by league officials, parents, and spectators who are present at RWLL facilities. Wearing a face mask is most important when physical distancing is difficult. Gators are NOT acceptable in lieu of a surgical or cloth face mask.

Players and coaches should wear face masks when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible. Mask-wearing is mandated in all RWLL dugouts or other seating or waiting areas per this Plan.

All first and third base coaches MUST wear a face mask whenever it will be difficult to coach a baserunner or a fielder without maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from the player, and a Coach MUST wear a face mask when visiting the pitcher's mound. An umpire MUST wear a face mask at all times.

Players are permitted, but are NOT REQUIRED, to wear a surgical or cloth face mask while on the field during game play, with the EXCEPTION of the first baseman when holding a runner on

1<sup>st</sup> base at applicable levels of upper-level baseball play. Players are permitted to wear a surgical or cloth face mask on the field during game play ONLY if they are physically able to safely do so, and /or based on the directive of a medical provider or in accordance with the individual determination of the player/ parent / guardian. Surgical or cloth face masks are not required, BUT ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, for the batter and the catcher.

Surgical or cloth face masks of any kind should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone 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 adult 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 surgical or cloth face mask at the meeting. 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 2021 season. Umpires should keep a safe distance from all players, preferably 6 feet, as much as possible. If physically able, umpires are to wear face masks while umpiring.

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

Sunflower seeds, gum, etc. will NOT be allowed in RWLL dugouts or playing fields during the 2021 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 2021 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 Divisions.

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



## **E. Mound Visits**

During the 2021 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 visit.

## **F. Traditions and Sportsmanship**

Players must avoid huddling at a distance of less than 3.5 feet between players, shaking hands, and high fives, or similar displays of unity or sportsmanship that require close contact, before, during and after games and practices. Players should limit unnecessary physical contact with teammates, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. For example, the post-game huddle should be done at a safe social distance between players, and 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 is deemed, by Radnor School District, any local school or educational institution, any governmental or religious institution, or any youth sports body, to have: been in close contact with a Covid positive individual (i.e. a contact requiring testing or quarantine); tested positive for COVID-19; fails the RWLL “well-screens” discussed above in Section II. A and II.B; or become symptomatic with any flu-like symptoms or the COVID symptoms referenced herein.

In accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, RWLL will notify local health officials, umpires/officials, as well as 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 testing for COVID-19, and / or isolation / quarantine is warranted.

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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. Coaches should use TeamSnap to keep this log. Correspondingly, families MUST update TeamSnap at least 48 hours BEFORE any practice or game and MUST keep TeamSnap updated with any changes until the player arrives at the practice or game.

Tom McWilliams  
RWLL President

David R. Zaslow  
RWLL Safety Officer

## **RWLL SAFE-PLAY CHECKLIST FOR 2021 SEASON**

### Pre-Game/Pre-Practice Logistics

- Pre-Arrival Symptom-Check (including temperature less than 100.4)
- Pre-Arrival Teamsnap Health Check
- Try to avoid carpooling to practice or games
- Drop Off ONLY (for practices)
- On-Site Arrival Well Screening (including contactless temperature check)
- ALL EQUIPMENT STORED AT A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 3.5 FT APART

### Practice and Game Logistics

- Avoid Equipment Sharing
- Players retrieve playing equipment and beverages from their individual equipment placement location without moving their equipment bags from the placement location
- A social distance of 3.5 feet in the dugout at all times
- Masks required in dugout
- NO non-players or non-coaches in the dugout or on the field of play
- Spectators only allowed beyond designated player areas and around the outfield, with social distance maintained between different household members
- 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
- 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 at less than 3.5 feet, no shaking hands and no high fives or other displays of unity 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 was with the team after: being in “close contact” with a Covid positive individual; being required to test or quarantine for any reason; testing positive for COVID-19; or becoming symptomatic with illness
- MUST keep TeamSnap updated to allow for contact tracing
- Coaches MUST keep attendance listing for all practices and games