

LAGUNA NIGUEL LITTLE LEAGUE 2020 FALL BASEBALL SEASON GUIDELINES

Laguna Niguel Little League
California District 55

The following plan has been established in an effort to resume Little League Baseball activities while protecting and supporting our player's health, practice social distancing, limit large gatherings, and minimize risks of COVID-19. This guidance has been approved by the local league's board of directors and will be submitted to the local authorities for final approval. No activities will begin until the State of California and County of Orange have given their approval to begin youth sports activities. These activities will take place on the following fields: Chapparosa Park, Rancho Niguel Park, La Paz Sports Park and Bear Brand Park. An approved copy of this document can be found in the local league's Safety Plan.

I. TEAM ROSTERS & ADULT PARTICIPATION FOR GAMES

PLAYERS

Competitive Teams

Team roster should not exceed 13 players per team on any given game or practice day

- 9-13 players maximum per team is permitted on one playing field at one time

Non-Competitive Teams – Tball, Rookie, "A" and Challenger Divisions

- 8-12 players maximum per team on any given game or practice day is permitted for Tball, Rookie and "A" divisions
- 13 players maximum per team on any given game or practice day is permitted for the Challenger Division

All Players for Both Competitive and Non-Competitive Teams

- Players will be assigned personal spots in their team dugout (or on designated bleacher area) such that they remain 6 feet apart
- Players shall put their equipment bag outside the dugout. Personal bat, helmet and other game use equipment should be kept under their designated seat until the equipment needs to be used
- Players shall stay in their assigned personal spot when in the dugout while waiting for their turn to bat or sitting on the bench when their team is on defense
- Players shall wear face coverings when in the dugout. When it is their time to bat or return to the field for defensive play, they are to put their face covering in their own bag and keep with their own equipment. If a player is using a full-face-covering-type mask (wraps completely around the head), the player may just pull the mask down while at bat or while playing defense.
- Players shall only use their own game equipment—no sharing of equipment (exception of shared equipment is the game ball). If a team bat is being used, the bench coach will wipe it down with a sanitizing wipe after each player's use.

MANAGERS/COACHES

ALL Teams

Three league-approved adult volunteers are permitted to be involved with each team per each game

- 1 Team Manager per team
 - Acts as 3rd base coach during team's offensive play
 - Manages batting order and defensive line-ups
 - Required to wear face covering when players are in dugout and/or when unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing
 - Nearest base coach retrieves and wipes down bats with sanitizing wipe after each player's at bat
- 2 Dugout Coaches per team
 - Assists manager with communicating batting order and defensive line-ups
 - 1 coach acts as 1st base coach during team's offensive play
 - 1 coach remains in dugout with players

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- Enforces social distancing of players while in designated dugout
- Enforces players wearing face covering while in designated dugout
- Required to wear face covering when players are in dugout and/or when unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing
- A parent volunteer may be used to help the dugout coach to monitor the players seated in the bleachers
 - Assists manager with communicating batting order for players in the bleacher area
 - Enforces social distancing of players while in designated bleacher area
 - Enforces players wearing face covering while in designated bleacher area
 - Required to wear face covering when players are in the bleacher area and/or when unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing

Non-Competitive Teams

Due to the age, developmental level, and physical abilities of the players within the non-competitive divisions (Tball, Rookie, "A", Challenger), additional approved adult volunteers are permitted, but not required, during defensive play

- There will be a maximum of 4 approved volunteers (1 Team Manager, 2 Dugout Coaches, 1 Adult Volunteer)
- For Challenger Division, there may be special circumstances requiring additional one-on-one assistance to players
- Board of Director approval will be required to include additional volunteers during games and practices (as needed to play)
- All approved volunteers assisting with the non-competitive divisions must wear a face covering while they assist and interact with the players

OTHER ADULT ROLES

- **Umpire** (Required for all competitive games)
 - Set up 6 feet behind catcher and batter **or** behind the pitching mound
 - For "Majors" and below it is recommended that umpires call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher's mound
 - Required to wear face covering at all times while on the field of play
 - Must discuss each umpire's responsibility in their pre-game meeting
- **Board Member on Duty** (Minimum of one board member per game time slot)
 - Board Member on Duty will manage the entire operation of the field(s) on game days
 - Board Member on Duty will be assisted by a Safety Coordinator when there are multiple games scheduled during the same time slot
 - Board Member on Duty will wear a face covering when they are unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing during interaction with others
 - Player & Spectator Management
 - Traffic control to limit congregation of groups
 - Remind spectators of social distancing guidelines—6 feet apart; encourage face coverings when unable to adhere to social distancing guidelines
 - During game, remind players, coaches and umpires about social distancing plan and protocol with equipment
- **Safety Coordinator** (Assistant to Board Member on Duty on game days)
 - The league Safety Coordinator will be one adult designated to assist the Board Member on Duty during game days when there are multiple games scheduled during the same time slot
 - The Safety Coordinator will remain on-site at all times when multiple games are being played
 - Safety Coordinator will educate and enforce social distancing among players and spectators
 - Safety Coordinator will communicate with all participants of the game and all spectators in a friendly, yet firm, manner that all social distancing protocol must be adhered to during their time at the field

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- Safety Coordinator will wear a face covering when they are unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing during interaction with others

II. EQUIPMENT PROTOCOL

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Players are not to use bat racks or helmet racks
- Bats, helmets, gloves are not to be shared between players
 - If a player is using a “team” bat, that bat will be kept in the bat rack and will be cleaned with a sanitizing wipe after each use.
- Catchers must have their own equipment
 - League can provide gear for each game that is used by only one player per day
 - Borrowed league’s catcher’s gear is to be wiped down with sanitizing wipe prior to reuse (24 hours must pass before reuse)
- Players to keep their own equipment in their own bag
- Bats are retrieved by player if out at first
- Bats are retrieved by dugout coach if player reaches base safely—dugout coach to wipe down bat with sanitizing wipe and set on side of dugout for player to retrieve upon reentering dugout and place in their own equipment bag

UMPIRE EQUIPMENT

- Umpires are encouraged to use their own umpire gear
- League can provide umpire gear to include a protective face covering, chest protector, shin guards and umpire indicator—each set of gear is to be used by only one umpire per day
 - Gear must be wiped down with sanitizing wipe prior to reuse of gear (24 hours must pass before reuse)

III. PREGAME & POSTGAME—PLAYERS & SPECTATORS

PLAYER ARRIVAL TO GAME SITE & WARM-UPS

- Players to arrive to the game site no earlier than 30 minutes before the game time for warm-ups
- Players are not to congregate within a group prior to taking the field to warm up
 - Home team to warm up on left field
 - Visitor team to warm up on right field
- Each team to follow social distancing guidelines during warm-ups
 - Stretching—separate in a space to allow 6 feet apart
 - Running—run as a team spaced 6 feet apart
 - Throwing—ensure throwing distance is at least 6 feet apart
 - Defense warm-up—when taking grounders, players awaiting their turn should be spaced from the other players at least 6 feet apart
 - Pitcher/catcher warm-ups in bullpen only; coach is to maintain a distance of 6 feet from players during instruction; coach to wear face covering at all times while in the bullpen

STARTING THE GAME

- For the Pledge of Allegiance and/or Little League Pledge—players will line up along their dugout side baseline, spread out down the baseline, at least 6 feet apart, to recite both pledges
 - Managers and coaches will line up behind their players, closer to the dugout; managers/coaches to remain 6 feet from each other and minimum of 6 feet from their players

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- Umpire to stand at home plate during pledges at a minimum distance of 6 feet from a player or adult
- For the plate meeting, managers from both teams will meet the umpire at the plate—all parties are required to wear a face covering during the plate meeting

DURING THE GAME

- Players are encouraged to use hand sanitizer as frequently as possible during the game
 - Players should have a personal bottle of sanitizer kept in their equipment bag
- No group gatherings at home plate following a home run
- No high fives or handshakes following a play or game
- Dugout coach to wipe down player's bats after use
- Players are to bring their own water/Gatorade for use during their game—no team water jugs or ice chests are permitted; players are not to share their drinks or snacks with anyone
- Sunflower seeds are not allowed at any time

CONCLUSION OF THE GAME

- There will be no “good game” high-five line
- Players will line up along their dugout side baseline, spread out down the baseline, at least 6 feet apart, and tip their caps to the opposing team
- Manager/Coach to say a few words to their team while their players are lined up on baseline to acknowledge good play and sportsmanship, thank the umpires and the volunteers
- Congregation of teams/players is not allowed at the game site—there is to be no after-game team meeting at the game site
- Players and families will be asked to leave the game site within 20 minutes of the game concluding

SPECTATORS AT THE GAME SITE (Spectators are defined as parents, caregivers, siblings, family, fans)

- Spectators should try to limit their time at the field prior to game time when possible, based on child's age and needs
- Spectators are not to congregate in a group outside of their stay-at-home family group
- Spectators will not be allowed to stand behind the home plate area within 6 feet of the backstop. Caution tape will be used to mark off the restricted area.
- Bleachers will be closed to all spectators; bleachers will only be used as an extra area for players, managers, and coaches who are participating in a game. Caution tape will be used to close off this area to spectators and will be used to mark off a path from the bleachers to the dugout/field entrance
- All spectators will sit outside the field fence at least 6 feet away from the dugout/field entrance. Chairs, blankets, etc., may be set up by spectators
- There should be no more than 10 people sitting together in a “family group;” the “family group” is only to include their stay-at-home family
- There should be at least 10 feet between each “family group” along the fence line
- Spectator seating will be limited and may have obstructed views of the playing area

IV. SNACK BARS—FOOD & BEVERAGE

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT LEAGUE SNACK BARS

- No food or concession sales should be allowed at facilities.
- Families are encouraged to bring their own snacks
- There will not be any outdoor seating areas available in an effort to limit any congregation (picnic benches or tables)
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the snack bar ordering window

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V. FIELD MAINTENANCE ON GAME DAYS

Field maintenance equipment to include, but not be limited to, rakes, field drags, shovels, paint/chalk sprayers, and hoses. Field maintenance equipment will only be handled by a maximum of two league members per team who will be designated as the “field crew”

- Field crew to be the only person(s) to use the field maintenance equipment
- Field crew to wear gloves during all field maintenance—including set up and tear down
- Field maintenance equipment to be wiped down after each use
- Paint/chalk sprayer push handle to be wiped down with sanitizing wipes after use

VI. FIELD FACILITIES & SURROUNDINGS

FIELD FACILITIES

- All restrooms will be serviced and wiped down daily and will be stocked with soap for hand washing
- Trash cans will be touchless; lids will remain open when field site is open to players/spectators
- Snack bars will be wiped down at the beginning and end of the day, as well at the beginning of each shift change

FIELD SURROUNDINGS

- Informational signage will be posted throughout the field(s) regarding infection control, social distancing and the use of face coverings and gloves
- No visitors who are unrelated to a player or sales representatives or outside distributors will be allowed at the field
- Drinking fountains will be removed or covered

VII. TEAM PRACTICE PROTOCOL

TEAM PRACTICE AT FIELDS

- Team practice protocol shall align with all game day guidelines and protocol
 - No sharing of equipment
 - Proper social distance spacing during warm-up, practice drills and batting
 - Hand sanitizer to be used by players before and after use of any equipment and transition of offense and defense drills
 - Players to wear a face covering if they are unable to practice standard social distancing
- Enforcing social distancing, use of face coverings and sanitizing equipment shall be the sole responsibility of each team manager, team coach(es) and/or other approved adult league volunteer that is organizing a team practice
- Player’s participation in team practice is at the sole discretion of the player’s parent/caregiver; there will be no repercussion on game day for any player who does not attend a team practice

VIII. ONGOING MONITORING PROTOCOLS

PERSONAL PREVENTION ACTIONS

- All league members and visitors to the fields will be reminded of their responsibility to adhere to personal prevention actions including:
 - Stay home when sick or having symptoms of becoming sick (i.e., symptoms of respiratory illness, fever, or cough)
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

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- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, dispose of the tissue and wash hands immediately after. If tissue is not available, cough or sneeze in elbow
- Do not touch eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick or who are exhibiting symptoms of being sick
- Avoid sharing items
- Always maintain the recommended minimum of 6 feet separation from others
- Wear a face covering when unable to practice 6 feet of social distancing
- Sanitize frequently touched objects and surfaces

PROTECTING THE FIELD ENVIRONMENT

- All league members and visitors will be reminded of the importance of social distancing while at the fields as well as in all other environments
- A minimum of 6 feet of social distancing should be maintained at all times
- Face coverings should be worn to increase protection when unable to socially distance
- Continued efforts to sanitize facilities, equipment, and areas and items of common touch points will be made

ENSURING COOPERATION

- Board Members and league officials will maintain ongoing communication with all members of the league to include all players/managers/coaches/spectators at the field to limit any violation of the safety protocols
 - All players/managers/coaches/spectators will be reminded that any violation of the social distancing and safety protocols will jeopardize the continued operation and opening of Little League games
 - Any player/manager/coach/spectator who refuses to adhere to the protocols after one warning will be asked to leave the field site immediately

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IX. LEAGUE GUIDELINES APPROVAL

These guidelines were established to allow our children the opportunity to play sports. These guidelines reflect the recommendations and views of the community and health care providers. Youth sports and local businesses are required to follow COVID-19 safety and preventive guidelines to remain open and active.

The following persons may be contacted regarding this protocol:

Name	Position	Email	Signature/Date Approved
Philip Casas	League President	president@lnll.org	 9/11/20
Adriane Casas	League Safety Officer	safetyofficer@lnll.org	 9/13/20
Robert Snook	League Player Agent	playeragent@lnll.org	 9/13/20

X. PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand and agree that these guidelines are necessary for my child(ren) to play Little League and that refusal to follow these guidelines may prevent Little League from remaining open for play and that I may be asked to leave the game site if I do not abide by these guidelines.

Player Name: _____ Division: _____

Player Name: _____ Division: _____

Player Name: _____ Division: _____

Player Name: _____ Division: _____

Player Name: _____ Division: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Dated: _____



Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the LAGUNA NIGUEL LITTLE LEAGUE program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that: 1. The risk of injury and/or illness from the activities involved in the program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce the risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; 2. The risk to have contact with individuals, who have been exposed to and/or have been diagnosed with one or more communicable diseases, including but not limited to COVID-19 or other medical conditions, diseases, or maladies does exist, and it is impossible to eliminate the risk that I could be exposed to and/or become infected through contact with or close proximity with an individual with a communicable disease; 3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume all full responsibility for my participation; 4. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation, including those safety protocols detailed in the LAGUNA NIGUEL LITTLE LEAGUE 2020 FALL BASEBALL SEASON GUIDELINES document that I have been provided and have reviewed. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and 5. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS LAGUNA NIGUEL LITTLE LEAGUE, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of the premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE. 6. I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, BEFORE ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHECKBOX BELOW, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY AGREEING TO IT ON MY OWN BEHALF OR ON BEHALF OF THE YOUTH PARTICIPANT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GUARDIAN, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

X _____

Signature

(adult participant/parent/legal guardian of youth participant)

X _____

Print Name

INITIAL AND CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY ADULT PARTICIPANT: By acknowledging and agreeing to the checkbox, I agree and verify the following: 1) I consent and agree to assume the risks of participation in these programs; and 2) that I specifically agree to the release as provided herein of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in these programs EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY PARENTS AND/OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS: By acknowledging and agreeing to the check box, I agree to and verify the following: 1) I am the parent or legal guardian for the youth participant associated with this guardian account, 2) that the date of birth of the youth participant associated with this guardian account is correct, 3) that as parent/legal guardian with legal responsibility for this youth participant, I consent and agree to assume the risks of his/her participation in these programs; and 4) that I specifically agree to his/her release as provided herein of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to this youth participant's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.