**2020 NPL Covid 19 Safety Rules / Guidelines**

Due to Covid-19, the NPL has voted to adopt these additional safety rules for all game play during the 2020 season. All coaches, parents, fans, players and officials must abide by these rules. Failure to abide by these rules could result in forfeits, removal from the league, or an end to the entire NPL season.

1. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, everyone should:

* Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
* Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).
* Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
* Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

1. Temperature Check: The League has purchased contactless thermometers for all coaches in the league, these coaches will administer temp checks upon arrival to assistant coaches and players as they arrive in the game. The Home team Coach will also administer a temp check to the Umpire upon arrival.
2. If any coach/player/game official or immediate family member has tested positive or has signs of the virus, they cannot participate in baseball activities for a minimum of 14 days and should follow federal and state guidelines
3. If any player, coach, parent, spectator or game official in attendance exhibit any signs of sickness (including, but not limited to fever, cough, and difficulty breathing) they will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
4. No players or coaches may enter the dugouts on days with back to back games until all other players equipment etc are out and the benches are sanitized. No players may share equipment.  Benches will be sanitized between each game.
5. All players will have assigned seats in the dugouts based upon batting order. Every bench at the park will have numbers spaced out as much as possible between 1 and 12 for the child to keep their stuff and sit at for the duration of the game.
6. Each field will have circles painted 6 feet apart along each fence line for each families spectators to comfortable sit at spaced out from other spectators.
7. There should be no intentional contact between players, coaches, and game staff at all during the 2020 season. There will be no hand-shakes, high fives, back slaps, fist pumps or the like which involves any physical contact before, during, or after the games.  Please tip your hat to the opponents or do a cheer after the game.
8. No seeds! No gum! No spitting! No eating in the dugout area! No team coolers. Each player should bring his/her own personal water bottle which should not be shared.
9. Coaches will carry hand sanitizer with team equipment. Players should carry hand sanitizer in personal equipment bag.\*\*
10. Face Mask Usage
    1. Managers/Coaches/Volunteers shall all have face masks with them at all times in case they come upon a situation where social distancing is unavoidable, for example an injury on the field.
    2. Players also need to have face masks with them in case needed.
    3. Any player/coach/volunteer/game official is allowed to wear a face mask at any time if they choose during any part of the game.
    4. If any player, coach, parent, spectator or game official is not adhering to social distancing regulations, they may be instructed to wear a mask by league officials, umpires, or coaches.
11. Pre-game Coaches Meeting must be executed at six ft social distancing. Only one coach per team is allowed for pre-game meeting.
12. No coaches will be allowed on the field to disagree or argue a call.  Coaches must call the umpire to their dug out with any rules related questions and remain 6ft away.  For the safety of all we will not allow any arguing with any umpire.
13. All players must have their own equipment: Hat, Batting Helmet, Glove, and Bat. Please reach out to your league if you need assistance with acquiring your own equipment.
14. Catcher’s equipment cannot be shared. The league will supply catchers equipment for a designated catcher to use for each team for the season and any other catchers who have their own equipment are good to catch.
15. Both the home and away team will provide baseballs for their team when on defense. Baseballs will only be handled by one team. In between innings, the baseballs should be disinfected, changed when appropriate, and returned to the field with your pitcher. All game baseballs will be DLL-1 (please note that we will allow slightly worn baseballs to be used to reduce the financial burden on our league towns). To minimize touching of the baseball, there will be no throwing the ball around the infield after any outs are recorded. Furthermore, we request that where possible, players retrieve foul balls to minimize outside fans/spectators touching the baseball.
16. Injury Response – If a player is injured, while coaches will be first on the scene, they will look to maintain their distance. If a player is severely injured, a coach will administer any first aid needed as usual. If possible, a coach will call upon the player’s parent/guardian to come onto the field and assist to allow for personal contact and routine first aid. As always, if needed call 911 for additional emergency support.
17. Parent/Spectator Set-up – Parents and Spectators will be asked to maintain 6ft distance from other parents/families whom they are not isolating with. Circles will be put down along the fence line of every field for each family to set up in. Unless there is an injury, no parent is allowed near or in the dugout or near or on the field. At any point, league officials may ask spectators to relocate due to social distancing concerns.

It is recommended that spectators bring their own chairs as bleacher access may be minimal or non-existent due to some of the reconfiguration to allow for social distancing.

1. NPL will require all players’ parents/guardians to sign participation waivers outlining the additional risks with this activity due to COVID-19. Any participant without a signed waiver will be ineligible to play.
2. The league will also supply each and every coach and player with hand sanitizer for the season.

Other notes:

The NPL will have a Covid19 Rep who will be checking daily to make sure all protocols are being followed.

## **Option 1**

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR MINOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### READ BEFORE SIGNING

IN CONSIDERATION OF my child/ward *(Name Of Minor Child/Ward)* being allowed to participate in any way in the Newburyport Pioneer League related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

The risks of injury and illness (ex: communicable diseases such as MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19) to my child from the activities involved in these programs are significant, including the potential for permanent disability and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce these risks, the risks of serious injury and illness do exist; and,

1. FOR MYSELF, SPOUSE, AND CHILD, I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASES or others, and assume full responsibility for my child’s participation; and,
2. I willingly agree to comply with the program’s stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual significant concern in my child’s readiness for participation and/or in the program itself, I will remove my child from the participation and bring such attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
3. I myself, my spouse, my child, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Newburyport Pioneer League, its directors, officers, officials, agents, employees, volunteers, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of 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 incident to my child’s involvement or participation in these programs, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.
4. I, for myself, my spouse, my child, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS all the above Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in these programs, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.
5. I, the parent/guardian, assert that I have explained to my child/ward: the risks of the activity, his/her responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations, and that my child/ward understands this agreement.

**I, FOR MYSELF, MY SPOUSE, AND CHILD/WARD, HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.**

Name of Child/Ward: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**UNDERSTANDING OR RISK**

I understand the seriousness of the risks involved in participating in this program, my personal responsibilities for adhering to rules and regulation, and accept them as a participant.

Name of Child/Ward: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Child/Ward: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_