

TWLL COVID-19 Safety Plan

Taunton Western Little League is thrilled to announce our plan for the resumption of Little League Baseball. Our primary goal is to enable a safe playing environment that offers the highest level of instruction, fosters strong sportsmanship and insures fun for all of our participants. For this season, in order to emphasize the safety aspect of our goal, we will be governed and guided- at all times and at every step of the way- by the 4-Phase Reopening Plan implemented by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Governor Baker's plan allows us to begin practicing in Phase 2 and playing games in Phase 3. Currently our plan is to begin practices, for all levels, the week of June 8. Games are currently scheduled to begin the week of July 6 for **ALL** leagues, Majors through T-Ball. Schedules are being finalized and will be shared as soon as possible. The plan is to have a full season for all age groups.

As always TWLL will comply with all federal, state and local regulations. We are following a specific COVID-19 safety plan for the 2020 season. Each component of this plan, including the specific dates for practice and game play, has been implemented according to the guidance received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, City of Taunton Board of Health and Little League International. This plan will be adjusted when needed in order to always remain in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.

The components of the TWLL COVID-19 safety plan include:

- TWLL requires strict adherence to Massachusetts policy as stated in Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Supervised Youth Sports Leagues of June 3, 2020, namely, at the TWLL Complex maintaining social distance is required and, during Phase II, spectators must cover your mouth and nose with a mask or cloth covering.
- Facilities will be open for practice during Phase 2;
- Practice during phase 2 requires that no more 25 people remain on the field (Department of Public Health guidelines); that people remain socially distant; and the players are required to use hand sanitizer before and after practice.
- During Phase 2 spectators are limited to parents/guardians/household members and siblings and they must socially distance at all times;
- No games will be played until Phase 3 begins;
- All players and coaches should practice good general health habits, including maintenance of adequate hydration, consumption of a diet that includes fruits and vegetables and getting appropriate sleep;
- Athletes, coaches and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all activities. Drinks must be labeled with the person's name;
- There will be NO shared or team beverages allowed;
- No Concession Stand during Phase II

- All player equipment bags must remain outside of the dugout, preferably behind the dugout and bullpens;
- No spitting of any kind allowed in the dugout;
- No sunflower seeds or gum will be allowed this season;
- Spectators will not be allowed on the bleachers during games;
- Spectators are required to social distance around the perimeter of the fields;
- Immediate family/household members only will be allowed at games, for the time being. This may be updated as allowed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- During games no more than four players will be allowed in the dugout;
- Players in the dugouts will remain at least 6 feet apart;
- Players not in the dugout and not on the field of play will be spaced out appropriately AND supervised on the bleachers, or in the bullpen;
- An extra team coach (a fourth coach) will be required to oversee the players on the bleachers or in the bullpen;
- Teams will make every attempt to avoid shared equipment;
- Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When, in rare instances, it becomes necessary to share critical equipment all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment MUST be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before use by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face.
- Umpires shall stand behind the pitcher's mound and wear masks;
- Managers are responsible to see that baseballs are cleaned in between half-innings and whenever a ball comes back from going out of play;
- Hand sanitizer will be provided by the league and will be available in all dugouts;
- Coaches will be allowed to stand on the field along the fence;
- Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play;
- Players are not required to wear a face covering while on the field during play;
- Players will be permitted to wear cloth face covering on the field during play if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or the determination of a parent/guardian;
- There will be NO postgame handshakes; After each game, teams will line up, maintaining social distance, and take their hats off to their opposing team;
- TWLL will require only one person allowed in each rest room at a time and frequent sanitation of each restroom;
- Each family will sign an agreement stating, among other things, that they will not allow their child to attend any TWLL activity if showing any signs of illness or if they have had a fever in the past 24 hours;
- If a child becomes exposed to a person with the virus, that child will not attend TWLL activities until medically cleared to do so.

The intent of this plan is to allow as much of a normal resumption of league activities as possible while providing all of the safety measures necessary to reduce, and in some cases, avoid risk of illness to all of those involved.