



As of May 26, 2020:

Why bother with even planning to have a Little League season this summer?

The Pittsford Little League is a 100% volunteer-based organization. The easiest thing to do at this point would be to cancel the season in its entirety or idly wait for direction. However, while there are many unknowns, it's the view of the league that if proactively planned, the league *could* operate in a safe and compliant manner this summer while still offering families a great experience through participating in Little League baseball and softball.

The PLL is open to players of all abilities, we believe that the enduring value of our program resides in the life lessons of leadership, perseverance, discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork that are taught through the game. Beyond this, given current circumstances, we feel obligated to our community to provide families a safe venue that allows children in our community to socialize with their friends, participate in regular physical activities, and experience a sense of normalcy.

What is the plan to keep participants safe and reduce the spread of the coronavirus if the league is permitted to have a season?

The league has created a *Proposed* Plan to Restart Play. A [summary](#) and [detailed](#) version of the proposed plan has been sent to the families of all registrants and is posted on our site. It must be understood that the plan is speculation as currently, we do not have youth sports-specific guidelines from New York State to abide by. Our proposed plan is based on what we *expect* the requirements to restart play will be and is based on the following:

- New York State DOH requirements for businesses to reopen;
- Published CDC Guidelines for Youth Sports; and
- Baseball and softball specific best-practices from youth sports governing bodies and other state health departments that have allowed youth sports to restart play.

As such, we believe that our plan is highly indicative of what will be required by New York State. Suffice it to say things will be different for all involved - players, coaches, umpires, spectators, and other staff members. Sharing our proposed plan now is a proactive step taken by the league to help families begin to decide if participation will be right for them.

Please bear in mind, only when we have definitive requirements from the New York State will we be in a position to decide if it's in our best interest to proceed with the season and finalize our plan.

When will the season start?

It's unknown if and when return to play will be permitted by our local health authorities. We're operating on the assumption that youth sports fall under "Recreation" which is a Phase 4 business under New York State reopening guidelines. As such, our best-case projection is that July 1st will be the earliest that we would be permitted to begin organized, on-field baseball and softball activities. We desire to conclude the season in mid-August to allow families to transition to the expected start of fall sports and the new school year.

How will the season be structured?

Per our proposed plan, we intend to limit the season to games and practices – regrettably, events such as our Annual Parade and our Opening Day Ceremony, will not be held this year. It's also very unlikely that we will be unable to hold events such as our Home Run Derby, and Pitch Hit & Run Competition.

Once we can get a read on our actual participation levels, we will be able to configure divisions, the number of teams at each level and team sizes. Given the circumstance, Little League has granted leagues some latitude on how each league is organized for the 2020 season.

If permitted to restart play, ideally, we would have a period of 7-10 days for teams to practice, this would be followed by ~6 weeks of play including playoffs for our Rookies, Minors, and Majors divisions.

If due to timing or other feasibility constraints we're unable to have a season and if permitted to do so, we would consider hosting baseball and softball-related activities such as practice and play sessions or sandlot fun games; these activities would be structured to comply with our COVID mitigation plan.

Are other local Little League's in our area planning to have a season?

We have met with league officials from Brighton, Fairport, Greece, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Webster. At the time of our conversation, all of these leagues intended to have a season if it was possible. We have shared our proposed plan with them; however, as of now, none of these programs have reciprocated in sharing their plan with us so we're unclear as to how they are planning to approach restarting play for their leagues.

We have become aware that a few programs based in the city of Rochester have canceled their season. It is likely that if permitted to play, we would open the PLL up to families in other communities whose program has been canceled to allow them to play baseball or softball this summer.

What is Little League International's position on restarting play?

Little League International is the worldwide governing body that oversees all of Little League baseball and softball.

Little League International has highly encouraged that each league and district adhere to the guidelines set forth by their respective state and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to normal activities. Little League International has instructed leagues to contact their local health authority for guidance before resuming any Little League activities.

Little League (and other youth baseball and softball programs) have resumed play in other states.

Will there be a Little League World Series Tournament this year?

No. Unfortunately, Little League International has canceled the entire Little League World Series tournament for this year so district and regional tournaments have also been canceled. Our Little League district (NY District 4) has discussed the possibility of having a tournament at the end of the summer if possible, however, plans for this have not been formalized.

The league has asked families to update the status of player registrations. How do I do this?

The league has asked families to update the status of their player registration. Please follow this [link](#) to update the status of your player registration. Through this form we're asking families to indicate if they intend to participate should we have a season or to opt-out at this point and request a refund.

The purpose of the update is to provide the league with an indication of how many players are still interested in participating this summer if we're permitted to have a season so we may plan accordingly.

How do I get a refund?

Through updating your [spring player registration status](#), families have the opportunity to opt-out now and receive a refund; families will have the choice of:

- Requesting a refund for their registration fee less a \$25 donation to the league to help cover fixed expenses for administration, field maintenance, etc., or
- Requesting a refund for their full registration fee.

If the season has to be canceled in its entirety, then all families will be given these options.

My son/daughter is also registered to play in the Pittsford Panthers travel program. What is the status of travel baseball and softball?

The Pittsford Little League, Pittsford Panthers, and the Pittsford Community Baseball & Softball umbrella organization do not control the league operations that Panthers teams compete in. That said, we continue to be in contact with travel league organizers (Little League NYD4, MCBR, et. al.) for updates on the status of the 2020 travel season. To date, these organizations have expressed their aspiration of having a season however, they have not provided teams with any proposed details on when and how play would potentially be restarted.

For the travel season to be held, it would first require New York State to permit youth sports to restart and then each league would need to determine if and how they would restart in a manner compliant with state requirements. Therefore, from a travel league standpoint, we're still in a wait and see mode.

Any decision made by a travel league does not preclude Pittsford Panthers travel teams from at a minimum conducting organized team activities such as practices or possibly playing non-league games or in local tournaments should if they are permitted to be held. Prior to the resumption of any organized Panthers travel team activities, the Panthers organization will publish its plan restart play.

As part of the Pittsford Little League request for families to update their [player registration status](#) for the PLL house league, the Panthers families will also be asked to provide an update on their status for the Panthers the travel program. Through this process, families who decide to opt-out at this point may submit a request for a partial refund. The update will allow the Panthers organization to understand how many players are interested in participating this summer should there be a season to plan accordingly.