



COVID-19 Proposed Safety Guidelines

The WGSA board and the Little League Board will be meeting to discuss safety requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the return to baseball and softball play for the 2020 summer season. During the meeting, no final decision was made regarding any level of play for the 2020 season. Both boards recognize that to return to practice and play of organized baseball and softball, the safety of the players, coaches, fans and community will continue to be a priority as it has been in the past. Specific to COVID-19, the boards discussed and approved the following guidelines which would be immediately implemented and remain in place during the 2020 summer season, subject to adjustment based on current public health information and guidelines:

1. **Social Distancing:** Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the backstop or dugouts. Only players, coaches, and the umpire(s) are allowed on the field of play and all paved areas are reserved for the kids (see map). Spectators are only permitted to view the game from the outfield. This means the game may be viewed along the foul lines starting at 1st or 3rd base and extending to the outfield and in the outfield area. All spectators residing outside of the same home shall practice social distancing to include 6 feet of space between themselves and the next spectator, group or family.
2. **Dugout (Team Personnel):** The dugout will be extended from the dugout to the backstop for both teams. This is to allow rostered players and coaches to practice social distancing throughout the game while their team is up to bat. **Bleachers are designated for players and coaches only.** Hand sanitizing between innings is recommended. No more than three to five (3-5) individuals are permitted in the dugout at any given time (this is dependent on the size of the dugout). These individuals (players, coaches or any combination) must maintain all social distancing guidelines throughout the game. All other team personnel must practice social distancing in the extended area of the dugout, as referenced above.
3. **Game Protocol:** At the pregame meeting and throughout the game, coaches and umpires will not be allowed to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other. All parties must maintain social distancing guidelines. No physical contact or touching is permitted. Players and coaches are asked to refrain from high fives or any other physical gestures of celebration. All team personnel must

always maintain social distancing guidelines. At the conclusion of the game, players will be asked to forego the sportsmanship line at the end of the game. Instead each team will line up on their respective foul line and “tip their cap” as a salute to the other team to promote sportsmanship.

4. **Equipment:** Refrain from sharing equipment in general. This includes but is not limited to bats, helmets, and catcher’s equipment. Players are highly encouraged to leave bat bags and any unnecessary equipment in a parent or guardian vehicle. All necessary equipment should be walked in to prevent cross contamination. Any equipment shared by players should have a sanitary spray approved by WGSA applied to it prior to use by another player. Each team needs to provide their own baseballs or softballs for when they are in the field. Each team is responsible for switching out their baseballs or softballs each inning or apply a WGSA approved sanitary spray to their baseballs or softballs between innings. Coaches are encouraged to communicate with spectators/fans/families to refrain from retrieving foul balls. Only a team representative from the fielding team shall retrieve foul balls, which shall have a sanitary spray or wipe applied before returning to the field of play. The use of facemasks or other protective face covering are optional. Parents are encouraged to follow their own personal guidance with respect to face masks and coverings. Players, coaches, umpires or other game or practice participants will not be required to wear face masks however will be permitted to wear a face mask or other face covering at all times as requested by their individual parent or guardian. If face masks are worn, they should be placed in an appropriate place by the player when removed to avoid contact with others. At the conclusion of a game or practice, face masks shall be removed from the playing area and discarded at an alternative location.

5. **Team Sanitary Representative:** Each team shall appoint one or two coaches, parents or other persons to be the sanitary representative for that team. This individual will be required to complete a background check in compliance with Little League current standards prior to assuming these responsibilities. The sanitary representative for each team shall be present for team games and at a minimum, will be responsible for the following during each game; Prior to players entering the field of play or designated dugout areas, ensure a WGSA approved sanitary spray has been applied to the dugout (physical and extended) seating areas. Hand Sanitizer must be used prior to and at the end of the game. The same shall be applied to gear to include baseballs, bats, helmets etc. prior to use by players. After your team has left the field to bat, ensure all baseballs used in the previous half inning while fielding are sprayed or wiped with a WGSA sanitary spray or wipe. Assist coaches by ensuring proper social distancing between players at all times while in dugout areas and during game play. At the conclusion of a game, shall apply a WGSA approved sanitary spray or wipe to all used baseballs, bats, helmets and other related equipment. The same shall be applied to all dugout seating areas prior to departing. Ensure all dugout areas are clean prior to departure. The Team Sanitary Representative is encouraged to attend team practices and implement the same safety procedures used during games. In the absence of a Sanitary Representative, the team coach(es) shall

be responsible for complying with the same guidelines in a practice environment as established for game play.

6. **Umpires:** Umpires will officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound, while practicing social distancing with all fielders. This will limit the number of people around home plate and will still allow the umpire to call the game and see the whole field. Umpires shall not handle baseballs or softballs and should remind players to retrieve extra baseballs or softballs from their designated coach.
7. **Food/Beverage/Hydration/Concessions:** All players, coaches, and umpires will have personal water bottles that are kept in their individual designated area. Sunflowers seeds, peanuts, gum or other food will not be allowed! On site concessions will NOT be available.
8. **Restroom facilities:** The use of public restroom facilities attached to the concession stand will be available during games and practices until further notice. Public restrooms are provided by the City of Waupun will be available at the discretion of the city.

Violation of Established Guidelines

WGSA has established the above guidelines with the interest of the safety of all players, coaches, fans and the community in mind. Violation of any of the above guidelines places an increased danger on those the plan intends to protect. If a violation is observed by any coach or board member, the coach or board member shall immediately act to attempt to obtain voluntary compliance with the established guidelines. If there is a continued refusal by the violator to comply with required guidelines, the practice or game shall be **immediately forfeited**.

Practice Rules-

1. Any player or family member exhibiting coughs, fevers, or any other symptoms associated with the virus is an automatic DO NOT ATTEND. Anyone that shows these signs and symptoms will be asked to leave immediately as this puts our season in immediate JEOPARDY.
2. Dugouts will CLOSED! NO players will be allowed. Players are to leave bags 6 feet apart along the fencing and maintain the social distancing requirements. This will be marked off for the players to give them guidance.
3. Every player must have their own equipment. Helmet, baseball glove and bat. There is no sharing of equipment. The exception is the catcher's gear which will be sanitized after a player uses it and before the next player does.
4. Split the kids up as best you can. Small groups for skill work.

5. Tee work should be done by the player himself. Coaches to maintain 6 ft. of distance.
6. Soft toss can be done but maintain social distance of 6 ft.
7. Batting gloves can be worn at all times to create a barrier if you chose
8. Masks will not be required, but can be worn if you choose. Keep in mind the heat on the turf and some masks can be hard to breathe thru and lead to heat exhaustion.
9. Asking every player that can to please bring their own hand sanitizer.

Game play rules

1. Any player or family member exhibiting coughs, fevers, or any other symptoms associated with the virus is an automatic DO NOT ATTEND. Anyone that shows these signs and symptoms will be asked to leave immediately as this puts our season in immediate JEOPARDY.
 2. Dugouts will be open, but coaches will ensure proper social distancing is being followed as there will be marked seating in the dugouts and on bleachers. Players are to leave bags 6 feet apart along the fencing and maintain the social distancing requirements. This will be marked off for the players to give them guidance.
 3. Every player must have their own equipment. Helmet, baseball glove, hat. There is no sharing of equipment. The exception is the catcher's gear which will be sanitized after a player's uses it and before the next player does.
 4. The umpire will be behind the pitcher's mound and remain at least 6 feet from the players.
 5. Asking every player that can to please bring their own hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should be used prior to entering the field and before leaving.
 6. Balls are to be provided by the team on the field. No one, besides that team, should be touching the ball including the umpire. All foul balls will be picked up by a designated coach or team volunteer. If someone else touches the ball, it needs to be disinfected.
 7. No post game handshakes or high fiving teammates.
 - At the end of the game, each team lines up on their baseline and will applaud their opponent.
 8. Coaches can hold team meetings but need to maintain proper social distancing. This should take place in a staging/warmup area.
 9. Arrive no more than 30 minutes prior to the start of your players game. There will be a designated warm up area for each diamond for teams to utilize while prior games are being played. Home team uses a designated batting cage for the first 15 minutes, home team for the second 15 prior to the start of game.
- Parents are to wait by their child's designated warm up area while maintaining proper social distancing until the prior game has ended and all players, coaches and spectators from the previous game have left the area.
10. No fans/spectators allowed on the paved areas or behind Homeplate on Diamond #3. If anyone is in this area they will be asked to leave and go back to their seating area. Failure to do so will result in the game they are watching to be forfeited.

11. Recommend direct households sit together during your child's game and maintain proper social distancing from the next family. Families will need to bring your own chair and sit along the fences starting in the grass area and going around the outfield.

