



# Santa Paula Little League



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March 1, 2021

It is with great excitement that I can announce the start of our 2021 Little League Season!

Here's what you need to know:

As of Saturday 2/27, our county dropped below the 14 new cases per 100,000 per week benchmark. This is the benchmark set by the state for moderate contact sports, which includes baseball, to resume *competitions*. If we stay below that benchmark, we can hold games. We can hold practices with an even higher rate, but 14 is the benchmark for competitive games and this should become official tomorrow when the state publishes the official new case numbers.

But for us in Santa Paula, we have been fighting other issues keeping us from practicing...primarily that we have nowhere to practice (We have been denied holding practices at school facilities, even if we are in the red or orange tier, which leaves us only Harding Park. But as you know, the city has been using Harding Park for COVID testing). We have been assured that the city will no longer be using Harding Park as a test site by next week, and that's when we can resume practices. So, we have set our Little League schedule based on that. **All practices will be held at Harding Park until further notice.**

The sooner we can get everyone registered the smoother our season will run. PLEASE understand we are in new territory here but are working very hard to anticipate difficulties if the situation changes. As of today, we only have 2 teams per division registered. **I believe many of you have been waiting to register to see if we were going to have a season. Well, WE ARE!!! So please register your child ASAP if you haven't yet.**

Here is our current schedule:

**March 12:** Registration ends and Deadline to sign informed consent letter (information will be sent in another email.)

**March 13-14:** Required clinic and tryouts. We will be sending out information regarding this and our safety precautions early next week.

**March 15:** Player Draft

**March 21:** Deadline to pay registration fees (if you don't pay by this date, your player will probably not have a uniform by his/her first game)

**March 16-April 3:** Preseason Practices

**April 5:** Season Opener, Regular Season begins

**May 25:** Regular Season ends

**June 5:** SPLL tournament ends

**June 19:** District All-Star tournament begins

I'm sure that the issue of possible refunds are on your minds, should things ( God forbid) change and our season is cancelled. Last year obviously caught us completely by surprise, but below is our policy for this year. I would be happy to take any questions about this policy at any of our board meetings, which you all are welcome to attend physically or virtually.

**IF the season is cancelled prior to 4/5:** You will receive a 50% refund. (We are ordering jerseys on 3/22 and have already paid for chartering & insurance)

**IF the season is cancelled after 4/5, but before 4/30,** you will receive a \$25 refund (Because most of our necessary equipment, rentals, and game balls will be purchased by this date)

**IF the season is cancelled after 5/1,** there will be no refunds, as all registration fees will have been spent.

Lastly, be on the lookout for new safety policies! The entire SPLL Board of Directors and I have been working all year to figure out ways to get the kids on the field playing. We know it is so important for their physical, mental, and emotional health to get exercise and to play with friends. We are overjoyed that we can now play again. But we will have some new rules imposed on us that will be difficult, especially on spectators. We will be sending something out to you soon so that you can understand the difficulties of running a season during a pandemic and how we can all work together to stay safe.

All the best, and let's Play Ball!

Domiane Forte

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Domiane Forte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President, Santa Paula Little League