



GA Elite Baseball **COVID-19 Safety Protocol**

As we return to play, GA Elite Baseball (GEB) is focused on ensuring the safety of our athletes, coaches, umpires, and spectators. GEB will adhere to the guidance of County, State and Local authorities and will be implementing additional procedures and recommendations to ensure we mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 to the best of our ability.

Participation at any GEB event is voluntary and we will respect family decisions on their participation. Additionally, we expect families to be responsible for their participation when attending GEB activities. Every participating family must complete the Return to Play Waiver section on behalf of their athlete and all volunteers during the registration process.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEASON AT LARRY BELL PARK

1. Schedules of team activities and general expectations during team activities.

Team practices and games will be scheduled to maintain distance within fields and throughout the park. At Larry Bell Park this may include staggered start times for games and practices on each of the (4) fields to minimize interaction when entering and exiting the fields and batting cages.

- a) No unscheduled practice activities are allowed during the season. This includes bullpen and cage sessions. This is to ensure we maintain appropriate reduction of density of people in the park during our baseball activities.
- b) Team managers are responsible to stay within strictly prescribed practice times to avoid overlap with other teams. This will include use of cages and adjacent spaces. Practice schedules will be staggered with time gaps in between to allow for participants to leave the field.
- c) Only players assigned to practice may be in attendance. No additional players can join practice, including siblings. Players may not arrive early for practice. If they need to, they should remain in the car until the scheduled practice time.
- d) Parents will drop-off players for practice. If they wish to remain, they must stay in their car or stay in other areas of the park (i.e., along the outfield fences, away from dugouts, bullpens, batting cages, and stands). Parents and other caregivers are expected to maintain safe social distances while at the park for team activities. Younger siblings must be kept with their families if in attendance.



GA Elite Baseball **COVID-19 Practice & Game Protocol**

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEASON AT LARRY BELL PARK

2. Health Screening of Players

Prior to Team Activities:

- a) If players or any of their household contacts have a fever or exhibit other symptoms of COVID-19 within 24 hours of practice, the player will notify the coach and not come to practice. The GA Elite Baseball Safety team will evaluate the situation regarding when the player may return to team activities.
- b) If a player or someone in their family tests positive for an active infection of COVID-19 (so not an antibody test stating said person, had it at some point previously), then the player must not attend any team activity and notify the coach of the positive test and date the test was administered (not reported). The coach will then notify the GA Elite Baseball Safety team with the information.
- c) On arrival to practice or games, prior to any participation, each participant (player and coach) will be screened before the start of team activities including a temperature check and with the questions below.

Screening Questions:

Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?

Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?

Have you had new loss of taste or smell?

Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

A body temperature exceeding 100.4 F OR answer of yes to any question will prompt the player being immediately dismissed from practice to return home for their safety and the safety of all other participants.



GA Elite Baseball

COVID-19 Practice & Game Protocol

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEASON AT LARRY BELL PARK

3. Precautions to be taken during team activities

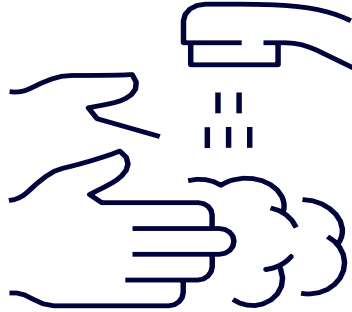
Teams will take proactive steps in creating appropriate social distancing during practice to include:

- a) No congregating in dugouts. During practices they are only to be entered to get on and off the field. During games, when on offense or as a substitute on defense players will sit on designated marks on the bench or along the fence toward home plate in stands until they are on deck or called into the game.
- b) Players are expected to wear masks to practice and games including walking to and from the field, and during games while waiting in the dugout.
- c) During practices, players will hang their personal equipment and bags along the fences separated by at least one six feet. During games they will hang them on the fence in their designated waiting spot.
- d) Parents and other observers are not to congregate in the stands during practices or games. They are permitted to space out along the fences down the foul lines.
- e) Coaches will always wear masks during practice and in games.
- f) Players and coaches will bring and use hand sanitizer before and after practice and games.
- g) No intentional physical contact will be allowed to include high fives, handshakes, etc.
- h) During practice, there will be no use of communal water coolers or other food/beverage items. Players should bring their own personal cooler and their personal water bottles for the duration of practice, and pre-game and in-game use.
- i) There will be no sharing of equipment to include fielding masks, catcher's gear, batting helmets, batting, or fielding gloves, etc. It is not possible to control the touching of the baseball/softballs, however. Players and coaches should be encouraged to sanitize hands and balls to the extent possible after each drill and after each practice session.
- j) Parents are encouraged to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting equipment and cleaning hands during practice.
- k) Players will be allowed to wear other PPE items if they choose, if the items do not compromise the safety of all participants in the activity.
- l) GA Elite Baseball teams will be encouraged to disinfect all hard surfaces when arriving to practice.
- m) Umpires will be required to wear masks in addition to their usual protective equipment.

General Guidance

Wash Your Hands Often:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or about the time it takes to recite the Little League Pledge twice, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Leagues are encouraged to provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer, if possible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use. Hand sanitizer should be placed in all common areas off-field for easy use.



Cover Your Mouth and Nose with a Cloth Face Covering When Around Others:

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face covering when they have to go out in public, for example, in public areas around your Little League fields and parks.



- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face covering is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker, as it is important for these facemasks are available for those professionals needing that personal protective equipment.
- Continue to keep six feet between yourself and others. The cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes:

- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash immediately.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Social Distancing:

- All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators should practice social distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. For situations when players are engaging in the sports activity, see On-Field Guidance below for more information.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home as much as possible.



Key Audiences

Players
 Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and Other Children
 Managers/Coaches
 Umpires
 League and District Officials
 Fans/Spectators

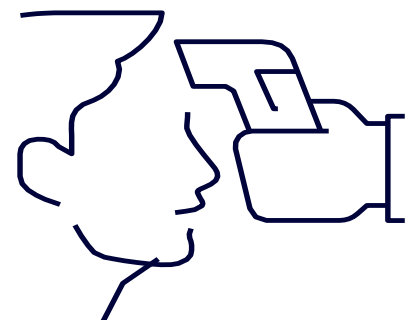
CDC Resources

[How to Protect Yourself & Others \(PDF Download\)](#)

[Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 \(PDF Download\)](#)

Self-monitoring and Quarantine:

- All individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each Little League activity. Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any Little League activity until cleared by a medical professional ([CDC Resource: If You Are Sick or Caring For Someone | PDF Download](#)).
- Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory condition should only attend Little League activities with permission from a medical professional.



On-Field Guidance

Key Audiences

Players

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Managers/Coaches

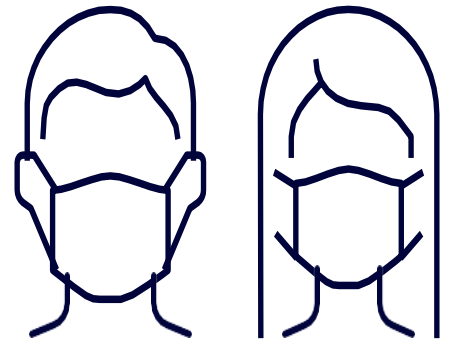
Umpires

Healthy Practices:

- All players and coaches should practice good general health habits, including maintenance of adequate hydration, consumption of a varied, vitamin-rich diet with sufficient vegetables and fruits, and getting adequate sleep.

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc. Little League International suggests lining up outside the dugout and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 20 minutes.



Drinks and Snacks:

- Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
- There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
- Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., should wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as cloth face coverings and protective medical gloves.
- Players should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.
- Players should not wear protective medical gloves on the field during game play.
- Players, especially at younger divisions, are not required to wear a cloth face covering while on the field during game play.
- Players will be permitted to wear a cloth face covering on the field during game play, if physically able to do so, based on any directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian/caretaker.

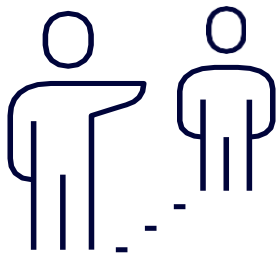
Game Operations and Umpire Guidance

Key Audiences

Managers/Coaches
Umpires
League/District Officials and
Volunteers

Pre-Game Plate Meetings:

- If possible, plate meetings should be eliminated.
- Social distancing of six feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires.



- Plate meetings should only consist of one manager or coach from each team, and game umpires.
- All participants should wear a cloth face covering.
- No players should ever be a part of plate meetings.

Equipment Inspection:

- Players should place their individual equipment in a well-spaced out manner for inspection. Umpires should avoid direct contact with equipment where possible but, when required, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after the inspection of each individual piece of equipment.



Limit League/Game Volunteers:

- For each game, there should only be the required team managers/coaches, umpires, and one (1) league administrator (i.e. Safety Officer, player agent, etc.) in attendance.
- Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players.
- Scorekeeping should be done by team coaches or team parent/guardian via GameChanger. Proper social distancing should be practiced.
- Press boxes should not be utilized unless there is ample room for social distancing to occur within them.

Field Preparation and Maintenance:

- Fields should be mowed, raked, and lined prior to teams and spectators arriving at the complex and after they depart. It is encouraged that volunteers already participating in the game (managers/coaches, umpires, and league administrator) perform these tasks to limit individuals at the site.
- It is recommended that any shared field preparation equipment be sprayed or wiped with cleaner and disinfectant before and after each use.

Umpire Placement:

- Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle to call balls and strikes. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible and wear protective gloves.
- If physically able, umpires are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

