

**Parents/Families should also refer to the following additional documents**

**Document A - Safety Guidelines (this document)**

**Document B - COVID Guidelines**

**Document C - Safety Standards**

**\*If someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 families MUST ALERT! Natick Little League immediately - please read Document B for all vital COVID-19 guidelines on close contacts, positive cases, and quarantine protocols\*\***

**\*Players/coaches/umpires/spectators must wear face coverings at all times - when 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained or under the following criteria:**

***\*Dugouts / or dugout area - masks required at all times for players and coaches***

***\*Batter, catcher, umpire - masks required at all times for players, and umpire who is behind the plate calling balls and strikes***

***\*Players in the field of play do not need to wear a mask (only catcher and batter), and spectators do not need to wear a mask when 6 foot of social distance can be met***

## **ON/AT FIELD GUIDANCE**

### **Social Distancing for spectators:**

\*All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators must practice physical distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas.

*\*No spectator is allowed past the fence at any field on any complex. There are no exceptions. If a player must go to a parent/guardian they must be the person to do it, not the parent to the player.*

\*Any siblings etc., that attend a game with their family **MUST** remain with their family during the course of the game. Roaming from field to field is strictly prohibited.

\*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, this should be done within 15 minutes.

### **No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations (plus meetings)**

\*Players and coaches must 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.

\*There are no timeouts to talk to a batter during his at-bat.

### **Snackbar/Snacks/Drinks:**

\*Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires must bring their own personal drinks to all team activities and they must be marked with their name. Absolutely no shared team beverages or coolers. Teams can not share any snacks or food. Snackbar operation is TBD.

### **Dugouts:**

\*Managers/coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout so that they are at least six feet apart and must be placed behind a fence

\*Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat. This assigned spot could rotate depending on batting order, who is in the game etc.

### **Player Equipment:**

\*No personal player bat bags/equipment bags should be allowed in the dugout. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact. This can be part of their assigned spots, or otherwise able depending on the field in which teams are participating on.

\*Players must have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, and catcher's equipment. Bat's, while sharing is not ideal, can be shared. Coaches must wipe bats down after each use.

\*\*\*Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before being used by a new player.

### **At Home Guidance:**

\*Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by a parent/guardian/caretaker, where applicable. Same goes for shared baseballs/softballs, etc.

\*Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use. All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area, out of reach of children.

### **Baseballs and Softballs:**

\*Baseballs and softballs should be cleaned after each practice with an appropriate water/bleach solution.

\*Balls used in infield/outfield warm-up should be isolated from a shared ball container.

\*Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players, coaches, and umpires. No spectators should retrieve the ball.

### **Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.**

\*Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., **ARE NOT** allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.

\*All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field. These are part of the rules, and enforced by the umpire. If necessary for removal of players from the game during in-house contests is possible.

## **GAME/PRACTICE OPERATIONS AND UMPIRES**

### **Pre-Game:**

\*Physical 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.

\*No players should ever be a part of plate meetings.

### **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 in the player/coaches area. There will be additional league administration available at the complex at all times.

\*Practices should be limited to the managers/coaches and players. Practices will be worked out so that one team has the field/complex to themselves, or where reasonable.

\*Scorekeeping should be done by team coaches or team parent/guardian via GameChanger. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.

### **Umpire Placement:**

\*Umpires are permitted to be placed behind the pitcher's mound/circle or be behind the catcher to call balls and strikes. Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible and wear protective gloves.

\*Umpires are required to wear cloth face coverings while umpiring.

## **FACILITY, FAN, AND ADMIN GUIDANCE**

### **Clean and Disinfect Shared Equipment and Surfaces:**

\*Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and in between all facility uses, including practices and games. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, facility equipment, dugouts, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

\*If surfaces are visibly soiled or dirty, they should be cleaned with a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

### **Public Restrooms**

\*A “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time, will be implemented to ensure adequate distancing in the confined restroom space.

\*Prior to and after any league activity, restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Restrooms will be disinfected on a regular basis.

\*Signage will be posted on the bathrooms to ensure those accessing them properly wash their hands.

### **Posted Information**

\*posters and signs will be seen throughout the park to frequently remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages may include information about:

- a) access to certain areas on the field or in the complex is limited to players/coaches
- b) bathroom use, and procedures
- c) equipment use, and coaches access to field materials
- d) physical distance guidelines
- e) being prepared when arriving to field with own equipment and face covering

### **Member Communication:**

All players/coaches/families who do not feel well, or have a fever are asked to remain away from baseball/softball for 72 hours at minimum. We will continue to disseminate information to all families, volunteers, and spectators about the Coronavirus risk and the efforts our league is undertaking to mitigate the risks, as outlined above. Information will be disseminated by way of email, league website, social media, coach talks, and public announcements.