

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

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

**Document B - Rules and Policies**

**Document C - Games and Practices**

**Document W - Waiver**

## **ON FIELD GUIDANCE**

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

\*All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators should practice physical distancing of six feet wherever possible from individuals not residing within their household, especially in common areas. This is outlined in the Natick Little League documents, as well.

\*No spectator is allowed past the fence at any field on any complex. Signs are posted, and this must be followed. 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.

### **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.

\*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.

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

\*Mound visits; coaches are required to wear a mask, and conversation should take place from the foul line in (in-house rules, and suggested for Bay State).

### **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.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

\*All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., should wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as cloth face coverings.

\*Players must wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended physical distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts. Additionally, face coverings should be worn at all times during their time in the dugout. Coaches must make sure this takes place.

**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 (when applicable, see document B for more reference on field guidelines and policies).

\*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.

\*Players and managers/coaches must wear a cloth face covering while in the dugout.

\*There are signs located in each dugout for rules and policies on all fields.

**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, which 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 rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact. Practice balls should be cleaned after each practice with an appropriate water/bleach solution.

\*Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible. It's recommended that umpires wear gloves.

\*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 OPERATIONS AND UMPIRES**

### **Pre-Game**

- \*If possible, plate meetings should be eliminated.
- \*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.
- \*All participants should wear a cloth face covering.
- \*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.

### **Field Preparation and Maintenance:**

- \*Fields should be 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. We will refer to our personally created field protocol guidelines (see document B).
- \*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.

## **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.

### **Spread Out Scheduling of Practices and Games:**

\*League administrators will schedule sufficient time between practices and games to facilitate the complete evacuation of individuals from a previous practice or game from the premises before the next group enters.

\*Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields no more than 40 minutes before game time, and 15 minutes prior to practice. There are no exceptions to this rule. Visiting teams (Bay State, LTA, Twin Valley) need this information to be presented to teams coming in.

\*Where possible, individuals should enter our complex through one point of entry and exit through another. There may be a fence that divides the entry way into the Hunnewell Fields.

\*Arrivals to the complex can be scheduled to help ensure a large number of individuals are not arriving at the same time.

\*If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators must stay in their vehicles to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.

\*On-field warm-up should be limited as much as is reasonably possible and no more than 15 minutes per team. (i.e. infield/outfield)

\*Ensure that practices and games follow all local and state directives regarding the number of people allowed to gather in one place.

### **Limiting Spectator Attendance:**

\*All spectators should follow best physical distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; wear a cloth face covering; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.

\*Limiting attendance to only essential volunteers and limited family members is required. Please refer back to document B.

\*Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible. Bleachers will be closed off for use.

\*A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so: Active COVID-19 infection, Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19, Fever, Cough

\*Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical

provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing.

### **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.

### **Concession Stands:**

\*The concession stand is closed for the 2020 season.

### **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:**

\*There will be a waiver to sign, and additional information made available. 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.

**\*If someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 families must alert Natick Little League immediately.**