

TWIN CITIES LITTLE LEAGUE 2021 COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

RETURN TO PLAY MANUAL

Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSP) Protocols for a Safe Spring Season

Welcome to the 2021 Little League Spring Baseball program. During these unprecedented times, life's priorities quickly get revisited. I know that the lessons those of us have learned through sports have come into play to help us move through this and continue forward.

Little League Baseball has been one of those life lesson activities, and as local government regulations now allow, we are able to continue on the success of our Fall Ball season with our Spring Baseball Season. It may not look exactly the same for the time being as the regulations for everyone's safety limit how we can play. That being said, a ball, bat and glove are all you need to bring the kid out in all of us. This is a small but important step in helping our community get back on its feet, and assist our children in socially and physically reintegrating, safely.

We will be adhering to the safety protocols developed by CDC, California and Marin Departments of Public Health, Little League International and Twin Cities Little League.

All players must have a signed release on file with the league prior to participation in any team event.

Here is a list of some of the things we are recommending to protect our players and community:

-Please have your players (and parents too) watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/LMBzjaVRChY>

-Here is a resource which should answer any questions you may have as it pertains to Youth sports and Covid-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

-All Managers and Coaches are required to attend (via zoom) our TCLL Covid-19 safety training

-Any questions, concerns, Covid-19 exposures please contact league safety officer Scott Calzaretta at 415-299-1200 or Sportsdr@cmghealth.com

-Safety Checklist for coaches to reference

-We will have random safety audits during practices as an additional safety measure

TCLL 2021 Spring Ball Program Safety Play Rules

Updated 2/7/21

- 1. All field time is assigned by TCLL, and all use is scheduled specifically team by team. Teams may only use fields during their scheduled field time. There will be no practices – small group or otherwise – that are not specifically scheduled by TCLL.
 2. Only TCLL -recognized team cohorts of the same 14 player maximum TCLL Spring Ball registered players may have access to fields and equipment. Use is permitted by rostered teams only. At no time may extra players, siblings, “call ups,” or rotational players practice with a team to which they are not assigned.
 3. No player may participate in TCLL Spring Ball who is participating in two other activity cohorts (for example, playing soccer and doing karate with groups) One other is allowed. If a manager or coach learns that a player’s participation violates the two-cohort maximum as defined by Marin Department of Health, that person will immediately notify the TCLL Player Agent or President.
 4. When a team has the field, it will be the only team with access to any field facilities during that time. This includes all batting cages and pitching lanes. There will be no specific “batting practice” sessions assigned to any teams.
 5. Two teams may not be on the same field at any time. Only when the practicing team is finished and has fully exited the field may the next team take the field. No warmups in the dugouts or foul territory of any kind.

6. No spectators other than the team's rostered players and coaches may be in attendance at any league event (game, practice, or meeting), adhering to social distance guidelines.

7. **All coaches will make sure players have completed their Covid-19 screening via TeamSnap within 8 hours prior to EACH practice.** If not completed, they cannot participate. Any player or coach with a temperature of over 100.4 degrees or demonstrating flu-like symptoms including, but not limited to temperature, cough, sore throat, sneezing, body aches, loss of sense of smell, difficulty breathing, or fatigue are instructed to stay home and are not permitted to attend.

8. There will be no shared equipment (other than baseballs). There are no exceptions to this rule. Players must bring their own bat, glove, helmet, batting gloves, or any other personal equipment. No such equipment may be used by more than one player.

9. Hand sanitizer will be available at the field. All coaches and players shall use hand sanitizer immediately prior to the start of practice and upon exiting the facility at the conclusion of practice. Players should bring their own hand sanitizer or wipes to practice if possible and will be encouraged to use sanitizer at each break in practice.

10. No handshakes, fist bumps, elbow bumps, or contact of any kind are allowed at any time.

11. Players should be kept 6 feet apart. Dugouts may not be used by the teams except as entry/exit points. Any team meetings or discussions shall take place on the field. Once practice starts, players should stay on the field premises or in the batting cages until the practice is over.

12. Players are not permitted to gather or huddle around batting cages. A maximum of one player in the batting cage and one player waiting by the batting cage door is allowed. All other players should be elsewhere on the field, at least 6 feet apart.

13. Activity or gatherings of any kind before or after practice or “extra” practice time are prohibited. There is no loitering at the field before or after practice. The team manager should arrive early to assure that all protocols are followed and should not leave until all players have been picked up.

14. Non-baseball gatherings at the fields are strictly prohibited. There are no snacks after practice, gatherings, or celebrations of any kind. Players should not share water bottles or other drinks at any time. Participation in TCLL activities at this time are intended to provide a safe, socially distant physical fitness activity for players, allowing parents to focus on working at home, providing essential services, or contributing to an essential business or activity.

15. Coaches must wear masks. Players do not have to wear a mask when physically active during the sport on the field. But, if for any reason they will be within 6 feet of another person for 15 minutes then they are required to wear a mask (we are avoiding 6 feet for any length of time). That being said, masks should be worn to and from practice and they are allowed to wear during practice by their choice, as long as it does not interfere with their ability to safely catch, throw, bat or run. This can also be determined by the coach if the mask is presenting a safety issue.

16. On the field, practice plans will ensure that players maintain 6 feet of distance from each other at all times, which includes the following restrictions from the normal rules of baseball:
 - Runners and fielders may not use the same base. Extra bases will be provided for runners to use, separate from the fielders’ bases, to ensure runners and infielders are distanced during practice / play
 - No tagging of runners.
 - No stealing bases, practice or otherwise
 - Player catcher may be used only if they bring their own gear, including catchers’ glove, and must be 6 feet from another player. What this means is that catchers should not be used for live batting, but can be used for pitching/catching practice.

17. TCLL will do random audits / checks of practices to ensure that coaches and players are following guidelines. If the guidelines are not being met, the coaches and players will receive feedback on how to do a better job of following the guidelines. If guidelines are not met by a player or coach, TCLL reserves the right to remove the coach and/or player from TCLL Fall Ball.

18. When to Quarantine-Stay home if you might have been exposed to Covid-19
[COVID-19: When to Quarantine | CDC](#)

**Thank you to all involved in getting our players back on the field safely for the
2021 Spring Ball Season**