

SOUTH WALL LITTLE LEAGUE (SWLL)
PROGRAM PREPARATION PLAN

June 19, 2020

Dear SWLL Families, Volunteers, Players, & Spectators:

The SWLL Board of Directors' primary goal in starting the 2020 season is the health and safety of our players, coaches, umpires, and spectators. In that regard, the Board has developed the following Program Preparation Plan, outlining guidance on the safety plans, protocols, and precautions that will be in effect at the SWLL complex for this season. Your cooperation with the below guidance will help to ensure the health and safety of all parties during the upcoming season. The Board will continue to follow all Little League, federal (CDC), state (Department of Health), and local township guidance regarding player and spectator safety. This guidance, of course, is subject to change upon changes in federal, state, or local rules.

The guidelines outlined in the below Program Preparation Plan were developed while carefully considering SWLL's facilities and operations, as well as consulting the "Guidance for Sports Activities," issued by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). The NJDOH guidance can be found here:

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_GuidanceForSportsActivities.pdf

The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for guidelines published by the New Jersey Department of Health but, rather, in addition to those guidelines. All content, including text, link and information, are provided for general informational purposes only. The knowledge and circumstances around COVID-19 are changing constantly and, as such, SWLL makes no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of this information. Further, any parents/guardians and athletes should seek advice from medical professionals and/or public health officials if they have specific questions about your return to practice and competition.

*It should be noted that enforcement of all guidelines during practices and games will be the responsibility of the team managers and coaches and overseen by league officials. It is required that each manager meet with their team coaches and parents prior to commencement of the first practice in order to communicate the below safety precautions and protocols. Upfront communication of these requirements will help to ensure the understanding of expectations and responsibilities of all parties involved, and help to provide a healthy and safe transition back to playing ball.

FACILITY PREPARATION

- Signage will be posted in highly visible locations throughout SWLL facilities, with reminders regarding social distancing protocols, face covering requirements, and good hygiene practices (e.g., hand hygiene, covering coughs);
- Cones, barricades, and tape will be utilized to guide traffic flow and reduce crowding and encourage proper social distancing around entrances, exits, and other high-traffic areas of the facilities, where applicable;
- Designated spectator areas will be clearly marked off and delineated, either by tape or spray paint;
- High-touch surfaces will be sanitized and disinfected routinely and frequently, in accordance with CDC recommendations. Each manager will be issued disinfecting wipes. These should be used to wipe down dugout benches and fencing prior to each practice and game;
- When facility restrooms can handle occupancy load of more than one person, signs will be posted limiting restroom occupancy to one person (with exception granted for a parent/guardian with a young child who needs assistance);
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available at benches, dugouts, and any other area prone to gathering or high traffic. Each manager will be issued hand sanitizer for their respective team;
- There will be no shack operations for the 2020 season; and
- All playgrounds and related equipment will be closed for the 2020 season.

PRACTICES, GAMES, & TOURNAMENTS

GENERAL

- Prior to a child participating in any SWLL-related activities (practice or games), parents or guardians will be required to sign a waiver;
- In conducting practices, coaches, staff, visitors and athletes will be required to abide by the gatherings limitations outlined in Executive Order No. 152 (2020), or the Order in effect at the time of competition;
- When competitions are permitted, coaches, staff, visitors and athletes will be required to abide by the gatherings limitations outlined in Executive Order No. 152 (2020), or the Order in effect at the time of competition. It is anticipated that the permissible number will increase to 250 on June 22 and 500 people on July 3 if the downward trends in the state's COVID-19 outbreak continues;
- When practical, limit practices activities to those that do not include person-to-person contact;
- Consider dividing teams into smaller groups and staggering practices at different times; and
- Coaches and managers must screen athletes, coaches, staff and others participating in practice and game sessions, via temperature check and health questionnaire, at the beginning of each session. Players, coaches, staff, and

volunteers showing symptoms of COVID-19 ([CDC Symptom Checklist](#)) shall not be permitted to participate. If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home. SWLL will provide the coach of each team with the health questionnaire (attached hereto) form and a hands-free thermometer to use in this assessment.

PLAYERS

- Maintain 6-foot social distancing whenever possible;
- No more than 4 players/coaches in the dugout at any time. Batting team may have 3 players and a coach in the dugout and remaining players will be required to maintain 6-foot distancing either behind the dugout or along the sidelines or on bleachers. Infield bleachers will be reserved for player seating-only;
- Players/parents must conduct a daily symptom self-assessment prior to any game/practice. If a player is not feeling well, please do not come to the field and notify the coach of absence;
- If a player has tested positive for or are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home;
- Players must apply league-supplied hand sanitizer when entering or leaving the dugout/field of play. Hand sanitizer will be supplied by SWLL to each manager;
- No sharing of food or drinks. All players must bring their own drinks/snacks (keeping all teammate food allergy considerations in mind);
- Players may not share equipment. Gear and equipment may only be used by the owner or designated player of the equipment. Gear/equipment should be sanitized regularly before and after play;
- No spitting/chewing seeds, gum or other similar products;
- Players/coaches shall refrain from celebratory physical contact with each other or opposing team on or off the field of play. This includes handshakes, high-fives, and team huddles;
- Players/coaches utilizing batting cages will be required to maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times. Players waiting to hit must maintain the proper distance from other players. Players may not share equipment in the batting cages. Each player must have his/her own bat.
- Players should wear face coverings when not engaged in vigorous activity, such as when sitting on the bench. Players should not wear face coverings when engaged in vigorous activity, such as competition; and
- Players should keep equipment separate from other players' equipment as much as possible.

COACHING STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

- Maintain 6-foot social distancing whenever possible;
- Should wear face-coverings

- Coaches must conduct a daily symptom self-assessment prior to any game/practice. If a coach is not feeling well, please do not come to the field and find another coach to cover;
- If a coach has tested positive for or are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring all players and spectators are adhering to Covid-19 precautions including required social distancing and other guidelines mentioned here;
- No sharing of food or drinks. All coaches must bring their own drinks/snacks
- Coaches shall maintain their own lineup cards and must post lineup on outside of dugout visible to other team and umpires. There shall be no physical exchange of lineup cards between teams or umpires. Any changes to lineup must be verbalized to the umpire and other team and lineup card must be adjusted to reflect all lineup changes;
- No spitting/chewing seeds, gum or other similar products; and
- Players/coaches shall refrain from celebratory physical contact with each other or opposing team on or off the field of play. This includes handshakes, high-fives, and team huddles.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS & OTHER SPECTATORS

- Maintain 6-foot social distancing from all non-family members whenever possible;
- Parents/guardians, visitors, and spectators should wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under the age of two;
- Spectators may view games from the outfield, maintaining proper distancing;
- May not enter player areas, dugouts, sidelines, sideline bleachers or behind backstops. Spectators may sit in outfield either on the sideline (in marked areas) or beyond outfield fencing;
- All spectators visiting the SWLL complex must conduct a daily symptom self-assessment prior to attending any game/practice. If a spectator is not feeling well, please do not come to the field;
- If a parent/guardian or other spectator has tested positive for or are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home;
- Hand washing/sanitizing before, during and after attendance at the SWLL complex;
- Bring your own seating in lieu of bleachers. Infield bleachers will be unavailable to spectators; and
- In the event a player becomes sick during play, the parent/guardian shall safely transport the player home or to a healthcare facility.