



## Windsor Little League Return to Play: 2020 Shortened Season

Windsor Little League (“WLL”) players, families and coaches plan on adhering to the following guidelines to maintain the health and safety of all WLL players, families, and coaches/officials.

### Return to Play

Baseball and softball are considered moderate risk activities per the State of Connecticut’s Sector Rules. Effective June 20, 2020, WLL’s field(s) will be limited to a maximum of two teams, officials, and limited family members only. The fields may be used for individual or group training, controlled practices, and following July 5, 2020, scrimmages and games.

### Signage

WLL will reinforce:

- Social distancing, personal contact and snack/beverage protocols
- Personal protective equipment and player equipment protocols
- Practice, scrimmage, and game protocols
- Disinfection and cleaning protocols

### Social Distancing

Visual signs will be posted to encourage and reinforce social distancing protocols (e.g., 6 feet apart).

### Personal Contact

Players and coaches plan to limit personal contact, including refraining from huddles, handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, slaps, and group celebrations. Little League International suggests lining up and tipping caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after a game.

Players and families will vacate the field as soon as reasonably possible to minimize unnecessary contact with others.

### Personal Protective Equipment for Managers/Coaches/Officials/Umpires/Athletes

Managers/Coaches/Officials and Umpires are required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep 6 feet of physical distance from others, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions.

Players shall wear face coverings when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep 6 feet of physical distance from others, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to medical conditions. While engaged in the active play of baseball and softball, athletes do not need to wear a face covering.

Players will be assigned seats adhering to social distancing while on the bench (or its equivalent, e.g., personal chairs outside the field of play) or while waiting their turn to bat.

### Player Equipment

No personal player equipment will be allowed in the dugout. Dugouts will be closed. Player equipment should be spaced accordingly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact. There will be markings and signs directing appropriate social distancing spacing.

Players should have their own individual batter’s helmet, glove, bat, and catcher’s equipment. Players’ equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use (e.g., practice or game) by a parent/guardian, where applicable.

## **Active Play**

Coaches should keep players in small groups at practice to allow for physical distancing. Practices will be scheduled with at least a 15 minute buffer to prevent overlap of participants, and allow for time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces, including, but not limited to: benches/dugouts (if used) and fence entrances and exits.

## **Baseballs and Softballs**

Baseballs and softballs will be disinfected before and after every practice, and game. In addition, baseballs and softballs used during games should be rotated through on a regular basis at least every two innings to limit individual contact.

Balls used in infield and 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/officials, and umpires only. **No spectators should retrieve the ball.**

## **Dugouts, Benches & Bleachers**

Traditional dugouts, benches, and bleachers will not be used. Players, coaches, and officials should have a safe area, outside of the field of play, with at least 6 feet of distance enforced (e.g., personal chairs). Spectator seating should occur beyond the field of play's fence and at least 6 feet of distance should be maintained at all times.

## **Snacks and Beverages**

The WLL Concession Stand will be **closed** for the shortened season.

Athletes, coaches/officials and umpires will bring their own personal drinks/snacks to all team activities. There will be no use of shared beverages, snacks or food.

No chewing gum or eating sunflower seeds by athletes, coaches/officials, and spectators on the fields.

All players, coaches/officials and spectators are to refrain from spitting at all times including in dugouts (or their equivalent, e.g., in the area of players' personal chairs) and on playing fields.

## **Crowd Control**

Spectator compliance with social distancing should be encouraged through periodic checks and announcements. Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots following an event or practice.

## **Personal Protection for Spectators**

Spectators are required to bring and wear masks or cloth face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth upon entry to the park, unless doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety due to a medical condition. Once you are able to social distance you may remove the mask and as long as able to maintain the appropriate social distancing.

## **Risk Assessment**

There must be daily symptom assessments (self-evaluation) before participating in practices, games, and scrimmages. Please stay home when appropriate. Individuals, including coaches, officials, players and families, should stay home if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing symptoms (fever above 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell).

Individuals should stay home if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19. Please refer to CDC criteria and guidelines for a safe return to play.

Please check in with WLL's Safety Officer Jen Filer (jenfile37@yahoo.com) for clearance prior to your return.

## **Temperature Check**

Players, coaches, umpires, and anyone stepping onto the playing fields will have a **mandatory** temperature check via non-contact infrared thermometer after exiting their vehicles prior to entering the fields. This will be a requirement for practices and games until further notice.

Should your child have a temperature reading above 100.4, we are kindly requesting you bring your child home and contact your pediatrician for further recommendations.

We kindly recommend keeping your child home until they are fever free without the use of fever reducers (Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen) for a minimum of 72 hours and receive clearance from the safety officer.

## **In The Event of a Positive Covid-19 Case**

Players, families, coaches and/or officials shall inform WLL's Safety Officer and follow state testing and contact tracing protocols.

## **Sanitizer**

Hand sanitizer shall be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible. All players will have access to hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol to sanitize hands prior to getting on and off the field. All fields will have access to first aid kits, hand sanitizer and PPE as necessary.

## **Bathrooms**

All WLL families will equally alternate cleaning and disinfecting both bathrooms frequently and a cleaning log will be utilized for tracking purposes. Cleaning should occur multiple times a day and hourly during busy times (e.g., games). This will be for games only.

## **Travel**

Players are strongly recommended to travel to the venue with their immediate household only, if possible. Face coverings are strongly recommended for individuals traveling to and from the venue, walking in and out of the venue, and while not actively participating.

When traveling please take note of the different protocols and procedures of the towns you are traveling to.

In closing we are prioritizing the health and safety of all our WLL members. If you have any safety concerns please feel free to reach out at any time.

We are looking forward to having a great shortened season.