

# **F.L.A.G. LITTLE LEAGUE**

## **SAFETY PLAN MANUAL**

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April 7, 2021

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## **F.L.A.G. Baseball Mission Statement**

To provide the Children of Fairview, Lake City, Girard and Millcreek a safe and enjoyable Environment to learn and play the game of baseball while stressing the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

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## **Safety Procedures**

### **Safe Playing Areas**

Regular safety inspections of all fields, structures, and dugouts are necessary to eliminate conditions that can create hazards.

Managers, coaches and umpires should routinely check the playing areas for:

1. Holes, rough or uneven spots, slippery areas and tall grass
2. Glass, rocks, foreign objects
3. Damage to screens, fence, backstops – including sharp or loose edges
4. Unsafe conditions around backstops, pitcher's mound/circle or warning track

### **Safe Equipment**

All equipment shall be inspected before each use. Regular safety inspection of equipment is essential. Managers, coaches and umpires should:

1. Be sure all equipment is Little League approved
2. Inspect all bats, helmets and other equipment on a regular basis
3. Immediately repair or dispose of unsafe equipment and contact the Equipment Manager for replacements
4. Have all players remove personal jewelry
5. Parents should be encouraged to provide safety glasses for players who wear eyeglasses
6. Encourage all players to wear protective mouth guards
7. Encourage all batters to wear batting helmets with face guards
8. Tee-Ball will use reduced impact balls only
9. All players are to be instructed how to wear and use the equipment properly and in a safe manner
10. All infield baseball players are encouraged to wear a protective hard cup

### **Safe Practices**

Managers must:

1. Have possession of all player Medical Release Forms at every practice and game
2. Have a First-Aid Kit at all practices and games
3. Have access to a telephone in case of an emergency
4. Know where the nearest emergency shelter is in case of severe weather
5. Ensure proper warm-up procedures have been completed by each player
6. Stress the importance of "No Horseplay"
7. Instruct the players on the proper fundamentals of the game to ensure safe participation

## **Weather Conditions**

### **Before the Storm**

Managers, coaches and umpires should check the weather forecast before leaving for a game or practice for signs of an approaching storm. If storms appear imminent, cancel all outdoor activities.

### **Approaching Thunderstorm**

1. Take caution when you hear thunder
2. During a game the umpire will clear the field in the event of an approaching storm or a flash of lightning
3. In the event of an approaching storm move to safe ground, preferably an inside shelter or vehicle
4. Do not take shelter under a tree
5. In the event of lightning, stay away from water, metal and telephone lines
6. In the event of lightning, the field **MUST** be cleared and no play shall resume until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike is observed

### **If Caught Outdoors and No Shelter Exists**

1. Find a low spot away from trees, fences, light poles and flag poles. Make sure the area is not prone to flooding
2. If in the woods, take shelter under shorter trees
3. If you feel your skin begin to tingle or your hair feels like it is standing on end, squat low to the ground, balancing on the balls of your feet. Make yourself as small as possible and minimize your contact with the ground

### **What To Do If Someone Is Struck By Lightning**

1. The person who has been struck will carry no electrical charge, and is therefore safe to Touch
2. Call 9-1-1 ASAP
3. Check for burns on the body
4. Give first aid as needed
5. Check for breathing and or a heartbeat – if stopped, perform CPR until EMS arrives

## **First-Aid**

### **First-Aid Clinic**

**Every first-year manager and coach of F.L.A.G. Little League is required to attend the annual First Aid Clinic held by a certified MD, RN or EMT. Refresher courses must then be taken every three years, but one manager or assistant from each team must be present at the clinic each year**

### **First-Aid Kits**

Each team will be given a first-aid kit at the time the uniforms are handed out. This kit is to be carried by the manager or coach to all practices and games. Should replacement supplies be needed, contact the Safety Officer. Monitor your inventory so that all required supplies are always on hand. If need be, please replenish the supplies out of your own pocket and you will be reimbursed upon presentation of a receipt to the league treasurer.

The First-Aid Kit includes:

1 First-Aid Guide	4 Vinyl Gloves	1 2" x 2" Premium Grade Moleskin
1 Pair of Tweezers	1 Gauze Roll	3 Emergency Ice Packs
1 Pair of Scissors	4 Instant Cold Packs	1 Roll of Athletic Tape
1 Box of Latex-Free Elastic Bandages	2 Finger Splints	
1 Dozen Q-Tips	10 Adhesive Bandages	5 Elbow and Knee Bandages
2 Large Fingertip Bandages	4 2" x 2" Gauze Dressing Pads	
1 Sterile Eye Pad	5" x 9" Trauma Pad	
1 Packet of 4 Bee Sting Salve	1 Tube of Wound/Burn Treating Ointment	

### **Administering First-Aid**

First-aid is exactly that – it is the first care given to a victim. It is usually performed by the first person on the scene and continued until professional medical help arrives.

At no time should the person administering first-aid go beyond their capabilities. Know your limits!

**Please note that in-depth training will be provided at the annual First-Aid Clinics.**

### **Good Samaritan Laws**

There are laws to protect you when you help someone in an emergency situation. The “Good Samaritan Laws” give legal protection to people who provide emergency aid to ill or injured persons.

When citizens respond to an emergency and act as a *reasonable and prudent* person would under the same conditions, Good Samaritan immunity generally prevails. This legal immunity protects you, as a rescuer, from being sued and found financially responsible for the victim’s injury.

For example, a reasonable and prudent person would:

- Move a victim if the victim’s life was endangered
- Ask a conscious victim for permission before giving care
- Summon professional help to the scene by calling 9-1-1
- Continue to provide care until more highly trained personnel arrive

### **First-Aid Do’s and Don’ts**

#### **Do:**

- Access the injury. If the victim is conscious find out what happened, where it hurts.
- Watch for shock
- Know your limitations
- Call 9-1-1 immediately if person is unconscious or seriously injured
- Look for signs of injury (blood, bruising, deformity of joints, etc.)
- Feel gently and carefully the injured area for signs of swelling or grating of broken bone
- Remain with the victim until professional attendants arrive
- Talk your players afterwards about the situation. Often players are upset or afraid, particularly the younger ones. They need to feel safe and understand why the injury occurred.
- Complete an Accident Report Form within 24 hours and hand deliver to the appropriate league V.P. or Safety Officer

#### **Don’t:**

- Administer any medication
- Provide any food or beverages (other than water)
- Hesitate in giving aid when it is needed
- Be afraid to ask for help if you’re not sure of the proper procedure
- Transport the injured individual except in extreme emergencies

## Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches are role models, and must set exemplary examples for the youths entrusted with them.

The following regulations will be strictly enforced:

- **No Alcohol** allowed at games or practices
- **No Smoking** during games or practices
- **No Profanity** allowed during practices or games, or at any time players are in your presence
- **No Disrespect** is to be shown toward players, parents, umpires, or other volunteers
- **Will Participate in Scheduled Work Bees**
- **Will Complete and Submit to Safety Officer an Accident Report within 24 hours of any injury occurring**
- **Coaches attire – see Little League handbook**

### Near Misses

**We will also monitor “Near Misses” to assist us in evaluating safety areas we need to concentrate on. Should any player or volunteer come close to an accident/injury, please complete the “Near Miss” report. The completed form must be given directly to the appropriate league Commissioner, President, Vice President, or Safety Officer with 72 hours of the “near miss”.**

## **Background Checks**

Anyone wishing to be a F.L.A.G. Little League volunteer must undergo a Background Check. All coaches, umpires, team parents, field maintenance and concession stand workers, board members and officials, and any other person in regular contact with the children of our league must complete the Volunteer Application Form. The Safety Officer will enter the names of all volunteer candidates into a national database to check for criminal and sexual offenders. The league will bear all costs associated with performing the background checks.

All volunteers will also be asked or obtain Act 34 (PA State Police Background Check) and Act 151 (Child Abuse Clearance).

**Please find attached the Volunteer Application Form that must be completed and turned in to your league commissioner or the Information Officer no later than March 31, 2021.**

### **Who is Not Eligible to Participate as a Volunteer**

Anyone with charges against a minor will not be allowed to volunteer their services. Additionally, individual with criminal convictions that the board determines will place minors or other volunteers at risk will not be permitted to volunteer their services.

## **Players Code of Conduct (to be enforced by coaches)**

- **No Disrespect** to teammates, opponents, umpires, coaches or parents
- **No Horseplay** on fields, in dugouts, or in parking lots
- **No Swinging Bats or Throwing Balls** outside of designated areas  
(Ages 12 and under – batters may only swing bats in the batter’s box )
- **No Throwing Balls** against dugouts or backstop
- **No Throwing Rocks or Climbing Fence**
- **Catcher’s Must be in Full Gear** when warming up pitchers
- **Must Remain in Dugouts** in an orderly fashion during games
- **Clean Up Trash** in dugouts and around bleachers after each game and practice
  
- **At the games conclusion, win or lose, good sportsmanship will be expected toward the opposing teams players and coaches and toward the umpires.**
  
- **At NO Time will any use of Profanity be tolerated. Any instance of such may result in ejection, suspension or both**

## **Parents Code of Conduct (to be enforced by all volunteers)**

- **No Alcohol** allowed at games or practices
- **No Smoking** during games or practices
- **No Profanity** allowed during practices or games, or at any time players are in your presence
- **No Disrespect** is to be shown toward players, parents, umpires, or other volunteers
- **Will Notify Manager** of any illness, medical condition or injury of child
- **Will Make Best Effort** to have child at all games and practices in a timely manner
- **Will make Best Effort** to pick-up child after all practices and games in a timely manner
- **Will Work Concession Stand** when assigned, or find replacement
- **Will assist coaches** with “pre” and “post” game field prep when needed

## **Coaches Clinic**

Before the start of every season all new Managers and Coaches are required to attend a fundamental training baseball and softball Coaches Clinic. The clinic will provide instructions on:

- proper warm-ups,
- drilling techniques on the fundamentals of hitting, pitching, fielding, throwing, and sliding,
- motivating young players
- ensuring proper priorities are maintained (Teaching and Having Fun)

Although not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that returning coaches attend the clinics as well to refresh themselves and to learn new techniques and philosophies. All returning managers and coaches must attend the clinics at last once every three years.

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## **Field Inspections/Game Rituals**

All Managers, Coaches and Umpires are required to:

- Check the playing field for debris and foreign objects before each game or practice
- Check conditions of fence, backstop, bases, base paths and outfield
- Inspect helmets, bats catcher's gear before each practice or game
- Make sure a First-Aid Kit is available and close by
- Ensure there is a working telephone available
- Rake field at completion of each practice or game

## **Annual Little League Facility Survey**

In late March or early April of each year the Safety Officer will complete the Annual Little League Facility Survey provided by Little League Baseball Inc, in Williamsport. The Safety Officer will consult with all applicable volunteers prior to completing the survey to garner their recommendations, suggestions and any other input they have to offer.

The survey will then be submitted through the proper channels as required by Little League baseball, Inc.

## **Equipment Inspections**

At the conclusion of each season the Equipment Manager/Safety Officer will require each manager to return his/her equipment for inspection. The Equipment Manager/Safety Officer will discard all unsafe or worn equipment, and record the information on a team-by-team list of equipment needed for the following season.

During the preseason and regular season all Managers, Coaches and Umpires should continuously inspect the equipment. The Equipment Manager/Safety Officer should be contacted immediately should replacement equipment be required prior to the conclusion of the season.

## **Concession Stand Safety Procedures**

Prior to the start of each season the Concession Stand Officer will prepare and post Safety and Operational Procedures in each concession stand. The procedures will detail:

- The procedure for opening and closing the stands, emphasizing the cleanup prior to locking up
- Areas of safety concerns to be given detailed instructions
- Reminders of personal hygiene when handling food
- Instructions for depositing that day's receipts

The Concession Stand Officer will instruct each League and Team Parent on the above prior to the start of the season. Daily inspections of the stands will be performed when re-stocking.

### **CONCESSION STAND SAFETY**

- **No person under the age of *fifteen* will be allowed behind the counter in the concession stands.**
- **People working in the concession stands will be trained in safe food preparation. Training will be done by the Concession Stand Officer.**
- **Cooking equipment will be inspected periodically and repaired or replaced if needed.**
- **Food not purchased by F.L.A.G. Little League will not be cooked, prepared, or sold in the concession stands.**
- **Cooking grease will be stored safely in containers away from open flames.**
- **Cleaning chemicals must be stored in cabinets away from any food items.**
- **A Certified Fire Extinguisher suitable for grease fires must be placed in plain sight at all times.**
- **All concession stand workers will be trained in the usage of fire extinguishers.**
- **All concession stand workers will attend a training session in the *Heimlich maneuver*.**
- **A fully stocked First Aid Kit will be placed in each Concession Stand.**
- **The Concession Stand main entrance door will not be locked or blocked while people are inside.**
- **All workers will be trained in proper emergency procedures.**

## **Work Bees**

To ensure the playing facilities are in the best and safest condition, Work Bees will be held periodically throughout the year. All managers and coaches are expected to participate. At least one volunteer per team must attend.

The work bees will include, but not be limited to:

- Ensure dirt and grass of playing fields and bullpens is in acceptable condition
- Ensure all fencing and bleachers are in good, safe condition  
(Note: all fencing around dugouts will be at least 8' high to protect players and coaches)
- Ensure all dugouts and other facilities are in proper and safe condition
- All repairs will be made without delay
- Clean up trash along fields and surrounding areas, including parking lots, along side roads, and ditches

## **COVID-19 POLICY**

FLAG Little League will follow CDC, PA Department of Health, Erie County and Little League international guidelines for managing the 2021 season. We are in fluid times, so what is right today might not be necessarily true in a few days or weeks. We will communicate any major changes to you through your child's coaching staff. We will strive to keep everyone safe while at practices and or games. With everyone's utmost efforts we will have a successful 2021 season.

Board of directors will respectfully ask of the following participants and their families;

1. Prior to arrival at practices or games parents screen their children and enter data into the Game Changer APP, so coaches will know who can and cannot participate (directions for the Game Changer APP to follow). Coaches will perform temperature scans and verify screened players prior to allowing participation in activities
2. If a player or family member test positive for COVID-19, please mitigate the spread of the disease by quarantining. Let the coaches know and symptoms started. We will give a safe recommendation for when your player can return to the field.
3. Masks/gaiters are to be worn by participants while in the dugout areas. Managers and coaches will then discuss the use of masks where players are in the field with their teams.
4. Masks/Gaiters are to be worn by spectators in areas where social distancing is not optimal (near concession stands, bathroom lines, etc.) Most of the fields that the Little League utilizes have more than enough space for fans to optimally socially distance.
5. Players use their own equipment whenever possible. Shared equipment will be wiped or sprayed with approved sanitizing supplies. We recommend players have their own personal helmets, because of the limited quantities the league can provide.
6. Players cannot share drinking bottles.
7. At this time, chewing gum and sunflower seeds will not be permitted while at practices or games.
8. Families are asked to drop children off at their field close to the start of practice or pregame warm up sessions. Adults are asked to stay in their vehicle or remain socially distanced around the field, unless they're actively assisting in field maintenance, practice activities, or games.
9. At the conclusion of practices / games please refrain from gathering. Please help facilitate cleanup and field maintenance so that everyone can return safely for the next activity.
10. FLAG little League will attempt to provide the safest environment for the 2021 season. We will require everyone to be actively vigilant to make our children softball/baseball season a complete success.

Please contact the FLAG Board of Directors, the Safety Officer or your child's coach with any questions or concerns that arise throughout this season.

CDC Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html>

PA Department of Health:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Erie County:

<https://eriecountypa.gov/departments/health/>

Little League International:

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/>

## **Key Personnel Contact Information**

### **Medical Emergency: 911**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Justin Crowe</b>	<b>757-814-3444</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jonathan Jewell</b>	<b>814-464-7711</b>
<b>Vice President of Baseball Operations:</b>	<b>Ryan Smith</b>	<b>814-490-3505</b>
<b>Vice President of Softball Operations:</b>	<b>Matthew Terella</b>	<b>814-969-3760</b>
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	<b>Bill Stevens</b>	<b>814-449-8401</b>