



Newsletter April 2021

COVID UPDATE

Per recommendations from Little League International, Michigan District 2 Little League has developed the guidelines below by working with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department. The following plan will be adopted by all leagues that are part of District 2. These guidelines are based on currently in-effect guidance and recommendations from various governing bodies and can change as the guidance changes.

Guidelines Current as of March 31, 2021 - these are subject to change:

- Per current [MDHHS Interim Guidance for Athletics](#), all players and coaches will be required to wear a mask at all times.
- 6ft social distancing must be maintained by spectators on bleachers, or when seated along fence lines.
- If dugouts are used, players and coaches must be masked at all times. Players must social distance as much as possible.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available for each team. Players are requested to use prior to each at bat, and upon return from the field to their designated area outside of the dugout.
- It is highly encouraged that all players have their own equipment. If a player does not have their own helmet, it is recommended that the league provide a helmet that a player can use for the duration of the season and return at the end. Shared equipment (i.e. catcher gear, team bats, fielding helmets with facemasks) will be sanitized after each use. It is recommended that coaches minimize the number of players using shared equipment on a daily basis (i.e., one or two designated catchers per game)
- Leagues will establish a daily health screen recommendation for parents to complete on their own for their player prior to each practice or game.
- Coaches will make a note of all players, coaches, umpires and any other volunteer who assists with a game or practice - for example in their scorebook - for purposes of contact tracing.
- All players ages 13 and up will be required to participate in weekly covid testing to be eligible to participate in any clinic, practice or game. More details to come.

At SPLL, we will NOT be holding an in-person Opening Day ceremony to prevent a large gathering and pictures will be scheduled to minimize crowding. We will encourage spacing out and team circle ups vs. huddles and spacing out along the fence line vs. everyone in the dugouts. At this time, we will not allow team hand-shakes (good-game) lineups after the game - players line their base path, tip their hats/wave, and offer a "good game" from a distance.

PLEASE NOTE: SPLL expects that these guidelines will change in the future - possibly multiple times throughout our season. Please be on the lookout for updates as we approach the season. This may include relaxing the mask-requirement for players on the field of play or other requirements. We recognize the inconveniences these rules might impose - please understand that our players' and volunteers' safety is our #1 priority.

Questions? Email President@southportagell.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 7 - All Players Contacted by Coaches - Intro and Practice Schedule

(If you haven't heard from your coach by April 7: T-ball & Baseball contact baseball@southportagell.com, Softball contact softball@southportagell.com)

April 18 - 3PM-4PM - T-ball Only Introduction & Parent Welcome Meeting - VIRTUAL

April 26 - Games Begin (Minors, Little Majors, & Majors only)

May 1 - 12PM - Opening Day Ceremonies - VIRTUAL

May 3 - Games Begin (T-ball)

June 13 - South Portage Little League Night at the Growlers!

DAYS OF PLAY

***Days of play subject to change due to field availability and local league availability

Tee Ball	Tuesday, Thursday or Friday (2 of 3 days)
Softball (all divisions)	Monday & Wednesday
Baseball (Minors age 7-8)	Monday, Wednesday or Friday (2 of 3 days)
Baseball (Little Majors age 9-10)	Tuesday, Thursday (few Fridays possible)
Baseball (Majors age 11-12)	Monday & Thursday

PAPERWORK

Please be sure to forward all missing paperwork to our Registrar at registrar@southportagell.com

EQUIPMENT

Required Equipment

- Glove/Mitt
- Water or Drink Bottle

Available (shared) Equipment

South Portage Little League will provide each team some equipment available for sharing among the team (parents are welcome to buy their own items below if you prefer):

- Bats
- Batting Helmets & Pitcher's Helmets (Machine Pitch)
- Balls
- Tee's (for T-ball)
- Catcher's Gear

Optional Equipment

Some parents prefer to purchase the following optional equipment:

- Sliding pants
- Game Face (Softball infield face mask)
- Bat Bag
- Cleats

Equipment Assistance

- SPLL Has been granted brand new equipment to provide to families in need. If you are financially unable to secure the necessary equipment, please contact Josh president@southportagell.com

DICK'S Sporting Goods Discount Weekend

Dick's Sporting Goods - We are offering a SPLL Discount Weekend at Dick's Sporting Goods Click [HERE to access the COUPON](#) required to get 20% off your order! The next savings event is planned for April 9-12 (mark your calendar!) ***It also works during the week in store if you need to run out this week ;) ***

SPLL MARKETPLACE

A marketplace for South Portage Little League families to buy, sell and trade outgrown baseball & softball gear.

Dust off those old helmets, bats & gloves and the outgrown ball pants with more life left! Perfect place to share!

Our [SPLL Marketplace](#) can be found on our South Portage Little League [Facebook page](#), and click on our GROUP called SPLL Marketplace. Request to join this swap-meet to find gently used and new items that SPLL families are looking to sell. Post your own items or buy from others in the Group.

BAT REQUIREMENTS

Baseball:

- Look for the USA Baseball logo signifying the bat meets USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard
- No more than 33 inches length
- No more than 2 5/8 inches diameter

Softball:

- Look for "fastpitch" bats
- No more than 33 inches length
- No more than 2 1/4 inches diameter
- Look for a 1.20 BPF (Bat Performance Factor)

Specific info found here: <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/bat-rules/>

If in doubt, please ask when shopping or DON'T unwrap the bat unless you ask first!

UMPIRES NEEDED

No experience? No problem! Training will be provided.

For more information, please contact: President@southportagell.com

CONCESSION & FIELD WORKERS NEEDED

SPLL has part-time / flexible jobs for the Spring/Summer! Interested? Contact: President@southportagell.com

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 13th- South Portage Little League Night at the Growlers!

SPLL will be giving ALL registered players a ticket to the game, additional tickets available for \$13 each, see below!

South Portage Little League Night

HOMER STRYKER FIELD

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th - 1:35 FIRST PITCH

Registered players will receive:

- A Growlers hat
- Pre-Game Parade
- A skills camp with the Growlers head coach and players
- A Porter visit during the season
- Involvement in between inning promotions

Additional family tickets can be purchased for \$13 during player registration!



South Portage Little League

media@southportagell.com

(269)350-4724

SouthportageLL.com