**EGCYBL Playing Plan for 2021**

The COVID-19 pandemic presents Little League organizations with a myriad of challenges. East Greenbush-Castleton Little League offers this document as guidance on how our organization is approaching the many components of “returning-to-play” baseball within our community.

We will only succeed if everyone commits to abide by the health and safety guidelines outlined in this plan, monitors progress, and adapts quickly as new information and data is available. Our EGC Little League board is committed to communicating this plan and its guidelines widely across our communities and providing families with the resources, information, and tools they need to keep members, parents, and players safe.

It is our intent to modify any aspect of this plan required to meet the guidelines to remain in compliance.

**1. Safety/Education**

To establish the prevention and protection measures to be implemented for EGC Little League, the first step was to implement a Health Safety Committee, supported by a team of volunteers committed to the plan. The list of responsibilities among others, will include:

🡪An email has been created specifically for our league, [www.safety@egcybl.com](http://www.safety@egcybl.com), for parents/guardians and all league participants to ask questions and to have their concerns addressed.

🡪Oversee implementation of education, prevention, protection and treatment measures for the various groups of participants;

🡪Designate the key support staff and their roles in the education, prevention, protection and treatment measures;

🡪Document that all event participants have undergone appropriate training in personal safety.

🡪All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires should wear face masks whenever possible and applicable.

🡪Players should wear face masks whenever they are not playing, such as in the dugout or around the complex.

**2. On Field Guidance**

**No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:**

1. 🡪 Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
2. 🡪 Players will line up outside the dugout and tip caps to the opposing team as a sign of good sportsmanship after the game.
3. 🡪 Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game, ideally within 20 minutes.

**Drinks and Snacks:**

1. 🡪Athletes, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person’s name.
2. 🡪Individuals should take their own drink containers home each night for cleaning and sanitation or use single-use bottles.
3. 🡪There should be no use of shared or team beverages.
4. 🡪 Teams should not share any snacks or food. Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food, if needed.

**Dugouts:**

1. 🡪 Managers/coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout so that they are at least six feet apart, when six feet is not possible then a face covering should be worn.
2. 🡪 Players are to stay at their assigned spots while waiting their turn to bat.

**Player Equipment:**

1. 🡪 Players should have their own individual batter’s helmet, glove, bat, and catcher’s equipment when possible.
2. 🡪 Some critical equipment(catchers equipment, helmet, bat) may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player.

**Baseballs:**

1. 🡪 Baseballs should be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit individual contact.
2. 🡪 Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls where possible.

**Spitting, Sunflower Seeds, Gum, etc.:**

1. 🡪 Sunflower seeds, gum, etc., should not be allowed in dugouts, on the playing field or at any EGC complex.
2. 🡪 All players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.

**3. Spectator Guidance**

**Limiting Spectator Attendance:**

1. 🡪 All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; wear a cloth face covering at all times when social distancing is not possible and avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches during play.
2. 🡪 Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs.
	1. **🡪 A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:**
	2. Active COVID-19 infection
	3. Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
	4. Fever
	5. Cough
	6. Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing.

**4. Complex Guidance**

**Public Restrooms:**

1. 🡪 Access to public restrooms will be limited. We will ONLY be supplying port-a-potties this season.
2. 🡪 A “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time, will be implemented to ensure adequate distancing in the confined restroom space.
3. 🡪 Prior to and after any league activity, restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Restrooms will be disinfected on a regular basis.

**Concession Stands:**

1. 🡪 Will be open for sales this season. Concession stand will be limited to board members and workers ONLY. All workers will be required to wear a face covering and we ask all patrons to please wear a face covering when in the area of the concession stand for the safety of our workers and those around you.
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