1. **[Little League 2020 Season Resumption Guide](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/)**

We understand that many of our districts, leagues, volunteers, parents, and players want to get back to the Little League® field, and so do we, but our primary focus is on the safety and well-being of all of our members around the world.

Little League International will continue to monitor the progression of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak both in the United States and around the world and provide updates to its local leagues and districts, however, it is **highly encouraged that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to normal activities.** **Leagues should contact their local health authority for guidance prior to resuming any Little League activities.**

In the event that your league and/or community experiences a COVID-19 outbreak and/or is connected to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis of one of your participants, visit [LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/) for additional information.

1. [**Prepare**](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/prepare/) **Pre-Start Checklist**

As your league prepares for a resumption of activities, we strongly encourage you to follow the important guidance outlined here:

* Determine the start date for practices and games according to the guidance above. Because every community is facing different circumstances, Little League International strongly encourages leagues to contact their local/municipal/county health department to receive the most appropriate recommendation for your specific league. If your league plans to postpone or cancel your offerings for the 2020 season, please contact [SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org](mailto:SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org).
  + Little League International strongly recommends at least two weeks of practice and warm-ups before game play begins.
* Contact board members, volunteers, and managers to confirm if anyone is unable to continue in their position for the rest of the planned season.
* Discuss and prepare guidelines that may need to be implemented to protect against the spread of COVID-19, including on-field activities (e.g. refraining from handshakes), interleague travel, etc. **Little League International strongly encourages leagues to follow the guidelines of your local/municipal/county health department regarding these matters.**
* Confirm field availability for the rest of the season and, potentially, for an extended season (through June/July/August).
  + If fields are unavailable because of local municipality health/social distancing/gathering restrictions, your league should not resume Little League activities in any way until told it is safe to do so by your local/municipal/county health department.
* Discuss and determine if the delayed season now conflicts with other sports and/or non-Little League programs in terms of family, volunteer, and facility obligations.
* Develop and share your league’s refund policy for families and sponsors that are unable to participate for the rest of the year.
  + Please review the [Financial Guide at LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/financial-guide/) for more information
* Update player registration on the Data Center to add new players. Leagues utilizing Sports Connect to manage their player registrations will have their registration information uploaded to the Data Center automatically.
* If you haven’t done so, complete your ASAP Safety Plan and submit it through the Data Center. Visit [LittleLeague.org/ASAP](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/asap/) for up-to-date ASAP guidelines.
* Determine if rebalancing teams will be required based on any new registrants or anyone unable to participate.
  + Remember, it’s important to [verify the eligibility of all players based on their residency and/or school enrollment (LittleLeague.org/ResidencyFAQ)](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/faqs-residency-school-attendance-eligibility/). If there are players who are looking to participate in your league that are not eligible based on residence and/or school enrollment, please contact [Little League Support (LittleLeague.org/Support)](https://apps.littleleague.org/dc/support) for guidance on how to provide those opportunities.
    - If after review, a player has registered for your league that does not qualify by residency or school enrollment, your league should:
  + Contact the players’ parents or legal guardian and inform them that they do not qualify for your league.
  + Direct the parent or legal guardian to the appropriate league using the [League Finder tool](https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/).
  + If a player does not qualify to participate in any Little League program, or their home league is not providing opportunities to play, contact [Little League Support (LittleLeague.org/Support)](https://apps.littleleague.org/dc/support) to discuss potential options for participation.
    - [*Approved Ruling for the 2020 season*](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/play/resuming-play/regulations-rules-waivers/): Players will be permitted to register and be eligible for selection to a team, in any other league in the District, if their home league has concluded all team activity for the 2020 spring season; however, players must return to their home league effective 1/1/2021.  
       Due to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the Coronavirus pandemic, Little League will waive the Residency/School Attendance Eligibility requirement for the 2020 Regular Season only. Each local league will have the option to accept any player, whose home league has canceled the 2020 season, into their league for regular season only, regardless of whether the player lives or attends school within the approved geographic boundary. A league must provide a list of out of boundary players.

Leagues opting to accept players that do not meet Residency or School Attendance Eligibility requirements, must adhere to the following conditions:

* + - * Leagues must provide a list of out of boundary players that were permitted to participate for 2020 through a process administered by their respective District Administrator.
      * Must communicate to parents that participation in the league is permitted for the 2020 regular season only.
* Confirm that all existing and new volunteers have completed the required background screening process. For complete information on our Background Check process and requirements, visit [LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/local-league-background-check-information/).
  + We would encourage any league with volunteer needs to actively reach out to its membership using this templated message:

With the 2020 season set to resume, we need your help! {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} has immediate needs for volunteers to assist in the following capacities:

{List opportunities and details here}

If interested, please contact {insert contact} for more information. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you at the fields!

* Ensure that any waivers are prepared and approved by the Little League International Charter Committee before the start of game play.
* Communicate your full season resumption plan to families, volunteers, and sponsors via email, website, social media, and utilize local news outlets to help spread the word.

1. **Prepare Getting Ready to Play**

There are many factors that may impact the playing opportunities that your league is able to provide. Based on the [Pre-Start Checklist](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/prepare/pre-start-checklist/), your league should determine if you can modify your regular season game schedule for all divisions of play based on your start dates and ample practice time, or if you need to adjust your league’s offerings based on the timing, player availability, facilities, and/or financial limitations.

This is an opportunity to focus on fun and inclusiveness, providing a playing situation that is welcoming for all who are able to participate.

**TEAM ADJUSTMENTS**

As play resumes in 2020, most leagues will need to make some adjustments to their teams due to players that are no longer available for the modified season schedule

As play resumes in 2020, most leagues will need to make some adjustments to their teams due to players that are no longer available for the modified season schedule. In determining what adjustments are needed, there are several steps that leagues should follow.

**Step 1: Determine Player Availability**

Based on the modified schedule and ongoing recommendations in each community, it is likely some players who signed up at the start of the season may no longer be available to participate. After your league sets start and end dates for the 2020 season, reach out to parents and legal guardians to:

* Communicate Schedule Updates
* Confirm Availability to Participate
* Provide guidance on season details – number of games, interleague play, non-regular season opportunities, tournament opportunities, etc. – and communicate with the following email template:

***We are excited to announce that we are planning to resume Little League activities on {insert date here}. In advance of this resumption, we wanted to reach out to confirm that your Little Leaguer(s) are interested in participating in the resumption of our season. Please confirm your participation via email to {enter email address} by {enter date}. Below are a few highlights for the upcoming resumption of our season.***

***The season will run from {enter start and end dates}.***

***We will strive to provide each team with at least {insert number} games.***

***We will participate in games against the following other leagues in our areas: {list leagues}.***

***The following additional opportunities will be available to interested participants: {list here}.***

**Step 2: Evaluate Updated Registration Numbers**

After availability of players has been confirmed, review the updated registration numbers to answer each of the following questions:

* Are there divisions where the number of teams need to be reduced?
* Are there any divisions that are no longer viable as originally planned due to a reduction in players?
* Are there any divisions where the age structure needs to be modified, while adhering to Little League International regulations, to facilitate offerings for 2020?

**Step 3: Adjust Divisions/Teams**

In divisions where the number of teams needs to be reduced, leagues should consider the following options:

* Redraft all players registered for the current season.
* Dissolve the team(s) with the fewest remaining players and redistribute those players amongst the other teams in the division.
* Reduce the number of players on each regular season team (e.g. reduce roster size from 12 to 10 players per team).

In some cases, it may be necessary to adjust the structure of a division to facilitate offerings in the 2020 season. Little League’s age structure provides flexibility in structuring all divisions of play. Sample adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

* Allowing 9- and 10-year-olds to participate in the Major Division for 2020.
* Realigning the Minor Division age structure to include broader age ranges.
* Combining Junior and Senior Divisions for 2020.
* Allowing players to participate in up to two Divisions (at the Major level and above) in which they are eligible to participate by league age.

**Step 4: Consider the 2021 Draft**

Team adjustments for 2020 may necessitate that leagues conduct a total redraft in all divisions of play for the 2021 season in order to establish parity as participation returns to normal levels. Communicate with parents regarding what to expect when registering with your league next season.

Once your league had determined its team numbers, you should contact [Little League Support (LittleLeague.org/Support)](https://apps.littleleague.org/dc/support) for appropriate assistance.

INTERLEAGUE PLAY AND COMBINED TEAMS

Review the updates that have been made to the Interleague Play and Combined Teams requirements **for the 2020 season only**.

The following updates have been made to the Interleague Play and Combined Teams requirements **for the 2020 season only**.

**Interleague Play**

* Interleague Play forms will not be required for games that take place between leagues within the same district. Forms will still be required for interleague play between leagues located in different districts.
* Prior to engaging in any interleague play, your league should consult state and local health officials for guidance regarding travel to and from both communities. Interleague play should only take place when it is safe to resume travel between communities.
* The June 1 deadline for submission of Interleague Play forms has been waived.
* Assess any of your divisions that are approved for interleague play with other leagues during the regular season:
  + Will the other league be restarted on or before your earliest start dates above?
  + If restart date is later, can you wait for the other leagues?
  + Send new team/field availability to District Staff.

If fields are unavailable, contract neighboring leagues and your District Administrator for help in finding venues to play regular season games.

**Combined Teams**

* Any number of leagues from within the same district will be permitted to combine to offer regular season opportunities.
* League population will not be considered as a part of **regular season** approval for the 2020 season; however, combinations involving more than 30 players will be subject to additional review prior to approval.
* Districts may login as leagues in the Data Center and submit Combined Teams applications on behalf of leagues within their district.
* The June 1 deadline for submission has been waived.
* Assess any of your divisions utilizing combined teams:
  + Will the other league be restarted on or before your earliest start dates above?
  + If restart date is later due to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events, can you wait for the other leagues?
  + Contact your District Staff if you have questions about previously approved Interleague Schedules or Combined Teams.

**Scheduling**

Sports Connect offers numerous online scheduling tools to assist leagues in altering and creating updated schedules for the 2020 season. Leagues are encouraged to evaluate schedule options that allow the season to be played throughout the summer and fall in a flexible fashion. For the 2020 season, the requirement that the regular season concludes by September 1 has been waived. For additional information on these resources, visit [http://support.sportsconnect.com](http://support.sportsconnect.com/).

**Reviewing Finances**

**ASSESSING SEASON CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

As the season postponement/delay has caused many leagues to assess their operating expenses and determine what monies may need to be allocated to vendors, sponsors, and player refunds, [the local league Board of Directors](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/roles-responsibilities-of-local-board-of-directors/) should create a detailed report of the league’s finances that can be shared with membership as needed. The [transparency of the league’s finances](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/local-little-league-financial-transparency-checklist/) will be paramount in explaining to the league’s membership [where the league stands financially](https://www.littleleague.org/financial-safety/) as it navigates this uncertain time.

Little League International has created an in-depth [Financial Guide](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/financial-guide/) to help leagues answer common questions to review finances.

**How to Navigate League Finances, Registration Refunds, Seasonal Operating Expenses, and Sponsors During the 2020 Delayed/Suspended Season**

As the season delay causes many leagues to assess their operating expenses and determine what monies may need to be allocated to vendors, sponsors, and player refunds, [the local league Board of Directors](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/roles-responsibilities-of-local-board-of-directors/) should create a detailed report of the league’s finances that can be shared with membership as needed. The [transparency of the league’s finances](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/local-little-league-financial-transparency-checklist/) will be paramount in explaining to the league’s membership [where the league stands financially](https://www.littleleague.org/financial-safety/) as it navigates this uncertain time.

**Revenues / Savings:**

Start by assessing your leagues operating revenues as part of the [annual financial plan](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/best-practices-for-your-leagues-finances/). This is simply making a list of all the [money collected for the year](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/understanding-your-leagues-finances/) by category (e.g. registration fees, sponsorships, donations, fundraising efforts, apparel sales, etc.).

**Registration Fees**

* Identify each individual and family that has paid registration fees. Use your online registration software to review invoices and balances for players that are registered. If your league does not use registration software and/or electronic booking tools, coordinate with your [Treasurer](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/9-principle-responsibilities-of-a-treasurer/) and appropriate Board Committees to reconcile the total amount of monies received from the current season’s registration fees. Account for each child in the league and note the adjustments of fees paid for families with multiple children in the league.
* Identify if any of the families have outstanding balances
* Look into any state or local laws regarding refunding registration fees
* Follow your league’s standard practices for [following up with families after registration](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/steps-to-take-after-registration/)
* ***Little League Recommendations: When considering a refund policy for registrants, the league should use the following questions to stimulate a discussion around refund decision-making:***
  + *How much of the season was completed or will be played this year?*
  + *Will we issue refunds for players who choose not to play once the season is resumed?*
  + *What expenses did we have for each player (e.g. uniform costs, equipment costs) that have been spent?*
  + *Should we refund parents?*
  + *Should we refund the full amount or partial?*
  + *Should we push registration payments into a future season?*
  + *What milestone dates should we set in assessing reimbursements?*
  + *What will issuing refunds do to our league’s annual budget?*
  + *Are there monies available to issue refunds to all registrants?*
  + *Who will be responsible for developing the league’s course of action?*
  + *How will reimbursement be managed by the league?*

**Local League Sponsors**

* Create a list of businesses that provided you [sponsorships](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/sponsorship-best-practices-for-local-leagues/) and any costs associated with those sponsorships (for example producing a banner for the outfield)?
* ***Little League Recommendation: Sponsors***
  + *Approach sponsors with the option of providing their fee as a straight donation to the league (without expecting anything in return; be prepared to share your financial assessment with them)*
  + *Consider prorating the sponsorship fee for the timeframe of the season that was implemented*
  + *If sponsors ask for returned fees, ask sponsors about extending their sponsorship for additional length of time (for example into the summer or into 2021)*

**Donations**

* Donations provided to your league are typically different from sponsorships in that the donor does not expect anything in return. You should assess your total donation amounts and plan to reach out to donors once your plan to resume the local league operations are set.
* ***Little League Recommendations: Donations***
  + *Once decisions are made about the season, reach out to your donors to explain the changes and outcomes. Provide an overview of where you are using their donations to support your league needs after the Coronavirus pandemic.*
  + *If donors specified their donation of money or in-kind goods and services to a specific initiative, take some time to discuss with them where their donation is best served and ensure they are comfortable with its use.*

**Fundraising Efforts**

* Many leagues undertake fundraising efforts each year in support of the [expected annual budget](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/local-league-creating-a-budget/). These range from the traditional candy or other food sales to the more complex apparel sales, discount cards for local businesses, and online fundraisers and [crowdfunding](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/position-policy-statements/crowdfunding/).
* ***Little League Recommendations: Fundraising Efforts***
  + *Whatever*[*fundraising efforts*](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/sponsorship-and-fundraising-manager-local-league-role/)*are being employed by the league, Little League recommends that you communicate back to your donors how the funds will be used to facilitate current or future league efforts.*
  + *If your league was just beginning*[*fundraising*](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/how-to-raise-funds-to-support-your-league/)*or would like to in the future help offset unforeseen expenses from the delayed season, Little League recommends providing a thorough overview of your leagues expenses and how the money raised will be used to offset these expenses. We also recommend that you evaluate fundraisers that assess limited fees or surcharges to ensure the league maintains a significant portion (90%+) of the funds raised.*
  + *Use electronic means to connect with and update your families, sponsors, and the general public of the status of the league’s fundraising efforts.*

**Grant Funds**

* Leagues and districts may have applied for and received grants from a variety of organizations. Grant funds are typically received with specific conditions including to support capital projects, growth initiatives, or facility improvements and typically require reports demonstrating progress and impact.
* ***Little League Recommendations: Grants***
  + *Little League recommends that you carefully review grant funding requirements and contact the grantor if the league has a need to use the grant funds for other league needs or expenses.*
  + *Leagues should discuss and summarize their unique financial situation and contact the grantor for discussion. Grantors may not permit such transferring of funds or may require further proof of such use for the intended project.*
  + *For leagues who have been awarded funds from Little League through the*[*Grow the Game Grants*](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/position-policy-statements/compensation-services-provided-local-league/)*, more information will be coming to you directly about how this delay impacts your reporting and projects.*

**Capital Fundraising**

* Leagues are often looking to create opportunities for [facility development and improvement](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/make-regular-equipment-facility-check-ups-a-year-round-endeavor-for-your-league-or-district/) and use capital fundraising over time to help sustain work towards these projects that may require a large investment. Donations raised for capital projects are typically reserved for those projects and not able to be utilized for league operating expenses.
* ***Little League Recommendation:***
  + *Leagues should carefully review the circumstances in which fundraising for specific projects was conducted. Before re-allocating to assist with other league expenses, review the terms of which the donations were accepted.*
  + *If donors are reachable, contact them to determine if the funds could be used for more urgent needs with each individual donor’s permission.*
  + *It’s important to be transparent with how much money was raised for capital projects. If the league plans to transfer a portion of those funds for league expenses, the Board of Directors should inform the league membership of the decision-making process.*

**Savings and Reserves**

* Does your league have any reserve funds in savings or other investments that could be utilized to offset any expenses that need to be paid?

**Expenses:**

**Expenses (Operating Expenses):** Make a list of the items your league spent money on or is committed to spending money on or those items ordered for the season. Verify such expenditures with your League Treasurer and involve the Audit Committee of the local league Board of Directors to verify expenditures, if available.

**Equipment:**

* With the timing of this delay, most leagues are in various stages of ordering and securing [equipment for the season](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/tips-purchasing-agent-best-practices-outfitting-league-equipment/). Determine what equipment the league ordered and what the league has received.
  + Equipment and supplies could include uniforms, bats, balls, helmets, tees, buckets, field-related heavy equipment (tractors, drags), lawn care (fertilizer, dirt, clay, etc.), and field-related maintenance equipment (rakes, shovels, etc.). Try to be as specific as possible with purchases and costs.
  + Determine which equipment is not needed immediately.
  + Determine if uniforms can be:
    - Reused at a future date (note: this may impact the calculation of refunds)
    - Re-ordered or order delayed when timing of the season is determined
    - Given to each participate regardless of season play
* ***Little League Recommendation:***
  + *Consider*[*paying vendors*](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/position-policy-statements/compensation-services-provided-local-league/)*first so the league does not become past due with invoices*
  + *Plan to store equipment that can be used at a later date*
  + *For any equipment that can’t be used at a later date, review any return/refund opportunities with your vendor*
  + *Consider delaying printing additional graphics on uniforms including sponsors or numbers; once the season decisions are made, continue printing as needed*
  + *Notify all vendors providing rental equipment or services about the delay to the season, make arrangement for when the season resumes*

**Concession Stand Expenses**

* With many concessions stand volunteers preparing or actively running stands when the season delay was imposed, there are many questions on how to handle expenses associated with these facilities.
  + Consider tallying expenses for food or equipment already purchased
  + Did you purchase food that will spoil? Estimate the cost of these items.
  + Most prepackaged food can be maintained for a period of time. Check expiration dates and determine how long food may last and the best way to store those items.
* ***Little League Recommendations:***
  + If league finances can afford it, consider donating food that may spoil to local schools, shelters, or food banks.
  + Determine if the food should be stored in an alternative location during the suspension period.

**Special Event Expenses (Opening Day rentals, preparations)**

* For many, the Little League season is about much more than just practicing and playing games. Community and neighborhood gatherings or special events enrich the Little League experience.
  + Review any contracts for vendors (rental companies, photographers, etc.) for these events. Look for a clause that states it’s able to be cancelled or postponed with limited to no penalty, and if there is any timing associated with those notices.
  + Do you have any other financial commitments for these events? If so, can they be delayed or cancelled?
* ***Little League Recommendations:***
  + If your league has an attorney or legal advisor, it may be a good idea to have that individual review your contracts in the event you need to navigate changes to a contract with a third-party.
  + Once both Little League and your local government restrictions have lifted, and it’s safe to gather again, consider holding a [special league community day similar to opening day festivities](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/make-your-opening-ceremonies-a-unique-and-memorable-event/) to bring the league membership back together. Create special fundraising activities and ways for the players to engage with each other.

**Additional League Operating Expenses (Municipal Fees, Township Expenses or Leases, Technology-Related Expenses, Third-Party Vendors, etc.):**

* In addition to everything else, there are other regular expenses that come with operating your league, which could include facility rentals/leases, website/online scoring/online registration agreements, or third-party service agreements. Calculate these additional fees, which are tied to contracts or service agreements, and which have financial guarantees that the league is responsible.
* Have you made payments on these expenses? If so, and the services/facilities are not being used, are there any options to recover any of that money?
* If you have questions or need to discuss your [Musco Lighting system](https://www.musco.com/), please contact Rhonda Long: [Rhonda.long@musco.com;](mailto:Rhonda.long@musco.com)800-825-6020.
* Have these fields been officially “closed” by your municipality? If so, how does that impact your league financially?
* ***Little League Recommendations:***
  + Have a conversation with these third parties, whether they’re a private entity or municipality, about how the Coronavirus pandemic is impacting their business and how that influences your agreement. Start having conversations about amending any terms to account for the delay/suspended season and potentially having Little League play extend through the summer may impact your existing arrangements.

**Little League International Expenses**

* Little League International operating expenses for charter and affiliation fees are a minimal expense per year ($10 per team). If leagues choose to purchase their insurance through the [AIG Insurance Program for Little League](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/frequently-asked-insurance-questions/), these premiums need to be paid in full in order for the insurance policy to be effective.
  + **Charter and Affiliation Fees**
    - To assist the local Little League programs as they continue to assess their local operations for the 2020 season, Little League International will be crediting all chartered programs with the affiliation fees paid for their chartered teams in 2020. By May 11, these funds will be credited through Little League’s Data Center based on the number of teams they have chartered for the 2020 season, and will be available for local leagues to use on current balances, future affiliation and insurance fees, tournament enrollment, and other Little League-related expenses. Leagues who have pending chartering fees on their account, but have not had paid those fees yet, will have those fees reduced for the 2020 season. It is important to note that these credited fees only apply to a league’s per-team chartering fees, and not other fees associated with chartering, which include any insurance purchased through the AIG Insurance Program for Little League.
  + **AIG Insurance Program for Little League**
    - AIG league insurance is in effect for the calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31). if applied for and paid in full prior to or by January 1.
    - As certain states and municipalities begin their phased approaches to reopening, it is highly encouraged that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their respective state and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings, organized youth sports, and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to Little League activities after May 11. Leagues should contact their state and local health authority and other municipalities for guidance prior to resuming any Little League activities.
    - At the current time, Little League has requested that AIG, provider of insurance for Little League programs, provide insurance refund options for local leagues for the 2020 season. To date, AIG has not determined what refund options will be available nor have they provided a timetable for when leagues may be able to evaluate a refund option. As we anticipate information from AIG on refund options in the coming weeks, we encourage leagues to review the information on insurance refunds and/or reimbursements, including how cancelling insurance may impact your league’s charter and operate, visit the [COVID-19 Insurance FAQs](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/insurance-faqs/).
* Leagues may have ordered patches for their uniforms. Since leagues may reuse patches in future years for regular season or [tournament](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/international-tournament-finances-league-officials-need-know/), we recommend keeping patches on hand to be used in future years. For the 2020 season, conventional uniforms that do not match nor meet patch requirements may be worn. We’d encourage you to [review additional approved rulings and modifications to Little League Rules and Regulations for the 2020 season](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/play/resuming-play/regulations-rules-waivers/).

**Sharing Information and Marketing Your League**

As play gets set to resume for this season, we know that there will be players who choose not to participate based on a lack of availability during the timeframe of the revised season, concerns over resuming activities, and a number of other reasons. To effectively market your league’s resumption, consider taking the following steps:

* Communicate regular updates on your resumption plan via your website, social media, and your local media outlets. Utilize your league’s email list and the templates included in this guide to communicate regular updates to parents and volunteers.
* Consider holding a supplemental registration to attract new participants looking for activities in your community. These registrants can help fill spots of players who withdrew from the league and provide an opportunity to grow in future seasons.
* Promote the resumption of your season via social media, the league’s website, and your local media outlets once play resumes.
* Maintain a list of players that withdraw from the league this season and create a plan to reach out to them to invite them back for the 2021 season.

**End Prepare and Warming U**

[](https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/play/)

Little League® International recommends all leagues implement a two-week training period prior to beginning any formal game play. This will allow all players to ramp up their baseball/softball activity without rushing to get back to action. As leagues plan this two-week period, some best practices include:

* Week one should consist of at least two practices over the course of the week.
* Look at conducting open practices as frequently as possible. These practices can be for all participants and run by the league, focusing on different skills, such as throwing/fielding, hitting/baserunning, fly balls, etc. Open practices must be set up by division and may not include players from multiple divisions of play.
* During week two, it’s encouraged to weave in scrimmages or exhibition games with some of these best practices:
  + Have a one-hour and 30-minute (1:30) time limit.
  + Focus on education and fundamentals.
  + Game play can be stopped after a play to instruct players on how to properly make the same play. Reset the playing field the same way as it was prior to the play. This educational situation will allow participants to gain the understanding of what to do in that situation.
  + Rotate players through different positions.

**Scheduling Practices**

* Once a local league knows how many teams they have, work to provide each team with the opportunity to hold two to three one-hour practices during the first week.
* If a league is unable to provide enough practice time slots, based off field availability, leagues can look to group teams together to practice.
* Limit practice time to an hour and a half long.
* Leagues can also conduct open practices on the weekends. Pair players of like ability from the same divisions. This will allow groups of players to learn skills and drills together. Practices shall be conducted by approved coaches from the league/division that have completed their required background checks and follow appropriate safety measures.

**Protecting Our Pitchers**

Little League® has always placed safety as a top priority, and we continually strive to provide children with safe and healthy baseball/softball opportunities. For more than a decade, the Little League program has been at the forefront of promoting arm safety for youth pitchers. Our pitching regulations must be followed throughout all play, and it’s important to give your baseball and softball pitchers the opportunity to properly warm-up and get their arms used to throwing again.

Additionally, we recommend that coaches implement calisthenics, stretches (active and static), and jogging for pitchers, as well as all players to loosen muscles, build endurance, and work back into the season in a safe and effective manner.

***Here is some guidance to help in getting your pitchers ready for the resumption of play.***

**Baseball**

* During week one, pitchers should throw to 1-35 pitches in a bullpen session. Pitchers throwing more than 21 pitches shall observe one day of rest. We recommend throwing 35 pitches on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
* Week two, we recommend pitchers throw no more than 35 pitches in their first exhibition game. Pitchers throwing more than 21 pitches shall observe one day of rest. Pitchers may throw up to 50 pitches in their second exhibition game if they have thrown in a previous exhibition game. If they have not thrown in a previous game, said pitcher may only throw up to 35 pitches. Pitchers throwing more than 35 pitches shall observe two days of rest.
* Little League recommends using as many pitchers as possible during exhibition games. This is a great time to work with and develop players who might not have otherwise had an opportunity to pitch.
* During the first week of game play, it is recommended that a pitcher not throw more than 65 pitches in a game. Pitchers throwing more than 51 pitches shall observe three days of rest.
* Week two of the regular season, regular pitching rules will apply as outlined in the rulebook.

**Softball**

If pitchers have not been throwing at home, coaches should ensure that pitchers start slow and gradually work up and into their workouts watching form and providing breaks when necessary. As always, pitchers may also go through the pitching motion without throwing a softball to loosen muscles and work on their pitching form and motion.

* During week one, pitchers should work through their normal warm-up (flips, K-drills, full arm circle, walk-throughs, long toss, full throwing, etc.), focusing on the basics and technique, starting slow, and building up. We recommend that any pitcher who throws (in total with warm-up) for approximately 30 minutes for Minors; 45 minutes for Majors; 60 minutes for Junior and Senior; observe a day of rest. Coaches should watch for signs of poor mechanics and fatigue and allow players to take a break or stop for the day when needed. We would suggest pitchers throw on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
* During week two, we recommend pitchers throw no more than 2-3 innings in Minors and Majors, or 4 innings in Junior and Senior, in their first exhibition games. Pitchers throwing more than those inning guidelines should observe a day of rest. We would suggest coaches permit pitchers to throw 2-4 innings for Minors, or 4-5 innings for Majors, Junior, and Senior in their subsequent exhibition games. As always, managers and coaches should watch for any breakdown in mechanics or fatigue in their pitchers and substitute when appropriate.
* Little League recommends using as many pitchers as possible during exhibition games. This is a great time to work with and develop players who might not otherwise have an opportunity to pitch.
* During the first week of games, it is recommended that a pitcher not throw more than 4 innings in a Minor game; or 5 innings in a Major, Junior, or Senior game; depending on inning length. While all regular season pitching rules apply, managers and coaches should watch their pitchers for signs of fatigue or poor mechanics to ensure pitcher safety and substitute when appropriate.

During week two, and depending on each pitcher’s progress and endurance, managers may permit pitchers to throw additional innings; however, managers should speak with players and player parents to have a good understanding of how each pitcher is feeling – mentally and physically.

Goal of Resuming Regular Season Play

The goal of resuming play is to provide as many opportunities for as many children in your community as possible. Every league will have their own unique circumstances with the availability of fields, players, umpires, and volunteers. It’s important to be flexible and strive to provide the most positive experience for all players and families, while also making sure that your league is following all local and state health authority guidelines for social distancing, organized activities, and large gatherings. Here are some best practices to keep in mind as you’re scheduling and playing your games:

* Set a one-hour and 45-minute (1:45) time limit to allow for multiple games to be played in a day.
* If you decide to play doubleheaders, leagues can schedule two doubleheaders a week for Major Division and above. Minor divisions can have one double header per week. Doubleheaders will have a three-hour time limit and consist of two, four-inning games. **If the second game of the doubleheader finishes prior to the three-hour time limit, teams may continue playing the game until the time limit is met.**
* Strive to schedule as many games as possible based on your availability and local situation.
* If your league doesn’t already, use a continuous batting order to provide additional at-bats for all players.
* Discuss using Little League’s [approved alternate methods of play](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/alternate-methods-of-play-for-regular-season-games/) and [Little League Sandlot Fun Days](https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/sandlot-fun-days/) to provide additional play opportunities.
* Leagues who continue or start Regular Season play into the Fall will have the ability to utilize the [2020 League Age Chart](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/the-league-age-determination-date-age-charts-decides-a-players-division/) for players in all divisions of play. If a Local League is operating a traditional TAD (Training and Development) Program or Fall Season, they will have the ability to use either the 2020 League Age Chart or the 2021 League Age Chart.

**Tournament Opportunities and Special Games**

It’s important to remember when planning **that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of travel, public gatherings, organized youth sports, and sporting events when determining when if it’s safe to organize a tournament.** **Leagues should contact their state and local health authority and other municipalities for guidance prior to resuming any scheduling these events.**

If it is safe and appropriate to hold tournaments or special games, these events may provide opportunities for those moving up to a different division next year or aging out of the Little League program.

While, there will not be Regional or World Series Tournaments in all divisions for the 2020 season. There can be tournament opportunities at the District, Section, and State levels as determined by the states’ district administrators, and if it is safe and appropriate. These tournaments will follow a more relaxed, local format for the 2020 season.

**Eligibility (League/Player)**

Due to these unprecedented times, the regulations surrounding eligibility of both leagues and players for District/State/Section Tournaments have been relaxed for this season. Leagues must be chartered with the appropriate insurance coverage within the division of play that they intend to participate in a tournament prior to the start of the tournament. Please consult the updated Rules and Regulations Waivers and Approved Rulings for the 2020 Season for more information.

**Tournament Calendar**

Because there will be no Region or World Series Tournaments, District, Section and State Tournament can be scheduled locally with much flexibility, when it’s safe and appropriate to hold these tournaments based on the guidance of state and local health authorities and other municipalities. This will allow for the a longer regular season.

**Affidavit**

There is no requirement to have an affidavit. Tournament Directors and organizers may utilize their own documentation if desired.

**Enrollment**

The enrollment process will not be managed by Little League International through the Data Center, as in the past. Instead, enrollments and fees will be managed locally by the tournament directors. District Administrators are encouraged to notify their appropriate Region Office if they will be holding tournaments.

**Mileage Reimbursement**

Because the enrollment fees are not collected by Little League International, there will not be any mileage reimbursement benefits from Little League International.

**Protests**

All protests will be handled locally with Region Office support.

**Special Games**

These events can be with regular season teams or with tournament teams selected from leagues using similar tournament selection processes from previous years. Frequently, districts operate Tournament of Champions tournaments that provides additional play opportunities to league champions and/or Invitational teams.

**Fees**

The fees for any tournament held under Regulation IX special games remain local with the tournament host.

**Enrollment**

There is no enrollment for these Special Games Tournaments through the Data Center. However, leagues should submit their Special Games applications to the appropriate Regional Office ([LittleLeague.org/Contact](https://www.littleleague.org/who-we-are/contact-us/)).

**Insurance**

Those hosting and participating in the special games event must have appropriate insurance coverage as required by Little League Regulations.

**Protests**

Unlike the International Tournament, all protests and concerns with the event rest with the local Tournament host or his /her local committee. Little League International is available for rule interpretation services, and you should contact your appropriate Regional Office ([LittleLeague.org/Contact](https://www.littleleague.org/who-we-are/contact-us/)) for guidance.

**Helpful Resources:**

* [LLU- Special Games](https://www.littleleague.org/s/special+games)
* [Benefit of Special Games](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/benefit-of-special-games/)
* [Special Games as Development Tool](https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/using-special-games-as-a-league-development-tool/)