

Temple City American Little League Safety Plan and Protocols Related to COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to pose a high risk to communities and requires all people to follow precautions and to modify operations and activities to reduce the risk of spread. To promote safety for league participants, Temple City American Little League has developed this plan and procedures in line with guidance and protocols issued by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health. As this guidance is updated, this plan will also be updated to align with any changes. Baseball has been classified as an outdoor moderate-contact sport and our league will follow the guidance related to this classification. Copies of this plan have been distributed to all participants and families of Temple City American Little League.

General Guidance

The best way to keep our players safe is for everyone to do their part on and off of the field.

We expect the players to follow the examples that they observe of adults. Please abide by the recommended health guidelines.

All Temple City American Little League players and their households are reminded to adhere to personal prevention actions including:

- Stay home when you are sick (even with symptoms of non COVID-19 sicknesses):
 - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, stay home until at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours after recovery, which means your fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications and there is improvement in your symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
 - If you tested positive for COVID-19 but never had any symptoms, you must stay home until:
 - 10 days after the date of the first positive test, but
 - if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you need to follow the instructions above.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands before meals, after using the restroom and after coughing and sneezing.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (not your hands).
- Do not touch your mouth, eyes, nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid sharing items such as phones or other devices. If devices must be shared be sure to wipe them down with a disinfectant wipe before and after sharing.
- Constantly observe your work distances in relation to other staff and participants. Always maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from others unless specific work assignments require less distancing and wear a face cloth covering when working near or with others.

Specific Guidance

- Signage will be placed around Live Oak Park to remind everyone of safety protocols.
- No players will be allowed to participate in any team activities unless they have a current medical release form turned in to the league.
- All team activities must take place outdoors.
- All managers, coaches, volunteers, family members, observers and visitors are required to wear an appropriate face mask that covers the nose and the mouth at all times. This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Masks with one-way valves must not be used.
- Masks should be washed or replaced daily.
- Any event that results in a line being formed should maintain a 6-foot distance between those in line.
- All players and volunteers participating in a practice or game must go through the screening process (presented below) before entering the field.
- No volunteer will be allowed to participate with the players until a volunteer application and background check have been approved by the league.
- Players should not share any equipment, except baseballs. If your player does not have their own equipment, check with our league's Board of Directors for options to supply personal equipment for the season. Shared baseballs will be sanitized constantly, and hand sanitation by players during team activities will be required.
- Players should bring enough water to last for the duration of the team activity. Players should not share beverages. If water fountains are functioning, they will only be used to refill water bottles.
- Only cleared volunteers for the team will be allowed near the practice areas or bleachers during games or practices. Failure of parents to comply with this will result in the player being removed from the game or practice and asked to leave for the day. Repeated violations will result in removal from the league.
- Observers must be limited to immediate household members, must wear masks at all times, must maintain a 6-foot physical distance from non-household members, and should refrain from shouting or any other activity that will increase the volume and spread of respiratory droplets.
- Restroom usage should be limited to 2 people at a time. Those waiting to use the restroom should maintain 6-foot distance while waiting.
- Restrooms will be disinfected frequently.

Practices

There will be designated drop off locations for each practice area. It is very important that players are dropped off and picked up on time. If a player does not arrive during the screening window of time, they will not be allowed to participate in that day's practice.

For our hardball divisions (Cal State, PCL, Major, Junior) adults who are not volunteering at practices are encouraged to drop off and pick up their players and not remain at the fields. This is to help reduce crowding and to help with necessary distancing.

Parents of players from our younger divisions (Machine Pitch and TBall) are encouraged to go through the volunteer approval process and help with their child during team activities. This is to help the younger players abide by mask wearing and distancing requirements.

Drop off procedures:

- Coaches/Volunteers will administer screening to each other prior to beginning drop off for players. After screening they will set up safety items for practice, including spraying any needed areas with sanitizer, preparing hand sanitizer stations, marking out distanced spaces and setting up the drop off area.
- Players/Volunteers should not come to practice if they feel sick.
- Parents will arrive in their cars at the designated drop off locations. **DO NOT SEND YOUR PLAYER TO A PRACTICE AREA WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE SCREENING PROCESS.** (If you arrive after the screening window of time, your player will not be allowed to practice that day.)
- Parents/players will be given screening questions by a team volunteer. Upon passing screening questions the volunteer will verify that the player has an appropriate mask and take their temperature. If a player does not pass the screening questions, have an appropriate mask, or pass the temperature check, they will be sent home. Further guidance of what to do next will be communicated to the parent.
- Once finished with the screening process, the player will be sent to their practice area. There will be marks sufficiently distanced for the players to put down their gear (bleachers will have tape, other areas will have cones). Volunteers are encouraged to use the opposite set of bleachers or side of the practice area used by the previous team.

During Practice:

- Volunteers should wear appropriate face masks at all times.
- As much as possible, coaches/volunteers are to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet between each other and players at all times.
- Players should wear masks and maintain a 6-foot distance from others during practices. (Masks may be removed temporarily while drinking.)
- Players should not share equipment.
- To limit exposure, managers are encouraged to develop practice plans that will keep players distanced.
- When possible, players should work in pairs during drills. Maintaining the same pair throughout the practice is preferable.
- Care should be taken to limit the shared use of baseballs.
- Players will be required to utilize the hand sanitizer stands frequently during practices.
- Baseballs will be sprayed with disinfectant after use.

After Practice:

- Practices need to conclude on time and parents need to be ready to pick up players immediately at the conclusion of practice. Players should not stay at the park after their practice. There will be a 15-minute window between practice times. This is to avoid teams mixing with each other.

- After players are released to their parents, volunteers will disinfect any items necessary and have the safety equipment ready for the next team. The final practice of the day will return the equipment for storage.

Games

Based on transmission rates and what tier L.A. County is in, an informed consent form may be required for players to participate in games. Informed consent forms will be distributed by the league.

- If required, no player will be allowed to play in a game without an informed consent form.
- Teams will only play one game per day (No double-headers or tournaments).
- Games will only be played with other teams from Los Angeles County.
- Only cleared volunteers for the team will be allowed near the bleachers during games. Failure of parents to comply with this will result in the player being removed from the game and asked to leave for the day. Repeated violations will result in removal from the league.
- Observers must be limited to immediate household members, must wear masks at all times, must maintain a 6-foot physical distance from non-household members. Observation areas past the outfield fence will be marked.
- Observers should refrain from shouting or any other activity that will increase the volume and spread of respiratory droplets.
- To help reduce crowding, our league is planning to provide streaming of games and scores to enable virtual viewing. Those not from a player's immediate household are encouraged to utilize virtual viewing.

Drop off procedures:

- Drop off procedures will be like those listed for practices above. Players will be directed to the bleachers that their team will use for the game. Bleachers will be disinfected before use.

Gameplay:

- Coaches, volunteers, and umpires will wear masks and maintain 6-foot distance from everyone while at the field.
- Unnecessary physical contact (high-fives, handshakes, fist bumps, chest bumps, etc.) are not allowed.
- Players should not share equipment.
- Players should not share beverages.
- Dugouts will not be used.
- When not on the field, players will sit in the bleachers in spots marked with sufficient distance between them. Their gear bags will also remain there.
- Players will wear masks while in the bleachers.
- Hand sanitizer stands will be placed at the entrance to the field from the bleachers. Players must use the hand sanitizer when passing the stand.
- Each team will provide their own baseballs while on defense.
- Baseballs will be disinfected between innings.

After Games:

- Players and parents should leave the field immediately after finishing the game.
- No team snacks should be provided.
- Volunteers will disinfect and sanitize the bleachers, baseballs and any equipment used.

Case Reporting

In the event that a player or volunteer tests positive or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the league will follow the recommendations of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

- Upon being informed that one or more player or volunteer of a team test positive for COVID-19, the members of the team and volunteers will be informed that they may have been exposed.
- The team's practices will be shut down.
- Team members will be advised to isolate themselves at home.
- It will be recommended that everyone be tested for COVID-19 to help determine if there have been any additional exposures.