

Prospect Little League COVID-19 Safety Guide



April 1, 2021

I. Overview:

Sports, sport clubs and complexes, gyms, fitness centers, and pools can open in Phase 2. However, the field can operate at full capacity as long as social distancing can be maintained. Prospect Little League is committed to following all CDC, State of Connecticut, and Chesprocott guidelines in order to provide a safe and fun environment for ball players.

While these rules provide a way for youth sports to reopen in as safe a manner as possible, risks to players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers cannot be fully mitigated. Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers who wish to participate or watch during this time should be aware of potential risks. Individuals over the age of sixty-five (65) or with other health conditions who are not fully vaccinated should not participate in, coach, volunteer at, or watch Prospect Little League events. If you fall into a more vulnerable population and are not fully vaccinated, please stay home and stay safe.

Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers are urged to stay vigilant and pay attention as to whether, we as a league, are faithfully implementing these rules. If there is a concern over safety or the adherence to these rules, please notify a League official immediately.

II. Certification:

Prospect Little League has completed the self-certification process and has received a Reopen CT badge.



III. Signage:

Prospect Little League will post clear signage that reinforces these rules. Signage will include, but may not be limited to:

- a. Social distancing protocols and markers.
- b. Cleaning and disinfection protocols.
- c. Personal protection protocols.
- d. Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers shall stay home if they are quarantined, sick, or experiencing symptoms.

IV. Baseball Specific Rules:

Baseball is considered to be a “moderate risk” sport because baseball involves close or sustained contact or intermittent close contact.

a. Screening:

Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers shall conduct daily symptom assessments. This is a self-evaluation. Symptoms to be aware of include, but are not limited to:

1. Fever or chills;
2. Cough;
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
4. Fatigue;
5. Muscle or body aches;
6. Headache;
7. New loss of taste or smell;
8. Sore throat;
9. Congestion or runny nose;
10. Nausea or vomiting;
11. Diarrhea;

12. Trouble breathing;
13. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest;
14. New confusion;
15. Inability to wake or stay awake; or
16. Bluish lips or face.

Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers shall stay home if they are quarantined, sick, or experiencing symptoms.

It is the responsibility of team managers to ensure players are properly screened. The following questions will be asked at the start of each and every practice, game, or other league related event.

1. Have you been exposed to anyone diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past two weeks?
2. Have you been exposed to anyone with Covid-19 like symptoms in the past two weeks?
3. Have you experienced any Covid-19 symptoms in the past two weeks?
4. Have you had a fever in the past two weeks?

A positive, or “yes” answer will result in the player immediately being separated from other team members and sent home. The player will not be allowed to return or to participate in any league events until medical clearance from a medical professional is delivered to the league Safety Officer.

b. Equipment:

Players will be required to bring their own equipment. The sharing of any equipment among players will be strictly prohibited. Players must bring their own gloves, helmets, and bats.

The use of personal catcher’s gear is encouraged; however, the league will provide individual sets of catcher’s gear to players assigned to that position. The player will keep the gear for the season and will be responsible for its care and sanitization. In the event catcher’s gear needs to be shared by players, it will be thoroughly sanitized between each use.

c. Hydration:

Players must bring their own water bottles. The use of team water coolers or shared water bottles will be strictly prohibited.

d. Dugouts:

Dugout will not be used, except during bad weather when games are delayed. Players will be required to bring their own camp style chairs or sit on the ground along the outside of the fence line, a minimum of six (6) feet apart.

In the event of bad weather and players and coaches must enter the dugout, masks or cloth face coverings shall be worn by anyone in the dugout if the required six foot spacing cannot be maintained.

Dugouts, however, may be used to store equipment and water bottles, and may be used by the next two on deck batters, provided the required six foot separation is maintained. One coach or adult volunteer may sit in the dugout to prepare “the book” as long as a six foot separation can be maintained by everyone in the dugout.

If the required six foot separation cannot be maintained at any time, for any reason, masks or cloth face coverings are required to be worn by anyone within six feet of another person.

e. Game Balls:

Game balls will be disinfected before and after every clinic, practice, and game.

f. Practice:

Coaches should keep players in small groups at practice to allow for physical distancing.

Practices will be scheduled with at least a fifteen-minute buffer in between to allow time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces.

g. Games:

Games will be scheduled with at least a thirty-minute buffer in between to allow time to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces.

Games will be confined to a strict one hour and forty-five-minute (1:45) time frame. Games may end in a tie if time expires.

h. Huddles and Sportsmanship:

Tight huddles will not be allowed. Any team meetings, before or after practice or games, must follow the required six foot separation.

Aftergame sportsmanship will be touchless. There will be no handshakes, hand slaps, or fist bumps. Though, teams will still line up and show good sportsmanship to each other after each game with a wave and the phrase “good game.”

V. Parent Seating Areas:

Parents and other spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Bleachers will not be provided. Parents and spectators must follow the required six foot separation when watching practices or games.

Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers shall not congregate in common areas unless the required six foot separation can be maintained. If for some reason the required six foot separation cannot be maintained, masks or cloth facial coverings will be required.

VI. Concession Stand (Snack Shack):

The snack shack will be open when volunteers are available.

Volunteers will be required to wear masks or cloth face coverings and disposable gloves while in the snack shack.

Customers waiting in line must maintain the required six foot separation at all times.

VII. Handwashing:

Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers are encouraged to wash their hands frequently before and after participating in, volunteering, or watching a league event.

Hands should be washed using soap and water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds.

Hand sanitizer will be provided in the dugouts or on team benches, at the snack shack, and in each portable toilet. Frequent use is encouraged if frequent hand washing is impractical.

VIII. Portable Toilets:

Portable toilets are provided and maintained by Maslar’s Pottys. Portable toilets are cleaned using industry standard methods and frequency that follow the Re-Open Connecticut and CDC guidelines.

IX. Conclusion:

While these rules provide a way for youth sports to reopen in as safe a manner as possible, risks to players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers are still present and create a real danger of exposure to Covid-19. Players, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators, and volunteers who wish to participate or watch during this time should be aware of all the potential risks. Individuals over the age of sixty-five (65) or with other health conditions who are not fully vaccinated should not participate in, coach, volunteer at, or watch Prospect Little League events. If you fall into a more vulnerable population and are not fully vaccinated, please stay home and stay safe.

Participating in, coaching, volunteering at, or attending Prospect Little League events is a strictly voluntary choice you, as a player, coach, umpire, parent or spectator, or volunteer, must make. There is no obligation to participate, therefore, Prospect Little League accepts no liability if you are exposed to Covid-19. Participating is a choice, you, and you alone must make after weighing the benefits and the risks.

If have any questions or concerns, please contact the league Safety Officer at jaypugliese37@gmail.com.