



**Joe Schwartz Little League
P.O. Box 60196
Worcester, MA 01606-0196**

2021 COVID Baseball/Softball Guidelines

Schwartz Baseball, Inc., also known as Joe Schwartz Little League (“JSLL”), has issued these guidelines in accordance with guidance and direction from Little League International, Inc., U.S. Center for Disease Control, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Worcester.

I. LIABILITY WAIVER:

- Before engaging in an initial JSLL practice, game or any other JSLL-sanctioned activity (“JSLL Activity”), all players are required to submit a completed *liability waiver form* (“Liability Waiver”), the form of which is attached as Attachment 1, signed by his or her parent or legal guardian. Failure to submit the Liability Waiver shall be cause for refusing a player the opportunity to participate in practice or any Little League.

II. PRE-ARRIVAL:

- Parents and guardians should measure the body temperature of the player in their charge and all adult individuals should measure their body temperature to ensure that no fever is present prior to participating or attending each JSLL Activity. Temperature measurement must be medication free, i.e., no ibuprofen or acetaminophen.
- Players and coaches are prohibited from participating in games and volunteers and spectators should not attend any JSLL Activity if they:
 - Tested positive for the COVID-19 virus until medically cleared to return
 - In the last 14 days:
 - *Been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19*
 - *Have a fever*

- *Are experiencing respiratory symptoms or a cough not associated with an existing health condition*

III. ARRIVAL:

- If there is a JSLL Activity prior to your event, spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their JSLL Activity to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- Players/families/spectators are asked not to show up to the game fields more than 30 minutes before the designated JSLL Activity time. With respect to games, teams waiting to play their game are advised to conduct their pre-game activities on a separate adjacent field in compliance with all safety guidance.
- Players should place their equipment bags/personal belongings in a designated area, no closer than six feet (6') from each other. This area will be clearly marked at each facility for players to identify six feet.
- All players should have a PPE face covering and all necessary baseball equipment (bat, glove, helmet, catcher's equipment (if applicable)). No sharing of equipment will be allowed. If a family has a financial hardship and cannot purchase their own, please reach out to JSLL as limited financial assistance may be available.
- Players and coaches should provide their own individual clearly marked water/drink containers. Disposable water/drink bottles are not allowed as there will not be trash receptacles for disposal of empty bottles. No sharing of drinks will be allowed. These items should remain in equipment bags/backpacks until used and then returned immediately to bags/backpacks. Coaches, players and spectators must keep and dispose of their own trash at home. Trash cannot be disposed of at the fields

IV. FIELD PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE

- All equipment used to rake the field, line the field, etc. must be wiped down with disinfecting wipes (attention paid to the touch points).

V. ON FIELD DURING GAMES & OTHER JSLL ACTIVITIES:

- Only players, coaches, umpires, and league officials will be allowed on the field.
- Players and coaches need to maintain six feet (6') of social distancing and avoid physical contact whenever possible.
- Use of dugouts will not be permitted during games. Players will be required to bring a lawn chair or something else to sit on along the fence line of the game field.
- Manager/coaches must wear cloth face covering when on the field.
- Except with respect to players with a documented medical condition or disability that makes them unable to wear a face covering, players are required to wear face coverings at all times, including (a) on the field of play; (b) while at bat; (c) on the

fence line while not on the athletic field; and (c) on athletic field grounds. Participants should take frequent facial covering breaks when they are out of proximity to other players, using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ties or ear loops to remove and replace.

- There must be no shared equipment such as bats, helmets, catchers gear, etc. Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment in an emergency, 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. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- Individuals disinfecting equipment are encouraged to use gloves while using disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's directions for use. All disinfectants should be stored properly, in a safe area, out of reach of children.
- Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by the fielding team/coaches. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- Coaches should limit their touching of a player's bat, glove, helmet, etc. Coaches must use hand sanitizer if they touch a player's bat, glove, helmet, etc.
- Players should bring their own hand sanitizer in an amount suitable for multiple applications during a JSLL Activity. No sharing of hand sanitizer will be allowed. League official will have back-up sanitizer available for players who might run out or need additional amounts.
- Spitting or the use/consumption of sunflower seeds or gum will not be allowed.
- No handshakes, high-fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps or other celebratory contact will be allowed. Players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators should refrain from any contact and remain six feet (6') apart other than during essential contact necessary for the JSLL Activity.
- No recreational play or loitering is allowed prior to, or after JSLL Activities.

VI. PRE-GAME PLATE MEETINGS

- Social distancing of six feet between individuals should be implemented during all pre-game plate meetings between teams and umpires. All participants should wear a cloth face covering.
- Plate meetings should only consist of one manager from each team, and game umpires.

VII. UMPIRES

- Umpires should limit their contact with the ball, and catchers should retrieve foul balls and passed balls.

- Umpires will not be allowed to have extra baseballs on them, the coach from the team that is pitching will be required to throw in game balls if balls are lost out of play.
- Umpires should stand at least six feet (6') behind the pitcher's mound
- Umpires will be required to wear cloth face coverings.

VIII. PARENT/SPECTATOR POLICY:

- It is mandatory that **all spectators always wear facial coverings even if you are social distancing**.
- Only immediate family members are allowed to attend JSLL Activities. We encourage families to limit the number of spectators from your immediate family who attend JSLL Activities. "Immediate family members" are defined as parents, legal guardians, siblings and grandparents.
- JSLL reserves the right to limit the number of spectators at a JSLL Activity in the event the number of players, coaches and spectators at any JSLL Activity exceeds limitations that may be set by the City of Worcester or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as of the date of these guidelines or as may be updated from time to time.
- Spectators will cooperate with JSLL in the collection of name and contact information to allow for proper contact tracing. A parent or guardian for each player should provide their child's coach with a list of the immediate family members who may attend JSLL Activities during the season and update this list as needed over the course of the season.
- Use of the bleachers by spectators is discouraged as it makes the practice of proper social distancing difficult. The bleachers will be roped off to discourage use.
- Spectators are able to sit anywhere as long as they are practicing social distancing from others and ensure they are not within 6' of players or otherwise interfering with the orderly play of the game and JSLL operations.
- All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet (6') away from individuals outside their household; wear a cloth face covering; avoid direct hand or other contact with players and coaches during play.
- Spectators should refrain from approaching the players when they are "on the bench" during games or other JSLL Activities except where necessary and, when doing so, ensure face coverings are worn.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating or portable chairs.
- Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a JSLL Activity and should ensure the strictest adherence to guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:

- Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromised, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
- Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Those over 65
- Any coach, volunteer, player or spectator that is observed showing symptoms of COVID-19 as defined by the CDC will be asked to immediately leave the field. If any individual (player or coach) develops symptoms of COVID-19 during a JSLI Activity, he or she should promptly inform coaches, be removed from the JSLI Activity and instructed to return home. If the individual is a player and unable to immediately return home due to his or her parent or guardian not being present, the player's parent or guardian shall be contacted and the player safely and appropriately segregated from other participants and spectators.
- Failure by a spectator to abide by these guidelines may result in adverse actions, which may include such spectator being removed or prohibited from attending future JSLI Activities, removal any player affiliated with such spectator from attending JSLI Activities, or the overall cessation of JSLI Activities.

IX. GENERAL:

- Signage highlighting COVID-19 risks and social distancing norms to be prominently posted at the game facilities.
- Games for all divisions shall be subject to time limits. Unless an exception is approved by the Executive Committee, the following limits shall apply:
 - Instructional – 60 minutes.
 - All other divisions *except* D1 Baseball- 6 innings long, provided that no new inning can begin after 90 minutes.
 - D1 Baseball - 6 innings long, provided that no new inning can begin after 2 hours.
- JSLI Activities will be scheduled to minimize any crossover traffic.
- JSLI Activities will be required to end promptly and coaches will encourage all participants and spectators to vacate the premises within 15 minutes after JSLI Activity has ended.
- Players and coaches must leave with everything they brought in, including any trash.
- Unless and until permitted under applicable guidance from the City of Worcester and adoption of appropriate COVID safety guidelines by the JSLI Board of Directors, all concession stands will remain closed during JSLI Activities.
- Bathrooms will be closed except in the case of emergencies. In the case of use, the bathroom will be cleaned (wiping down of all touch points) by the family of the player who used the bathroom immediately after use.

- All players, parents and coaches are urged to continue to use vigilant hygiene both before and after JSLL Activities.
- Parents are encouraged to disinfect all players' equipment at the conclusion of each JSLL Activity

THE APPLICABLE CITY OF WORCESTER GUIDANCE, AS IN EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF THESE GUIDELINES AND AS MAY BE AMENDED BY THE CITY OF WORCESTER FROM TIME TO TIME REGARDING THE USE OF CITY PARKS AND OPERATION OF ORGANIZED SPORT ACTIVITIES, ARE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THESE GUIDELINES. IN THE EVENT THE GUIDANCE IS OR BECOMES IN CONFLICT WITH THESE GUIDELINES AND ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE AND/OR PROTECTIVE, THE GUIDANCE FROM THE CITY OF WORCESTER SHALL CONTROL.

Attachment 1

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK & INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration for the below named player (“Player”) being permitted to participate in the Joe Schwartz Little League (a/k/a Schwartz Baseball, Inc.), on behalf of myself and the below named Player, **I HEREBY FULLY AND IRREVOCABLY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND FOREVER DISCHARGE** Little League Baseball Incorporated, Joe Schwartz Little League (a/k/a Schwartz Baseball, Inc.) (LL #2210415) and the City of Worcester, including their respective officers, directors, agents, representatives, employees, volunteers and advertisers (the “Releasees”), of and from any and all actions, causes of action, suits, damages, judgments, claims, and demands, either in law or equity, arising from any accident, injury, illness, death, or property damage, including if caused by the negligence of any of the Releasees, resulting from, or in any way connected with, the below named Player’s participation in Joe Schwartz Little League sponsored leagues, games, practices, programs and events.

I agree that if any claim for the below named Player’s personal injury, property damage, and/or wrongful death is commenced against Releasees, I shall defend, indemnify, and save harmless Releasees from any and all actions, causes of action, suits, damages, judgments, claims, and demands. I further agree to indemnify and hold the Releasees harmless against any and all claims, demands, damages, causes of action or judgments, of any person or entity, that may arise from the below named Player’s participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- I acknowledge and assume all risks inherent in baseball and baseball-related activities, and assume responsibility for all risks to the below named Player resulting from participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League.
- I acknowledge that participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League is voluntary and that I may withdraw the below named Player from participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League at any time.
- I confirm that the below named Player does not have any known medical conditions or disabilities which would be incompatible with the safe participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League.

COVID-19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- I acknowledge and assume the risk that the below named Player’s participation in the Joe Schwartz Little League, including contact with other players, coaches and officials, as well as the use of Joe Schwartz Little League facilities and equipment, will put the below named Player at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and potentially spreading COVID-19 to others.
- I acknowledge and agree the below named Player will follow COVID-19 related rules established by the Joe Schwartz Little League related to social distancing, face coverings, hand-washing, hygiene and other preventative measures, and may be removed from participation for failing to follow such rules.
- I acknowledge and agree that I will inform the Joe Schwartz Little League if the below named Player, or anyone with whom s/he shares living space, exhibits symptoms consistent with, or tests positive for, COVID-19 so the appropriate contact tracing may be performed.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS IMPORTANT LEGAL CONSEQUENCES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD GET APPROPRIATE LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE SIGNING IT.

Player’s Name (Print)

Age

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date Signed