



Ocean View Little League (OVLL) FY 2021 COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Rev 9.23.2021

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAFETY PLANS

- The Governor's office has publicly stated support for resuming organized baseball/softball.
- Goal of play through Covid-19 outbreak: provide opportunities for as many community children as possible.
- Families should decide what is best for them according to their own comfort levels.
 - Participation in league play is willful consent to abide by the outlined safety measures
 - Refusal to abide by outlined safety measures (*gross negligence*) jeopardizes community safety AND the entire league's ability to play baseball
- Well communicated return to play strategies/measures to **MINIMIZE** risk.

*****OVLL CANNOT PREVENT ALL SPREAD OF COVID-19, BUT CAN PUT INTO PLACE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD*****

RESOURCES

- CDC COVID19 Considerations for Youth Sports--
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- Little League Season Resumption Guide--
<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/>
- Little League Best Practices: Organizing, Playing, Watching Games (Jun 2020)
- VA Phases and guidelines for Rec Sports
- USA Baseball statement
- Virginia Department of Health-- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
- Norfolk Public Schools Guidelines-- <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/16697>

GENERAL SAFETY MEASURES

Our goal is to keep all Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Umpires, and any others Safe and Healthy while allowing the children to return to normality of their Baseball /Softball season. The following are the changes to procedures that OVLL and other surrounding Little Leagues have made in effort to promote safety at the ball fields. PARTICIPATION in this season is contingent on adherence to the following safety practices.

ANYONE WHO REFUSES TO ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **FIRST OFFENSE – WILL BE WARNED**
- **SECOND OFFENSE --REMOVAL FROM THE FIELDS IMMEDIATELY**
- **THIRD OFFENSE -- REMOVAL FROM THE FIELDS THEN LEAGUE FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON.**



- All players, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, and spectators are **RECOMMENDED** TO practice **social distancing** from individuals not residing within their household - 6' with mask, wherever possible.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as reasonably possible, ideally in 20 mins or less.
- Sanitizing solutions, wipes, or disinfectant sprays will be provided for each team with equipment and shall stay with such equipment and readily available at each practice and game.

NO UNNECESSARY CONTACT

- Handshakes/high fives, fist bumps, contact celebrations, or huddles.
- No “group” runs.

NO EQUIPMENT SHARING gloves, bats, batting gloves, helmets, catcher’s gear, etc.

- When possible, each player should bring their own equipment.
- If equipment is to be shared, there should be sanitation between use by different players.

NO FOOD/BEVERAGE SHARING

- Please label items w/ player’s name to easily identify.
- No chewing gum / sunflower seeds to be consumed /spit at the field by players, coaches or umpires.

USE SANITIZER OFTEN

- Strongly advised that all players have their own sanitizers to use at the field. In the case this is not available, there will be hand sanitizer and spray disinfectant at the field.
- The balls used will be sanitized daily at the completion of practice, and when deemed necessary.

TRAINING PLANS

- The updated plan will be emailed out to all OVLL site users, given to each coach and posted on FB.
- Any issues need to be reported to the Safety officer at safetyovllva@gmail.com and any other league official that may be present. All issues need to go through the safety officer.

OVLL HOME FIELD PLANS

- Children shall along the fence pass each the dugout. Players should bring foldable chairs to sit in and set up their bags/belongings on each fence post.
- All parents and spectators shall sit in the bleacher area closest to the plate. Because of the limited spacing, parents and spectators are **recommended** to wear a mask. Families that reside together may sit together. Families shall sit a minimum of 6ft between other families.
- Coaches to maintain a safe environment by sanitizing helmets and bats between batters when needed if players do not have individual helmets.
- Before a game, the umpire conference shall include one coach from each team, and the umpire and all parties are recommended to wear a mask .



- Umpiring shall take place from the pitcher's mound to allow social distance. **If umpiring from behind the plate, then the umpire MUST wear a mask.**
- Base coaches shall stay in the coaching box, and not come within 6ft of any players, parents, or coaches. **Highly recommend** wearing a mask but not mandatory.
- Team pre- or post-game meetings, players must be at least 6ft apart.

DAILY SCREENINGS

To be conducted by parents, coaches, volunteers before attending practice, games or any OVLL event. This screening shall include the following conditions (CDC guidelines):

- A fever of 100.4°F or higher
- A new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- Shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- Chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A change in senses of smell and/or taste
- A headache that cannot be attributed to another health condition.

PLAYER AND VOLUNTEER WELLNESS CHECK TO BE COMPLETED DAILY BEFORE PRACTICE/GAME AND ANY ISSUES REPORTED TO COACH OR SAFETY OFFICER.

*****The reporting is no longer available on the Team Manager App. The daily check still needs to be completed*****

If the player, coaches, or any other person attending an OVLL function answers yes any of the above questionnaire, then said person, or parents of said person shall:

- **Immediate report any symptoms from above list, or feeling ill or been in contact with someone suspected, known, or tested for COVID-19 to their Coach and/or Safety Officer (JD Kruse, safetyovllva@gmail.com, (419)322-2033.)**

COVID_19 POSITIVE PROTOCOLS-GUIDELINES AFTER A POSITIVE

- When a player is positive:
 - Parent must advise coach IMMEDIATELY, coach must notify JD Kruse, our Safety Officer (JD KRUSE, safetyovllva@gmail.com, (419) 322-2033).
 - Safety officer must notify the Covid-19 committee
 - The committee must review all facts in the case:
 - When was the player tested?
 - What symptoms does the player have?
 - When was the last time they were around the team?
 - Are there any other siblings who play at OVLL?
 - Is the player vaccinated or not?
 - The committee will discuss the details and decide the dates of return for the player, and the team in case of a negative covid test and players who will not get tested.



- Committee will then notify the player, coach and team of results, and return to play dates if necessary.

COVID-19 CASES LEAGUE EFFECTS

“CLOSE CONTACT” is defined as::

- being within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, with someone with confirmed COVID-19.

Below is a GENERAL LIST in how Covid-19 cases will be handled.

- When **player test positive** OR with **“CLOSE CONTACT”**:
 - Team is shut down to quarantine for 10 days
 - 5 days from exposure, players can take a Covid-19 test
 - Players testing neg after five days, to return to team earlier than 10 days
- When a player exposed to possible positive Covid-19 case, when a player has symptoms Covid-19 symptoms(listed above on daily pre-check) **OR** siblings to Covid-19 cases.
 - committee will review all facts including:
 - last time at practice
 - when the player tests positive
 - when the exposure
 - other dates and times.

******The committee will then issue an outcome for the player, team and others associated players/coaches surrounding the case. The Committee may have an outcome different than listed above. Above are the generalizations, and can vary due to case details.******

PRACTICE PLAN

- Player equipment must also be spread out: Player A’s bag must be feet from Player B’s bag. This should prevent being too close when it's time to get equipment or pack up. The chain-link metal fence poles surrounding the fields are roughly 6 feet apart.
- Keep things basic, then progress:
 - Throwing as outlined
 - Ground balls to each other
 - Field at assigned position - 1 per position
- **Limited** batter/catcher – batting practice can occur, with limited catcher. Pitchers can throw “bullpen” sessions and **limited** live batter **with catcher**.
- Teams can work on everything baseball that maintains the 6-foot rule.
- Parents/guardians attending practices should refrain from getting any foul balls; please allow the coaches and players to retrieve foul balls to limit contact.



GAME PLANS

- Every effort will be made to maintain 6 feet boundaries between players during all aspects of the game.
- (Minors and above) Dugouts and bullpens will be used at the managers' discretion, whether used for a pitcher/catcher duo OR the next 3 batters due up, capacity WILL NOT exceed 4 people.
- Players should sanitize their hands between innings.
- Bats may only be retrieved by coaches, managers, or the player owning it.
- Foul balls will be retrieved by coaches or players.
- At the end of the game both teams shall line up, along each respective baseline, 6ft apart, and do either hats off or wave to the other team as good game measures.

OTHER VISTIING BALLFIELDS PROCEDURES

- Follow all rules of the home field.
- IF you must go inside to access a bathroom (Azalea, Plaza, etc.) you are recommended to wear a mask inside these facilities.
- When another field has rules that are not as stringent as OVLL, Parents, Coaches, and Players will continue to follow OVLL COVID-19 protocols.
- When at Azalea and Fleet Park, teams will follow their guidelines , which include the social distancing between families and others, players spread out with dugout extending down the fence, and recommended mask wearing in bathroom/building.

ASK OF PARENTS

- Follow all COVID-19 rules and model for all children what proper behavior is.
- Go over these procedures with your child/children and ensure they understand.
- Spectators should be sitting by family at least 6ft apart preferably 10ft apart be by family.
- Answer the COVID-19 pre-screening questions before every practice, game, event
- Label your child's water bottle, to prevent cross contamination.
- Be supportive and flexible during these difficult times. OVLL has committed to keeping teams on the fields but as things evolve, evolve with us!

****This COVID-19 Action Plan was revised and voted on by board on 9/23/2021. Document was originally created in July 2020 and has been revised on 9.23.21. Revisions include lessons learned both benefits and opportunities from Fall 2020, improvements in efficiency and procedures, added information about "COVID Coach," specific OVLL field rules and OVLL as an entity. ***

President name: Crissy Dassow President's Signature: Crissy Dassow Date: 09/23/21

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