



## **Back to the Ballpark – Yarmouth Little League Safety Guidelines 2020**

Yarmouth Little League presents Back to the Ballpark Safety Guidelines. The safety guidelines are based upon the State of Maine COVID-19 prevention checklist for community sports, Little League International's best practices, and consultation with the Town of Yarmouth.

Our goal is to take all safety precautions possible while, at the same time, allowing our players to have a true baseball or softball experience. It must be emphasized that these are safety guidelines. Neither YLL or any other organization can promise or offer assurances against illness. It goes without saying that there is risk. YLL respects and appreciates that families will make different decisions about whether to play ball. All parents/guardians when registering a player must agree to a waiver where it is acknowledged that YLL and its board/volunteers will not be held responsible in case of illness.

YLL will do its best in enforcing these safety guidelines and asks parents and volunteers for their cooperation. YLL reserves the right to remove anyone from the fields complex who is not following the safety guidelines and to suspend or cancel the season if necessary.

### **General**

- Coaches, volunteers, players, and spectators must stay home if they are feeling ill or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed in each dugout on all three fields.
- Anyone coming to the fields are encouraged to also bring their own hand sanitizer and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Each team will be provided with disinfectant spray to be applied by coaches only.
- Concessions/snack shacks will be closed.
- Players are not allowed to bring gum, sunflower seeds, or other food to practice or games.
- No spitting.
- Players must have labeled water bottles which are not allowed to be shared.
- DeLorme Field announcer's booth will be closed.
- Coaches must keep a record of attendance at practice and games for contact tracing purposes.

### **Equipment**

- No sharing of equipment.
- Players who do not have their own bat or helmet will be issued both by the league for use this season.
- Equipment should be disinfected/sanitized after each practice and game.

### **Practice**

- Coaches to sanitize baseballs/softballs prior to practice.
- Coaches and players to maintain social distancing (six feet) at all times.
- Coaches and players are allowed to wear a mask but it is *not* recommended.
- Catcher will not take position behind the plate when there is a player in the batter's box.
- Baserunners will not slide into a base or home plate when there is a defensive player covering the base or home plate.
- Family members attending practice are not allowed within the fenced area and must maintain social distancing (six feet) at all times.

### **Game Operations**

- Coaches to disinfect dugouts 45 minutes prior to first pitch.
- Players arrive no earlier than 30 minutes prior to first pitch.

- Coaches and players to maintain social distancing (six feet) during pregame warm-ups.
- Teams will not gather in dugouts. Dugouts are reserved for coaches and the on-deck batter only who will maintain social distancing (six feet).
- The area from first base to behind home plate and to third base normally occupied by spectators is reserved for coaches and players only in order to maintain social distancing especially when they are at-bat. If additional space is needed this area may be extended towards each foul pole.
- Spectators may watch from first base to right field, third base to left field, and along the outfield while keeping social distancing. If additional space is needed for coaches and players, this area may be restricted to along the outfield.
- The home plate umpire will be positioned behind the pitcher.
- Each team will have their own set of game balls that coaches will disinfect prior to the game. A team will use their own game balls when they are in the field.
- After a ball is put in play (touched by someone other than the catcher and pitcher), a new ball will be put in play and the used ball sprayed with disinfectant by a coach to be used in the next inning.
- Players except for the pitcher may use a batting glove on their throwing hand.
- Players who come into close contact with another player (e.g. sliding into second base or home plate) must use hand sanitizer as soon as they are able without delaying the game.
- There will only be essential contact to play the game; no handshakes or team celebrations at home plate.
- No gatherings after the game except for team meetings in the outfield.
- One hour will be scheduled between games to minimize crowds and to allow dugout areas to be disinfected.