

# **Geddes Little League Return to Play Plan – June 2020**

## **Overview:**

The goal of this plan is to create as safe an environment as possible for players, coaches, families, volunteers and umpires while they are participating in or experiencing a baseball or softball event at Geddes Little League event. The following recommendations are made using resources from Little League International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These plans will be reviewed regularly to ensure that at all times, Geddes Little League will follow New York State and local guidelines and regulations regarding group gatherings and youth sports activities.

## **General Guidelines:**

- Families will be asked to take the temperature of all players before leaving home for practices or games
- Any participant with a temperature above 100F should stay home
- Any participant, fan or volunteer with symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to stay home with symptoms including but not limited to: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste.
- All players will be asked about these symptoms by coaching staff before commencing each GLL activity
- Individuals at risk of severe illness or with underlying medical and respiratory diseases should attend GLL activities only with specific permission from a medical professional
- Any participant or fan who has been at a GLL event and then becomes sick within two weeks should immediately notify the league
- Social Distancing (6 foot distance between people) will be expected whenever possible and when not possible an appropriate face covering will be required
- Hands should be washed frequently for at least 20 seconds or hand sanitizer used as frequently as practical and always after touching common surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, gate handles or latches.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all fields during all events in sufficient amounts to supply all players, coaches, volunteers and families. Players will also be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use
- No spitting, eating sunflower seeds or chewing gum will be allowed

## **On-Field Guidelines:**

- Players encouraged to present on-time but no more than 30 minutes before scheduled game/practice time
- Teams will not enter field until previous teams have completely vacated and commonly touched surfaces cleaned by previous event coaches
- No pre-game meeting at home plate with coaches and umpires
- New balls will be used every two innings
- Foul balls will be retrieved by players only not spectators or coaches. If touched by non-player, a coach will disinfect the ball before returning to play
- Measures must be taken to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This includes refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps or group celebrations
- No handshake line at the end of games. Instead players will line up outside dugout and tip hands toward the other team
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned by coaches after each event including dugouts, fences, gate latches, benches and bleachers
- Field must be vacated no later than 20 minutes after the end of each game

## **Equipment**

- Equipment is not to be shared between players
- If any player does not have individual equipment, team equipment will be used and then disinfected after each use
- Player bags will be placed outside the dugout a separate from each other
- Players will bring their own beverages and these drinks will not be shared
- New balls used/introduced every 2 innings

## **Dugout**

- When not on the field, players will be assigned spots outside the dugout each separated by 6 feet. These areas will be marked out and enforced by the coach in the dugout
- Plans are to not use the dugouts at all and in the event that one needs to be used then it will be sanitized after the game is completed by the coach.

## **Players**

- Will be encouraged by coaches at all times to maintain social distance amongst each other
- When social distancing not possible face covering will be worn
- Will be allowed to touch only their own equipment
- If using shared equipment will need to be sure it has been recently disinfected
- Bring, identify and touch only their own beverage
- Do not bring any food, gum or sunflower seeds to events

## **Coaches**

- Minimize numbers of coaches and assistants for games practices
- Maintain communication of expectations, plans and progress with parents
- Screen players with above-listed questions before starting each event

- Persistently monitor and remind players of social distancing precautions/procedures
- Disinfect multi-use items
- Clean/disinfect high touch surfaces before and after games/practices
- Minimize exchange of scorecards and pitch counters

### **Umpires**

- Will have face covering available for when social distancing is not possible
- Plate umpire will call balls and strikes from grass behind pitchers mound
- Field umpires will keep at least 6 feet distance from each other and players
- Will not touch baseballs
- Will not retrieve passballs or foulballs
- Equipment inspection will be visual only

### **Family Members/Fans Guidelines**

- Take players' temperatures before game
- Monitor for and report any signs of illness in participants
- Fans at games will be limited to household members or immediate family of players and no more than two fans per player
- Maintain social distance from all other attendees at all times
- Must watch games from car or own chairs along fences or down foul lines
- Maintain 6 feet distance between families and groups
- Ensure arrival no more than 30 minutes before scheduled start time and exit within 15 minutes of conclusion
- Players' equipment and bags should be cleaned after each event

### **Restroom Guidelines**

- Public restrooms will be locked during all GLL activities
- Key will be available from officer-of-the-day for EMERGENCIES ONLY
- If opened for any reason bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected after each use

### **Concession Stand**

- Currently closed
- Will remain closed unless deemed safe and appropriate by the department of Health
- If opened at any point, concessions will be limited to prepackaged, individual serving containers
- If opened, volunteers running stand will wear PPE at all times