

## **Woodinville Little League 2022 COVID-19 Return to Play**

Woodinville Little League (the **League**) seeks to provide a positive baseball and softball experience for players, families, and the community to help players learn the fundamentals and skills of the game, promote physical and mental health through an active lifestyle, sportsmanship and working as a part of a team toward collective goals. It also provides an important social experience to learn about respect of others, cultivate social skills and community building, and managing both success and disappointment through competition. The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly disruptive to all aspects of life in our community. The League aspires to navigate a safe return to our activities and events to help our young players maintain a safe environment for their physical, psychological, and social health, and assist the community in developing a safe return to activities in these challenging times.

The State of Washington classifies baseball and softball as “moderate contact sports” (Change to contact not risk) for the transmission of COVID-19 and has specific guidance for restart and recommendations for safely conducting these activities. For more information, please visit the [COVID-19 Sporting Activities, Fitness, and Training Guidance \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/COVID-19/Sporting-Activities-Fitness-and-Training-Guidance)

### **Woodinville Little League COVID-19 Safety Plans**

Returning to play in a safe and healthy way will be facilitated by our individual and collective cooperation and vigilance with COVID-19 mitigation strategies. We can all help reduce the spread of the disease by employing strategies understood to be best practices.

### **COVID Waiver:**

A responsible adult for each Player must sign and deliver the COVID-19 waiver/participant agreement before the Player may participate in any League Activity. (Should we change this to sign and consent during the registration process?)

### **Daily Screening Procedure:**

Each League team should appoint one volunteer to assume the role of the team Safety Assistant. This person should not be the Team manager. The team Safety Assistant should do the following:

1. Participate personally or through a delegate in all Team **Activities**, which means practices, workouts, games, chalk-talk meetings, and social gatherings.
2. Record attendance at each Activity to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
3. Perform a symptom screen of each participant before each Activity through option 1 or option 2.
  - a. (option1) in the form of an oral questionnaire reporting any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 24 hrs including OR not including a physical temperature check.
  - b. (option2) players complete a self-check for any symptoms of illness and complete a self-check log on TeamSnap app or Team Manager app.
4. Report to team Manager any symptoms revealed by the symptom screen or otherwise reported, any players sent home for illness or symptoms, and any safety issues observed that are not promptly resolved.

### **Stay home if sick or if close contact with someone with COVID-19**

**League Participants**, including athletes, coaches, umpires, spectators and any other volunteer or paid staff must stay away from all League Activities upon any of the following circumstances.

1. The League Participant tests positive for Covid-19;
2. The League Participant experiences Covid-19 symptoms;
3. The League Participant feels ill, without any Covid-19 symptoms;
4. The League Participant has been in close contact with a person who as tested positive for Covid-19; or
5. The League Participant has been in close contact with a person who has Covid-19 symptoms but has secured a negative test result.

Those who are excluded from League Activities under these circumstances must follow [King County](#) isolation and quarantine guidance before returning to League Activities.

### **Masks and Face Coverings**

Masks are no longer required outdoors; however, unvaccinated individuals should wear face coverings outdoors in crowded public settings, including sporting events, where there is decreased ability to consistently maintain physical distance between non-household members..

### **Player equipment**

- Players encouraged to only use their own equipment, including helmet, hats, bats, batting gloves, fielding gloves and catcher's equipment.

### **Drinks and snacks**

- All League Participants must bring their own water bottle to all League Activities. Bottles should be clearly marked with the player's name.
- Players should bring individual, pre-packaged food for individual consumption if needed.
- The following are prohibited: shared food including post-game snacks, bottles, and water coolers as well as seeds, chewing gum, spitting or horseplay likely to transfer spite between players. (Teams were doing snack last year, should we take this out or put language around individualized snacks?)

### **Practices(and Games or dedicated league events?)**

- The Team Safety Assistant will ensure that health screenings have been performed as outlined in the [Daily Screening Procedure](#).
- Families should drop off players at practice with coaching staff and maintain a safe distance from the event.
- Team stretching and warm-up drills must be structured to avoid close contact. Coaches are encouraged to structure and limit warm-up drills to avoid formation of lines that allow for close contact between players.
- Players should avoid confined spaces including dugouts and bleachers for all practices.
- Practice drills, including tee drills, soft toss, and the forming lines should optimize physical distancing between Participants.

### **Batting Cages**

WLL will follow the rules set forth by the batting cage operator. Mask and/or Vaccination requirements are governed by the batting cage operator and county in which the batting cage is located.

### **Games/Scrimmages**

- **Health Screening**- parents, players, coaches, and family members must take their temperature and screen themselves before leaving their house. Players will need to follow the [Daily Screening Procedure](#).
- **Illness / Symptoms**- parents and players must remain home if they have any illness or symptoms of COVID-19
- **Baseballs**- each team will be supplied by the defensive team. Umpires, coaches, and spectators will avoid contact with the game balls, allowing defensive players to retrieve all foul balls, whether in or out of the field of play
- **After outs**- the ball will go immediately back to the pitcher (no throwing it around)
- **No shared team cooler or drinks**. Everyone must bring their own.
- **Line-ups** - exchanged electronically.
- **Reporting**- the COVID-19 Coach/Parent must report any COVID-19 positive player or spectator to their coach, and local league within 12 hours of finding out.
- **Safety Assistant**- each team must have a parent or coach who is in charge of Compliance with "Return to Play" guidelines including contact tracing record-keeping
- **Post-Game Sportsmanship** - There should be no physical touching to including high fives or handshakes. *At the end of games, players will line up on respective baselines and cheer, shout, wave, or tip hats to the opposing team and umpires.*
- **Team snacks**- will not be permitted.

### **COVID-19 Return to Play**

Guidelines for returning to play for players/coaches/umpires/volunteers who have had symptoms, been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or they themselves have tested positive.

WLL will follow the guidance set forth by the WA Dept of Health. Information can be found in the following link starting on page 10.

[COVID-19 Sporting Activities, Fitness, and Training Guidance \(wa.gov\)](#)

### **Miscellaneous**

- If parents, coaches, or players have any concerns regarding their personal health and safety, they should alert the league of concerns and avoid league events.
- The guidelines and recommendations listed above may change due to updated local public health, Washington State, Centers for Disease Control, or Little League International guidance, recommendations, or best practices.