



## Barrier Islands Little League COVID 19 Guidelines

Due to concerns surrounding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in accordance with CDC and SCDHEC guidelines, Barrier Islands Little League is implementing mandatory health and safety procedures as part of a proactive approach to preventing the spread of germs. We are adopting these measures effective immediately and cannot stress enough how vital it is that all BI participants not only adhere to these guidelines, but also step in and help out.

### Team Effort

We all need to do our part to help monitor the health of each participant and spectator. All parents/guardians are encouraged to take the temperature of their player and everyone coming to the park prior to leaving for the fields. Anyone with a fever, cough, or any other COVID 19 symptoms or recent exposure to those symptoms should stay home. ***Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a mask/face covering when social distancing of 6 feet of others is not possible.***

***All adult volunteers (Coaches, Team Moms, Umpires, etc.) will be required to wear masks/face coverings when social distancing of 6 feet of players is not possible.***

***Players are also encouraged to have a gaiter/mask to be worn in the common areas (i.e., bathroom, concession line, after games) or when social distancing of 6 feet of others is not possible.***

Players will be asked to use hand sanitizer at the start of clinics and games.

Scorekeepers will be required to rubber gloves that will be provided if using league I-Pads.

### Sign-in Process for Contact Tracing

During clinics, players will need to be signed in by a parent or guardian. Parents/guardians will be asked to provide current contact information at sign in. The League will use this information to contact families if we learn a player tests positive for COVID 19.

Once teams are formed, we will use the parent/guardian contact information provided at registration to notify you if someone on your team or someone we believe you have been in close contact with tests positive for COVID 19.

### Temperature Checks

Players' temperatures will be checked upon arrival to the fields. Players with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will not be able to participate in the event.

### "No-Contact/No-Handshake" Policy

We are instituting a precautionary "no-contact, no-handshake policy" to be observed at every level of the organization until further notice. This includes all physical contact and extends to customary game-related activities, such as pre-game coaches' handshakes, umpire-coach introductions, and post-game handshakes between members of opposing teams. Instead, staff, players and coaches should use verbal queues, such as saying "good game," without shaking hands, high-fiving or fist-

bumping.

## Sharing of Equipment

It is recommended to not share equipment if at all possible. Little League rules require players to use a certified “USABat” brand bat for baseball (see <https://usabat.com/> for more information). USABats can be identified by the following emblem:



It is wise for each child to have their own batting helmet with a wired face mask (wired face masks are required). If players or coaches have an additional set of catchers gear, they are encouraged to utilize it to reduce sharing.

If you must share equipment (helmets, catcher's equipment) it will need to be disinfected between uses to prevent the spread of germs. BI has a product called [ClearGear](#) that will be used to sanitize team equipment before and after use.

## Practices & Games

Players are to hang bags no less than 6ft apart along the outside fence. The League will work to mark off the fence to visualize where the bags can be hung. Between innings, each player and coach is to hand sanitize and the game balls are to be wiped down with disinfectant. A section of bleachers will be utilized as an 'extension' of the dug out to minimize the number of players in the dugout at a time. No more than three (3) players will be permitted in the dugout at any time and the rest of the team will be located on the bleachers during games. Spaces will be marked for them to sit. At CCS and FIRST BAPTIST fields, players will sit along the outside fence (spacing will be marked) or with their parents until they need to be in the dugout as there are not enough bleachers to utilize. During practice, coaches will have no more than four players in a group and organize practice in a way that eliminates several players standing in a line (e.g., lining up outside the batting cages). Coaches should make every effort not to gather all their players close together right next to the field for between inning or post game talks.

## Hydration

We recommend that each player bring their own water bottle from home with their name on it. It's recommended not to have water coolers, but we will have some to fill up water bottles and distributed by one volunteer wearing gloves.

## Seating

Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs and space them appropriately along the outside of the field as the spectator bleachers will not be sanitized. In addition, we ask that you keep the number of family members to a minimum that come to watch the games. Spectators must adhere to social distancing requirements for anyone not in the same family. Seniors and those with significant health issues who are at risk should follow the CDC guidelines and not attend events or should take the appropriate precautions. After games and practices, we request that families not congregate and head straight home.

Bleachers and seating areas will be marked. Bleachers will have an “X” on where you can sit. We ask that spectators of two or more pick a spot around the fencing that is spaced 10’ apart.

### **Public Restrooms**

Due to the small size of our restrooms, we are implementing a “one-in-one-out” policy. Only one person is permitted in the restroom at one time. Restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis. Trash cans will be located outside of the bathrooms.

### **Concession Stand**

No sunflower seeds or gum will be allowed at the park. Sunflower seeds and bubble gum will not be permitted at the park this season to prevent shells/gum from being spit out. In addition, only 2 adults will be permitted in the concession stand at the same time (no children) and all volunteers working in the concession stand will be required to wear gloves and wear masks. Distance indicators will be placed down to avoid standing so close in the line.

### **Common Areas**

Frequently touched surfaces will be sprayed/cleaned with disinfectant periodically throughout the week. These areas include door knobs, counters, faucets, etc. located in the restrooms, concession stand and press boxes. We recommend that parents not permit their children to play Wall Ball (typically this takes place on the backside of the dugouts).

No players will be allowed in the equipment room at Maybank Fields. Only coaches should be removing and replacing equipment.

All fields will have ClearGear, hand sanitizer, med kit, bug spray, and sunscreen.

### **Overall Good Hygiene Practices**

All volunteers, coaches, parents and participants in BI Little League events should be aware of the coronavirus risk and take the necessary precautions to avoid exposure to germs. This includes maintaining good hygiene practices. We strongly recommend the following:

- Wash your hands often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; this is suggested after any physical contact with another person or with a shared surface
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your mouth and nose – with a tissue, if possible – when coughing or sneezing, then properly discard the tissue in the trash
- Avoid close contact with anyone else who is coughing or sneezing or who is otherwise sick
- Clean or disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### **Advice from the CDC**

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost

can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has a specific Q&A regarding the virus in children:

Q: Are children more susceptible to the virus that causes COVID-19 compared with the general population and how can infection be prevented?

A: No, there is no evidence that children are more susceptible...

All Barrier Islands Little League events come at your own risk (players, parents, and fans). BI League will not be held responsible for contracting an illness at any sponsored event. The top priority of BI League is keeping children and families safe and healthy during this time. We will provide updates related to these new measures or let you know about any additional precautions to take if and when they become necessary. We appreciate your cooperation in following these new procedures as we work together to maintain the highest health and safety standards as an organization.

**WE>ME**