

RPLL 2020 Safety Plan - Local Rules in Response to Covid-19

Version 2.0
July 9, 2020



Introduction

We have put together these local rules to complement the Little League District 32 Covid-19 Safety Plan as a guide to Players, Volunteers and Spectators in ensuring a safe environment for all in response to the Covid-19 virus. The safety of the entire RPLL community has always been and will continue to be our top priority. We have put together this document considering local, state and federal guidelines, best practices from Little League International and other youth sports organizations across the country and have consulted with a local ER Doctor.

Please read through the District Safety Plan and this document carefully before signing your acknowledgement. As a result of Covid-19, our District and league will be implementing many new safety-related rules and it is important that all members of our community understand the district and local rules. We encourage you to spend time reviewing these new rules with your player as the volume of change is high and it will be difficult for our Manager and Coach volunteers to ensure compliance with these new rules without help from within players' homes.

The contents of this and the District document may change during the season as Covid-19 best practices and regulations are often changing. As there are any in-season changes to either document, we will distribute a new version via rpll.org and email and will facilitate a safety meeting if appropriate.

We know some of these new rules will feel uncomfortable and may at times feel we are not playing “real baseball”. However, all of the rules and guidelines are in an effort to keep our community safe. We appreciate your help in ensuring all members of your players support group adhere to these new rules while at our fields.

If at any time you have a concern with the safety of your player, a volunteer or a spectator, please reach out to either of us or at a game, reach out to an RPLL Board Member (usually wearing a black and red polo shirt).

It is important to not rely solely on our volunteer manager and coaches to ensure these safety measures are followed, we need everyone’s help. Our children’s safety should be all of our top priorities.

Thank you for being a part of the RPLL Community.

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Pre Team Formation

- Players will be responsible for providing their own equipment as there will be no sharing of any equipment. This includes helmets, bats and gloves.
- Catchers gear can be provided on a game by game basis to individual players, but will not be shared during a game.
- There will be no players playing the position of catcher below Double A

Safety Parents

The role of each team's Safety Parent will be expanded in the Fall. It will be important for the Safety Parents to attend all games as they will play a vital role in assisting our volunteer Managers and Coaches ensure a safe environment. During games, the Safety Parent will be the only Volunteer other than Managers/Coaches to be on the field or near the dugout area. The Safety Parents role will not be as a coach, but instead will help enforce social distancing and other related rules and processes. We thank the volunteer Safety Parents in advance for their support in the Fall season.

Safety Meetings

This document contains many new rules and processes. To ensure the RPLL Community understands these rules and processes, the following meetings will take place:

- RPLL Community Safety Meeting
 - Facilitated by League President and Safety Officer
 - Held virtually via Zoom
 - July 16th, 700 PM
- Manager/Coach Safety Meeting
 - Facilitated by President and League Safety Officer
- In-season Safety Meeting(s)
 - Facilitated by League President and Safety Officer on an as needed basis
 - May be targeted for Managers, Safety Parents or the entire RPLL Community depending on needs

Practices

- All players will be spaced at least 6 feet apart during pre game/practice infield/outfield.
 - No more than 2 players per infield position
 - One ready to field, the other on OF grass

- Practice times will be spaced out 30 minutes to give time for sanitizing and to ensure teams do not mingle.
 - Players should depart the field area within 5 minutes of practices ending
 - Players should not arrive to the field any earlier than 5 minutes prior to practice
 - If they arrive sooner, they should wait in their car
- Dugout is not to be used during practice.
 - Player equipment should be stored in front of dugouts and along the fence line down the foul lines 6 feet apart

Gameday Preparation - Before Player Arrival

- Each field will have extended dugouts.
 - Players will bring their own chairs, labeled with their name, to all games
 - All players will sit outside the dugout area and outside the fences to aid in social distancing
- The area from base to base, outside of the fences will be marked off indicating that no spectators will be allowed near the dugout areas
 - A map of spectator seating areas for each field will be distributed prior to the first game

Gameday Rules - Before the Game Starts

- Upon arrival, players will come through the field entry gate one at a time with players being staged with their family prior to entry.
 - No player should exit their car at the field prior to 40 minutes before game time
 - As players arrive, they should stay on the sidewalks surrounding the fields while maintaining social distancing
 - The Manager will call on players individually, conduct a health check and place their chair in their designated spot for the game where the player will keep their personal equipment
- The Safety Parent will be allowed “between the fences” during games to aid in social distancing and other safety rule enforcement.
 - The Safety Parent should avoid any form of coaching
 - Preferably, the Safety Parent will stay behind the permanent dugout area as much as possible to avoid additional congestion on the field, but they can come “between the fences” should a safety issue arise
- One or more Board Members will be in attendance for the duration of every game.
 - They can be identified by their black and red Board polo shirt
 - Cannot be the manager or coach of a team that is playing
 - Allowed to be behind the dugouts and backstop areas
 - Help teams ensure a safe environment by advising Managers of violations
 - Resource for spectators
- Several steps are being taken to promote social distancing in the dugout area.

- All player equipment should be located directly underneath their designated spot on the bench for the entire pre game and game
 - Includes bats, helmets, catchers gear, bags, water, etc.
- Volunteers will regulate players entering and exiting the dugout throughout the game so that only one player is entering and exiting an area of the dugout at a time
- Each coach must have their own designated spot to sit outside of the dugout for the entirety of the game
 - Recommendation - 1 coach at each end of the dugout (out front) and one in the middle (out front)
 - Coaches will bring their own chairs/buckets to sit on
- The Pledge of Allegiance and Little League Pledge will continue to be recited.
 - Players will not be allowed to throw their hats after either Pledge is complete

In-Game Rules

- Players coming within 6 feet of each other during plays in the field is inevitable and is part of the game of baseball. Our lower division volunteers will promote players staying in their assigned position on defense to avoid more than 2 players in close proximity at a time.
- If a player or volunteer is injured, only the manager for the injured player should initially approach the player/volunteer. If the injury is deemed serious, other volunteers may approach to help.
 - All players and on-field volunteers that are not injured should take a knee until the injury has been resolved
 - Parents of injured players should remain away from the field and dugout and if needed, the manager can release the injured player to their parent via the gate
- Players and on-field volunteers will be responsible for retrieving all foul balls in an effort to minimize the number of people handling baseballs.
 - The defensive team is responsible for retrieving foul balls
 - Spectators shall not handle foul balls
 - If a spectator handles a ball, a coach will sanitize the ball before putting back in play
- Spectators will be allowed to watch games outside the fences down the foul lines and 10 feet behind the ground rule double line in the outfield.
 - Players shall not retrieve a ball that goes past the ground rule double line
 - Spectators who retrieve the ball should give to a coach who will sanitize before putting the ball back in play
- Post-game handshakes are forbidden. Instead players should do a post-game tip of the cap or bow from their designated spots in the dugout area.
- At the conclusion of a game, players should vacate the field one player at a time and go directly to their family. The manager will dismiss players one by one.

- Families should maintain social distancing and it is recommended to leave the field as a family promptly as their player joins them.
- After the game, team snacks and drinks are not allowed.

General

- Managers will send any player or volunteer home immediately if they show ANY signs of illness.
 - Managers will have a checklist for each practice and game with each rostered player listed and a manager signature line confirming they have checked each player and coach's health
 - A script will be provided for each manager to ask each player before they enter the field
 - Due to the potential for a player to be sent home, parents should wait to leave the field upon drop off until they see their player assigned to their spot in the dugout area.
- The Rancho Penasquitos Little League Executive Board will review repeat violators or blatant violations of the rules contained in this and the District document by players, volunteers or spectators on a case by case basis. Consequences can include suspension.
- Scorekeepers will print their own scoresheets to keep score and will upload the completed scoresheets after games have been completed.
 - RPLL is considering a move to Gamechanger
 - More details will be provided prior to the first game
 - Scorekeepers will be located outside the fence either by first or third base. They will occupy the spot closest to the sectioned off area around the dugouts so they can more easily communicate with umpires as needed

Sanitizing Equipment and Fields

- RPLL will sanitize all fields between team activities.
 - Will be used on benches, dugout fences, gates, pitching machines, storage boxes and rakes between every practice and game before a new team enters the field
 - A checklist will be located at each field
- All managers, coaches, safety parents and players are asked to bring their own hand sanitizer to all team activities.
 - For game day, required use by every player/volunteer every other inning starting after the 1st inning is completed
 - 5 minute game break to do this
 - For practices, every 30 minutes should include a hand sanitizing break

- RPLL will have some hand sanitizer on hand for use by any volunteers or players that do not have their own
- The Safety Parent or any on-field volunteer can request additional cleaning of equipment or facilities or hand sanitizing break if they deem it necessary (player coughing or sneezing).

I acknowledge receiving and reading this supplement to the 2020 RPLL Safety Plan and the District Covid-19 Safety Plan and agree that my player and their family will do their best to follow all of the rules as written. Any spectators that come to a game are the responsibility of the family that brings them. I understand that blatantly not following any of these rules or repeatedly not following any of the rules in this document will lead to a review by the RPLL Executive Board which may lead to my player, myself and/or any spectators being suspended from league activities.

Player Name (printed):

Parent Name (printed):

Parent Signature:

Date of Signature: