



PO Box 81 New City, NY 10956

As we return to play, our mission continues to be providing the most memorable experiences in youth Baseball and Softball. In order to do so, we encourage parents, athletes, coaches, and all of our guests to join us in returning to play responsibly using our new guidelines. Even as things start to relax, Phase 4 in New City will include procedures that will become universal. Items covered in this communication include what to do regarding arrival at the fields, social distancing, keeping the players' hands clean, proper handling of equipment, game situations, as well as what is not permitted.

Per New York State, this is what you need to know while at our facilities:

Social Distancing - Please maintain at least 6 feet between you and others, following all posted signage. The umpire will have the authority to stop the game if spectators are not properly socially distancing themselves.

Face Coverings –All spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situations where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained, so long as they are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate such covering.

Health Monitoring – If your child is sick, we want him or her to **stay home**. Anyone who is sick, has a fever or has been in contact with someone who has been sick for fourteen days, **must** stay home. NY State requires all parents/guardians to take the player's temperatures before heading to the fields. Daily **self-evaluated** wellness screenings must be completed by all guests prior to entering the facility. Guests experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should not attend any games and should contact a local health care facility immediately.

Spectators – Each player is only permitted to have **two spectators** at the field. **Vulnerable populations should not attend our games.**

This is what New City Little League is doing to maximize the safety of the players:

- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be in all our dugouts. It is intended for them to be used upon entering and exiting the dugout, including between innings. It is recommended that Parents/Guardians also supply their athletes with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for use as needed as it's a good idea for everyone to have his or her own supply.
- **The snack bar will not be open this season.**
- Players / teams are not allowed to bring communal water coolers into the dugouts. Only commercially sealed bottles, clearly labeled with each player's name, will be permitted. These bottles should be kept in their equipment bag throughout the game.
- When you arrive at the field, there will be signs reminding everyone of the COVID-19 rules. There will also be a new entrance for Zukor 2 along the outfield fence (near where Zukor 1 and Zukor 2 meet). Coaches and players will enter and exit the complex from this new gate only. On Zukor 1, coaches and players will only enter and exit from the double gate immediately on their left as they enter the park.
- Dugouts – Where do the players sit? If a team is on offense, having everyone in the dugout is not practical as we won't have the distance necessary to provide a safe environment. Players will be using the bleachers as an extension of the dugout. There will be markings on the bleachers as to where the children are permitted to sit. Only two batters will be permitted in the dugout at any given time. Parents will be asked to sit socially distanced along the outfield fence lines at Zukor and away from the bleachers at Strawtown. **Please bring your own seating as the bleachers will be exclusive to the players.**
- Players will hang their bags along the fence line at each of our fields (outside the fence). There will be clear signs noting where each bag can be hung, with each of the bags ten feet apart. This will be their "personal space" and will allow proper distance between each player.
- Bathrooms at our facilities, along with the dugout benches and bleachers, will be maintained for cleanliness and sanitized daily.

Equipment

- **There will be no sharing of equipment.** This includes bats, helmets and catcher's gear. Most players have their own catcher's gear, but if they do not have the necessary equipment and want to catch, New City Little League will supply the players their own equipment and it will become theirs to use for the season. Don't worry, we'll sanitize it for you prior to distribution. In exchange, you will be asked to leave a \$100 deposit (credit cards will be accepted) and the end of the season, we will have a check ready for you when you bring the equipment back. Under no circumstances will wearable equipment ever be shared.

Catcher's equipment will not be distributed to Tee Ball or Rookie players. For the ease, safety and cleanliness of our youngest players, we will not be dressing a catcher in these divisions.

General Information

- Managers and coaches must wear a mask any time being on field other than in the coaches' box.
- Face coverings are not mandatory for athletes and umpires but they are allowed to wear face coverings and gloves if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
- New City Little League will operate its season in two stages. To limit the amount of adults / children at the fields, the following start dates have been determined:
 - Practices for all Baseball and Softball divisions can begin as of July 6 and will be scheduled at the discretion each team manager.
 - Games for the **BB AAA, BB Majors, SB Majors, and Junior/Senior divisions** will begin on or around **July 20**, depending on the division. All weekday games will start at 7PM until August 22 (when they will be at 7pm or 8pm). The season will conclude in October.
 - Games for the **BB Tee Ball, BB Rookie, SB Rookie, BB A, SB A, BB AA and SB International divisions** will begin on or around **August 22**, depending on the division. All weekday games will start at 5:30 and will conclude firmly at 7:15pm. Tee Ball will be played on Sundays opposite Clarkstown Intramural Soccer. We will also be offering professionally provided clinics to most of these divisions prior to August 22. The season will conclude in October.
- Playoffs will be played (for applicable divisions).
- Regular season and/or All Star Tournaments are being planned (for applicable divisions).

Pre-Game

- Each team will receive six baseballs or softballs prior to the game. The coaches for the team playing defense will provide the game balls for each half inning they're in the field. The game balls will be taken out of the game after two full innings of use which will ensure the balls are only handled by one team for the duration of the game. Safety will be maximized if the players keep their hands clean between innings and the balls are regularly switched out.
- Home plate meetings will be limited to the umpire and each team manager (or a designated coach); all must practice social distancing.

During the Game

- The manager or coach is the only person who can pick up the bat after a hit unless there is an instance when an umpire may need to move the bat left on home plate as there may be a play at that base. The manager or coach will place the bat in the dugout until the player returns from the field. Once the player returns to the dugout, he or she will take the bat and place it back into his or her bag. We will not keep anything in the dugout, including equipment, food and water bottles.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds, peanuts in the shell, or gum will be permitted during the game, on the field, in the dugout, or any other areas inside the facility.
- Homerun balls will not be returned to game play. Foul balls handled by any spectators will also not be returned to game play. The team on defense will have a designated coach or player to retrieve foul balls. Any foul balls that are retrieved by the designated coach or player will continue to be used in the game. Each dugout will have a bucket which will be used to collect balls taken out of the game. Each bucket will remain in the dugout after the game as each ball will be disinfected and sanitized.
- Lastly, **here is what will not be permitted**: Horseplay will not be allowed. We will not allow players to play tag, run around, or touch each other. High-fives, hugs and handshakes and any other type of celebrations that involve contact will not be allowed during the game. Pitchers will not be allowed to touch the ball and then their mouth. Balls will need to be changed out if this was to occur.

Post Game

- In lieu of shaking of hands, high fives, fist bumps or even elbow bumps, each team will line up on its respective foul line, tip their caps to the opposing team and then to their fans.
- Players, coaches and families should not discard PPE face coverings, gloves, wipes, etc. on the ground. Please use the trash receptacles around the park.

Moving Forward

Throughout the season as medical and governmental guidance changes, our Return to Play policies will continue to evolve. All updates will be communicated to you.

Please understand, these guidelines may change as we get clarity on the directives and dates for return to play from our respective state or local authorities. Additionally, there may be further directives for each of our fields that are being used that are not covered in this document and will be communicated to participating teams prior to their games.

With these guidelines, we can all stay safe! Thank you very much for your cooperation and PLAY BALL!!

Thank you,
Michael Cohen
President, New City Little League

New City Board of Directors