

Play Ball (Safely)

A Plan to Host Two Tournaments in the Town of Smithfield
Consisting Only of Teams
from Rhode Island

The following proposal is submitted to the Town of Smithfield in consideration of two tournaments at the Whipple Field Complex, on the first and second weekends of September 2020. Smithfield Little League endeavors to follow all state recommendations and guidelines with regard to player safety. As such, we propose the following with regard to providing kids an opportunity to safely engage with one another in a tournament.

Since Smithfield Little League resumed practices in June followed by competition in July, the League has done so guided by a comprehensive safety plan. This plan was shared in advance with the membership of the league and Zoom briefings offered to parents and coaches who sought additional information or who had questions about the plan. Below, please find the safety protocols that will be enacted for this tournament.

PREGAME PROTOCOLS

Before each game, a member of the Smithfield Little League Board of directors shall inspect the field facility to ensure:

- Disinfectant has been applied to high touch surfaces
- Mask and social distancing signage is displayed and visible
- The marked area behind home plate of Whipple 1 is free of spectators
- Teams using Whipple 1 have hung their bags in the designated area outside of the dugout
- Players are not congregating in the Whipple 1 dugout
 - Players may use the Whipple 3 or 4 dugout given that they offer open dugouts
- Managers of both teams have ample supplies of hand sanitizer
- Managers of both teams have completed, signed and submitted to the Game Director a copy of the Screening Tool form.

PRESCREENING

Families will be provided a checklist that will include the following instructions to follow prior to departure to the field:

1. Take your child's temperature 15 minutes prior to departure for Whipple
2. Disinfect all equipment (bats, gloves, etc.)

3. Minimize equipment in bags
4. Ensure there is no food present in bags
5. Label water bottle with child's name

All players shall wear a face covering to the field, but are not required to wear such during play.

SYMPTOM TRACKING

Each morning prior to games, Smithfield Little League shall send an email to all families whose children are participating in the tournament. The email will direct families to a survey consisting of the following questions:

1. Has the player or any member of your family had any of the following symptoms in the past three days:
 - a. Cough
 - b. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - c. Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
 - d. Muscle or body aches
 - e. Sore throat
 - f. Headache
 - g. Nausea or vomiting
 - h. Diarrhea
 - i. Running nose or stuffy nose
 - j. Fatigue
 - k. Recent loss of taste or smell
2. Has the player or any member of your family knowingly been in close contact (less than six feet) with anyone with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
3. Has the player or any member of your family traveled anywhere outside the 50 United States in the past 14 days?
4. Has the player or any member of your family traveled to Rhode Island for a non-work-related purpose from another city, town, county, or state that currently has a stay-at-home restriction, a shelter-in-place restriction, or a similar restriction, declaration, or announcement due to a COVID-19 outbreak?
5. Has the player or any member of your family been directed to quarantine or isolate by the Rhode Island Department of Health or a healthcare provider in the past 14 days? If so, when does/did your quarantine or isolation period end?

A yes answer to any of these questions will result in an indicator that the player, nor their family, are permitted to participate.

All managers will be provided a pre-game checklist upon arrival at the field that will include the following:

1. Ask all players (including coaches) if they feel ill*
2. Ask players if they have had a fever in the past 48 hours*
3. Ask players if they have been with someone who was ill*
4. Ask players if they have been with someone who has COVID-19*
5. Ask if the players' equipment has been sanitized with an approved disinfectant

A no answer to questions one through four will require immediate notification to the game director.

SCHEDULING

Games will be scheduled so that four teams will not be present at a field simultaneously and ample time provided for application of a disinfectant to high-touch surfaces and areas. When possible, one team shall remain in the dugout they used for a prior game for another game.

GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS

1. Players will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when they enter the dugout from a defensive position or depart the dugout for a defensive position.
2. Players are prohibited from sharing equipment and water bottles
3. All player equipment must be stored in a players' bag when not in use.
4. Players will be strongly encouraged to wear batting gloves at all times

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS AND COACHES

1. Per the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and an Executive Order by the Governor of Rhode Island, face coverings must be worn by coaches. If a manager cannot wear a mask due to a health condition, they must notify the Safety Officer, Ray Cadoret.
2. Managers will be provided new baseballs for the exclusive use of that team.

1. Under no circumstances can a game ball be shared by two teams
3. One coach will be responsible for ensuring team compliance with the safety protocols

GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS

Spectators are urged to follow guidelines of state and federal health officials with regard to masks. The League strongly encourages spectators to use masks or face coverings out of respect for those who wish to watch a game, but may have underlying conditions. The coverings are not necessarily to protect the individuals wearing them, rather others. Those individuals who opt to not to wear a mask - or cannot wear a mask due to a legitimate health issue - are asked to remain 14 feet from others - unless from the same household.

CONTACT TRACING

Per the town, each manager shall complete and submit to the league's safety officer a [contact tracing form by way of a Google doc](#) after each game that indicates who attended the game inclusive of coaches and players. This information will be submitted by midnight each night and will be provided upon request to town, state or health officials.

UMPIRES

Two umpires shall be assigned to each game and are restricted from positioning themselves behind home plate. The umpire may position him or herself behind the mound to call balls and strikes. An umpire's call is final; there is no appeal of calls, etc. to ensure that the games may proceed quickly. The umpire shall not hold baseballs, rather, this will be the responsibility of the compliance officer for each team. The goal is to limit the number of individuals who make contact with a baseball.

POSTGAME

After each game, once players and spectators have departed, a member of Smithfield Little League shall spray disinfectant with a pump sprayer on all areas that may have been touched. This includes: fence posts, fence caps, fence crossings, bases, refuse and recycling containers, bleachers, restrooms, etc. (Restrooms doors shall remain open until disinfectant has dried.) Teams shall not enter the field area until 10 minutes has elapsed from the application of the disinfectant.

CONCESSION STAND OPERATIONS

The league has suspended the use of all concession stand activity until 2021. The league is reaching out to those who operate food trucks to invite them to provide food.

DISCOVERY OF COVID-19 INFECTION

If, during the course of the tournament, it is discovered that a player or a player's family member tested positive for COVID-19, that team will not be permitted to compete, is prohibited from all Town of Smithfield facilities . If, during the course of the tournament, it is discovered that a family member or player may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, the player and their family are prohibited from all Town of Smithfield facilities and the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator will be contacted and provided Contact Tracing information.

Play Ball (Safely) Agreement

Players, parents, family and friends all play an integral role in promoting the safety and health of those participating in the Tournaments offered by Smithfield Little League (SLL) during the current situation. A successful and safe tournament is a shared responsibility of all involved and participating in this Tournament.

SLL has developed a Safety Plan for the Tournament that is available on the League's website. We strongly encourage you to review and sign this document as a promise to do your part to promote the safety and health of all involved with this Tournament.

I, my family (immediate and extended), my player and friends who are present at the Tournament to watch my child play will:

- Practice good hygiene by washing hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day
- Not access Town of Smithfield recreational facilities if:
 - A member of my household has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - A member of my household was knowingly exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - I have been tested and not receive all results
- Immediately report to the Tournament Director any COVID-19 symptoms I or anyone in my traveling party experience and comply without appeal any directives issued
- Monitor and respond to emails, texts, and/or voicemails from Smithfield Little League
- Practice social distancing among those outside of my immediate family
- Refrain from hosting picnics, etc. with other members of the team
- Prescreen my player before departure to the Town of Smithfield
- Ensure my team or payer has ample supplied of hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60 percent of alcohol
- Complete the daily symptom tracking
- Immediately depart the Whipple facility after a game

Acknowledgement of Risk

My signature below indicates my acknowledgment and understanding of the risks associated with being physically present at the Whipple facility amongst others from various cities and

towns in Rhode Island. These risks include, but are not limited to, exposure to possible viruses, germs and diseases.

Release of Liability

In consideration of permitting my player to participate in this tournament and for myself, family and friends to watch the games, I hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless Smithfield Little League, its officers and members and the Town of Smithfield, individually and in their representative capacities from any and all liability, claims, grievances, demands, and causes of action of any kind whatsoever which arise from my presence at the Tournament and at a Town of Smithfield facility, except to the extent that the Town or League engaged in willful or intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

I promise to abide by and comply with all policies above to insure the health and safety of myself and all participating in the Tournament.

Player Name (Please Print) _____ Team:

Parent Name (Please Print) _____ Date

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date
