

Baden Youth Association Little League

2020 Covid-19 Guidelines

As of 06/08/2020 *subject to change*

The guidelines below are intended to provide BYA players, BYA volunteers and members of the community information how the BYA is intending to alter its 2020 Little league Baseball season by implementing safe and healthy social distancing guidelines. Being mindful of the factors of public health, social distancing and community well-being this will allow the youth of our community to establish some semblance of normalcy as we continue to move forward safely.

The safety guidelines listed below are proposed additional measures to be taken before, during, and after any BYA youth baseball practice or game. All other key prevention strategies by the CDC and PA Dept. of Health will be strictly followed in order to promote a safe environment.

In the end we all need to take some personal responsibility in order to help establish and more importantly maintain a safe environment for our kids to PLAY BALL!!

Personal Protective Measures

- ❖ It is not recommended that players wear masks on the field of play. It is believed to be a safety hazard due to distractions. However, players may, at their choosing, wear a mask on the field at the directive of a medical provider or individual determination of the player/parent/guardian.
- ❖ Players may wear face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is challenging or not feasible. Please note that face coverings other than cloth that are more ideal for athletics are available.
- ❖ All managers/coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., may wear a mask whenever applicable and possible. Coaches conducting drills during practice or coaching on the field are not required to wear a mask.
- ❖ Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Those tending to an unconscious, incapacitated or injured player or spectators should wear a face mask.
- ❖ Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This should include refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- ❖ There will be hand sanitizer for the players and coaches to use as needed, Handwashing with soap and water can be done at the concession stand restrooms.

Player & Game Equipment

- ❖ Personal player equipment is prohibited from being shared at any time (bats/helmets/gloves, etc.). Parents should clearly label all of their player's equipment and players will be asked to keep their equipment to themselves.
- ❖ Player equipment will be placed in a designated area for each player within the team area and should remain in the players bag when not in use.

- ❖ When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment (i.e. catcher's gear), all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and then disinfected with an approved disinfectant against COVID-19 and allowed enough time to dry before used by a new player.
- ❖ Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets)
- ❖ Player's equipment (e.g. bags, helmets, bats, gloves, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected after each event by a parent/guardian/caretaker

Player/Coach Designated Areas

- ❖ We will be instituting designated 'Player & Coach Only Areas' on each field to ease social distancing concerns during games and practices. These areas will be marked with signs and will be roped off to prevent unauthorized access.
- ❖ Players will not be permitted to sit in dugouts. Existing dugout spaces will be extended to behind the dugout to the backstop for both teams. That is, 6 ft social distancing will be implemented by utilizing space near dugouts.
- ❖ Each player will be assigned a designated location in the player only area. Players are to stay at their assigned spots when on the bench or while waiting their turn to bat.
- ❖ No food allowed in dugouts or on the field (e.g. gum, sunflower seeds)
- ❖ Players, managers/coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks to all team activities.
- ❖ Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- ❖ Teams must not share any food or drinks.
- ❖ All players and coaches are always to refrain from spitting, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.
- ❖ Coaches and parents are not permitted to provide teams with post-game snacks or drinks.

Game Play

- ❖ Baseballs will be rotated through on a regular basis, at least every two innings, to limit contact. Additionally, designated baseballs for each team (home/away) will be used
- ❖ Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by participating players and coaches only. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- ❖ Umpires will not retrieve any foul ball or ball not deemed in play or in player-only areas.
- ❖ There will be no post-game handshakes. Other ceremonies and acts of sportsmanship can be submitted that involve social distancing and non-contact.

- ❖ Pregame meeting shall consist of umpires and 1 adult coach from each team, socially distancing. No players are part of the pre-game meeting.
- ❖ The Home BYA team will reinforce the seating arrangements for players and fans to the other coach and umpires.

Spectator Seating and Social Distancing

- ❖ Parents and spectators have separate seating away from dugout/player only area.
- ❖ Spectators will not be allowed around the area of the dugouts.
- ❖ Parents/spectators are not permitted to enter the areas designated as 'Player Only.'
- ❖ State-issued and CDC guidelines for social distance must be followed.
- ❖ Fans to sit in designated areas only. Spectators should bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible. Bleachers will be marked as to where people may sit.
- ❖ BYA may choose to minimize the exposure risk to spectators by limiting attendance to only essential volunteers and limited family members
- ❖ Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game.
- ❖ The next event will not begin until the previous event is cleared of all participants

Concession Stand

- ❖ Concession stand to operate with additional training and safety protocols.
- ❖ Concession stand will be selling prepackaged foods only.

Scheduling

- ❖ League administrators will schedule enough time between practices and games to facilitate the complete evacuation of individuals from a previous practice or game from the premises before the next group enters.
- ❖ If there is a game or practice prior to your event, all players, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
- ❖ No teams' activities will start until their scheduled arrival time. No one should be warming up until they enter their designated field for play.
- ❖ BYA will work to ensure that practices and games follow all local and state directives regarding the number of people allowed to gather in one place.

❖ Outside teams\individuals that do not comply or refuse to comply may be removed from the facilities and their respective teams may forfeit the event at the discretion of the BYA officials.

Self-monitoring guidelines

❖ Anyone with symptoms of fever, cough, or worsening respiratory symptoms, or any known exposure to a person with COVID-19 should not attend any BYA activity until cleared by a medical professional.

❖ Notify the Safety Officer who will follow established CDC and State guidelines for reporting possible exposure to those who might be affected.

❖ Any individual, including players, at risk for severe illness or with serious underlying medical or respiratory conditions should only attend BYA events with permission from a medical professional.

❖ A player, coach or spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:

- Active COVID-19 infection
- Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
- Fever
- Cough
- Waiting for a COVID-19 test result