

Washington County Area Little League Hartford, Richfield, Slinger & Jackson



Social distancing guidelines for the 2020 baseball, softball and T-Ball seasons

Return to Play:

Below is a description of guidelines that have been written in collaboration with the Washington and Ozaukee Health Departments along with Slinger, Hartford, RYSBA and JAYBA little league programs.

Social Distancing:

It is highly recommended that all home sites remove bleachers. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chair for viewing the games. Only players, coaches and umpires are allowed on the field of play (maintaining social distancing). Parents/Guardians are encouraged to limit the amount of family members attending. Social distancing guidelines would apply.

Dugout:

The dugout will be extending behind the dugout to the backstop for both teams. This is to allow rostered players and coaches to practice social distancing throughout the game. No more than three individuals are permitted in the dugout at any given time.

Game Protocol:

At the pre-game meeting and throughout the game, coaches and umpires will not be allowed to shake hands or have any physical contact with each other. All parties must maintain social distancing guidelines. At the conclusion of the game, players will be asked to forego the sportsmanship line at the end of the game. Instead we are asking each team to line up on their respective foul line and "tip their cap" as a salute to the other team to promote good sportsmanship.

Equipment:

Team equipment bags should contain disinfectant wipes or spray. Dugouts should also have hand sanitizer provided for players and coaches. It is highly recommended that players refrain from sharing equipment in general. This includes, but is not limited to bats, helmets and catcher's equipment. All players are encouraged to have their own batting helmet, bat and catcher's gear if they play that position. If equipment is shared equipment must be disinfected between each use. **It highly recommended that you only use 2 catchers per game**

Umpires:

There will be no umpires allowed behind home plate. Umpires will be asked to officiate the game from behind the pitcher's mound, while practicing social distancing with all fielders. Umpires will encourage players to retrieve extra baseballs/softballs to limit their exposure.

General Rule Modifications:

- 1. Remove Bleachers or make sure no spectators are sitting behind backstop in designated dugout areas.***
- 2. No gum chewing or sunflower seeds.***
- 3. Do not share equipment if possible. Disinfect after each use. When sharing helmets it is mandatory that hats are worn underneath.***
- 4. No team huddles or high fives.***
- 5. No shaking hands after games.***
- 6. No team water coolers.***
- 7. Umpire re-located behind pitcher***
- 8. No post game gatherings "treat" handouts.***
- 9. Make sure disinfectant is on hand for cleaning of equipment.***
- 10. Make sure hand sanitizer is in dugouts.***
- 11. All participants and spectators are recommended to wear masks, but not mandated.***
- 12. Make your best attempt to only use two catchers per game.***

Reminders:

- 1. All families are encouraged to limit the number of family members and friends they bring to games. Best practice is to keep it to immediate family members (household).***
- 2. Anyone sick or showing any symptoms of being sick should stay home!***
- 3. Family members with weakened or compromised immune systems should stay home to avoid any unnecessary risks. Senior citizens are also encouraged to remain home to be safe.***
- 4. All participants and spectators are encouraged to wear masks, but not mandated.***
- 5. All spectators are encouraged to practice social distancing.***
- 6. Families should sit together, but maintain social distancing from other families. Lawn chairs are highly encouraged.***
- 7. Parents are encouraged to supply their players with wipes or sanitizer in their equipment bags.***
- 8. Players are encouraged to use their own personal equipment and avoid sharing. If families can afford helmets, bats and catchers gear (only for those that intend to catch often) they should invest in this for the player.***
- 9. Chewing gum and sunflower seeds are prohibited.***



Slinger, Hartford, RYSBA and JAYBA reserve the rights to revise these rules before, during and after the season.