

# Roland Park Baseball Leagues

COVID-19 League Rules and Guidelines for Resuming Play

Effective July 14, 2020

## Rules and Guidelines for Play

- Each team will provide their own baseballs when fielding, rotating game balls every inning.
- Leading and stealing are not allowed at any level, in order to minimize personal contact between players.
- All pre-game meetings, mound visits, coaches discussions, and team discussion will maintain social distance of at least six feet.
- Umpires must call the game from a distance of at least six feet from any players, preferably behind the pitchers mound.
- If catchers are used, batters and catchers must wear face masks during all at bats.
- Face coverings must be worn whenever social distance cannot be maintained.
- RPBL strongly recommends that coaches wear face coverings at all times when on an RPBL field.
- Each team will maintain at least 30 baseballs at all times.

## Rules and Guidelines for National League (Ages 9-10)

- Hitting nets will be used in place of catchers.
- A coach of the fielding team, wearing a mask, will position himself behind the hitting net, at least 8 feet from the batter, with a catcher's mitt to provide a target for the pitcher.
- The umpire, or another coach from the fielding team, will position herself behind the pitchers mound and at least 10 feet from any player.
- There will be no walks during the summer season. The batter earning a walk will hit from a tee instead. The tee will be provided by the coach from the hitting team.
- If a runner rounds third before the ball enters the infield, they will be awarded home plate. If the ball enters the infield they may not advance home.

## Rules and Guidelines for American League (Ages 11-12)

- Hitting nets may be used instead of catchers. A coach of the fielding team, wearing a face mask, will position himself behind the hitting net, at least 8 feet from the batter, with a catcher's mitt to provide a target for the pitcher.
- If hitting nets are used, when the player rounds third before the ball is in possession in the infield, they are awarded home plate.
- **If both coaches agree, catchers may be used. If so, both batters and catchers must wear face coverings. Players cannot share catchers equipment during a game and the equipment must be disinfected with Clear Gear following the game.**
- The umpire will position herself behind the pitchers mound and at least 10 feet from any player.
- Stealing and leading are not allowed, in order to minimize player contact.
- When social distance cannot be maintained, face coverings must be worn.

## Rules and Guidelines for Teen League (Ages 13-15)

- Hitting nets may be used instead of catchers. A coach of the fielding team, wearing a face mask, will position himself behind the hitting net, at least 8 feet from the batter, with a catcher's mitt to provide a target for the pitcher.
- If hitting nets are used, when the player rounds third before the ball is in possession in the infield, they are awarded home plate.
- **If both coaches agree, catchers may be used. If so, both batters and catchers must wear face coverings. Players cannot share catchers equipment during a game and the equipment must be disinfected with Clear Gear following the game.**
- The umpire will position herself behind the pitchers mound and at least 10 feet from any player.
- Stealing and leading are not allowed, in order to minimize player contact.
- When social distance cannot be maintained, face coverings must be worn.

# Rules and Guidelines for Coaches

- Coaches must wear a face mask or covering at all times during RPBL activities.
- Coaches will arrive at the field at least 15 minutes prior to player arrival and mark locations for players to stow their equipment at least six feet apart. We recommend using the field fences to properly space players.
- Coaches will maintain extra hand sanitizer and masks, as well as provide helmets to any players that don't have them. These items are available upon request from the RPBL equipment coordinator.
- Coaches will avoid any RPBL activities if they exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, vomiting or nausea or diarrhea.
- If a coach feels ill or exhibits any of the symptoms above, they will avoid any team activities for a period of at least seven or ten days.
- If a coach has any known or suspected exposure to another person with COVID-19, the coach must avoid RPBL activities for a period of 14 days.
- If a coach tests positive for COVID-19, they may not resume RPBL activities until they test negative for COVID-19 and at least seven days has elapsed since the negative test.
- Any COVID exposure or infection must be reported to the RPBL Commissioner.
- All coaches will review and comply with the Little League COVID-19 Best Practices Guide found here – [www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/](http://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/)
- Coaches must disinfect any equipment that is used by multiple players between use.
- Coaches must maintain attendance at all events in the event contact tracing is necessary.

# Rules and Guidelines for Parents

- Parents must provide their players with their own water bottle, hand sanitizer, and face covering.
- Parents must wear face coverings any time they are on the playing field and must maintain distance of at least six feet from other players, fans, and coaches.
- Parents must ensure their player has their own helmet. If they don't have a helmet, please ask their coach who will provide the equipment.
- Parents will keep their player away from team activities if they exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, vomiting or nausea or diarrhea.
- If a player has any known or suspected exposure to another person with COVID-19, this individual must avoid RPBL activities for a period of 14 days.
- If a player tests positive for COVID-19, they may not resume RPBL activities until they test negative for COVID-19 and at least seven days has elapsed since the negative test.
- Any COVID exposure or infection must be reported to the team's coach and the RPBL Commissioner.

# Rules and Guidelines for Umpires

- Umpires must wear a face mask or covering at all times on RPBL fields.
- Umpires must socially distance whenever possible and avoid being within six feet of any player.
- Umpires will call balls and strikes from behind the pitchers mound or at a distant greater than six feet from behind the catcher.
- If an umpire experiences chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, vomiting or nausea or diarrhea.
- If an umpire feels ill or exhibits any of the symptoms above, they will avoid any team activities for a period of at least seven or ten days.
- If an umpire has any known or suspected exposure to another person with COVID-19, the coach must avoid RPBL activities for a period of 14 days.
- If an umpire tests positive for COVID-19, they may not resume RPBL activities until they test negative for COVID-19 and at least seven days has elapsed since the negative test.
- Any COVID infection or exposure must be reported to the League Commissioner.
- All umpires will review and comply with the Little League COVID-19 Best Practices Guide found here – [www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/](http://www.littleleague.org/downloads/best-practices/)
- Umpires will not handle any game balls. Each team will provide their own baseballs.