**COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR 2021 ASHLAND LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON**

This plan has been approved by the Ashland little league board. It will be reviewed periodically and adjusted for effectiveness or if/when government guidance changes.

The plan has not been medically reviewed or approved.

The plan provides guidelines but is not a guarantee of adherence by all participants. Families should make their own choices on participation and the best interests of their family and players.

The plan is focused on minimizing risk while still allowing for fun competition.

All participants, including players, coaches and volunteers, are recommended to wear masks.

The best protection for our players and families is for parents to keep players and family members home if showing any symptoms related to COVID-19.

If at any time during a practice or game the coach notices a child exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, the parent will be contacted and asked to pick up their child.

Our bleachers are off-limits for all spectators and non-participants. The bleachers will be available for coaches only.

**ADULT GUIDELINES**

Dugouts are closed and off limits to all participants, including coaches and umpires.

Coaches and umpires are recommended to wear masks and a mask should be used in combination with social distancing.

At least 2, no more than 3, approved adults coaching on the field with the players for each team.

Coaches maintain separate game balls for home and away teams and will feed new balls into the game as needed.

Coaches will encourage mask wearing, good player hygiene, spacing and organization.

Coaches will instruct players while maintaining 6 ft social distancing, when possible.

One umpire or coach will remain 6 feet behind the pitcher and at least 6 feet from other players on the field to umpire the game.

Both teams are required to keep a scorebook for consistency and accuracy.

**PLAYER GUIDELINES**

Dugouts are closed and off limits to all participants, including players.

Players are recommended to wear masks and a mask should be used in combination with social distancing.

During practices, players are encouraged to hang their bags and keep their equipment at dedicated stations along the fence extending from the dugout toward the outfield.

For games, players will keep their equipment at dedicated stations on the wooden bleachers.

Players are encouraged to stay at their dedicated station when “on the bench” or waiting their turn to bat.

Players are discouraged from sharing bats and other equipment.

Players should not retrieve equipment for opposing players (bats, hats, etc.).

Players should retrieve their own equipment when possible.

Players will be required to bring their own water bottle to every game and practice.

No food or snacks will be allowed on the fields or in the dugouts this season. This includes sunflower seeds, healthy snacks, gum and candy.

The league will provide each coach hand sanitizer, but, players are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to sanitize equipment and hands.

**WARM-UPS**

Teams are encouraged to maintain 6 ft social distancing throughout warm-ups, to the best of their ability.

Teams are encouraged to be mindful of other teams and should attempt to provide a generous amount of space between teams in all warm-up areas (on the field, open spaces, batting cages, etc.)

**POST GAME**

There should be no handshake line following the game and are encouraged to gesture from a distance (hat-tip, etc.).

Players and coaches should leave the field immediately following the coach’s dismissal.

**SPECTATOR OPTIONS**

Bleachers are closed and off limits to all participants, including spectators.

Spectators are always encouraged to wear masks and a mask should be used in combination with social distancing.

Spectators are not allowed within 6 ft of the players and coaches that are actively engaged in warm-ups, practices, or games (including the fence line extending from the dugout toward the outfield.)

Spectators are encouraged to view the game from the outfield fence and other spaces away from players and coaches and are encouraged to maintain social distancing from other spectators. 

**CONCESSIONS AREA**

The concession area will be locked to all players, coaches, parents and outside spectators.

On game days, no more than two adults will be allowed to enter the concession area. Adults responsible for concessions are required to wear a mask.

In order to keep things as simple as possible for volunteers, our current plan is to only offer pre-packaged items. Items like pizza, hot dogs, fountain sodas and other items requiring additional handling will not be available this year.

There will be place markers on the ground outside the concession window that are spaced 6 ft. apart to promote social distancing while in line.