



Moose Jaw Little League
2020 Season
Guidelines



Moose Jaw Little League 2020 Season Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the 2020 Season Guidelines for Moose Jaw Little League (herein noted as MJLL). These guidelines were prepared through a review and incorporation of similar guidelines from Baseball Sask and Saskatchewan Little League along with the guidelines set out by the Government of Saskatchewan (herein noted as Government).

In the event of any discrepancy between these guidelines and those set out by the Government, the Government's guidelines shall prevail.

Noncompliance can lead to removal of player, coach, volunteer or attendee and may be subject to reporting to the appropriate legal and / or health authority.

Mandate

The mandate is to prepare guidelines that can be submitted for approval that would allow our athletes to resume the baseball season in some form.

Required content included safety and personal hygiene measures to be incorporated for all participants during the COVID-19 pandemic, possible adaptations to playing rules to allow for the expected restrictions in place at any time through an Order of the Provincial Health Officer and general guidelines that may not necessarily fall under any of the above categories.

Assumptions

This section identifies the assumptions considered in the drafting of these guidelines as they relate to the current Government health orders and on municipalities access to recreational facilities.

- It is assumed that the City of Moose Jaw has reopened their facilities to the general public and association permit holders and have given express approval to MJLL for its intended use.
- It is assumed that Insurance providers have permitted the return to play guidelines and that liability exposure is not a concern for anyone involved. By point of reminder, no insurance coverage is provided for any claim related to COVID-19 at present as suggested by Saskatchewan Little League, Insurer AON and their underwriter, Markel Canada.
- It is assumed that the relevant health authorities will take the lead on any future confirmed or presumptive cases of COVID-19 and no additional work would be needed by the local association.
- It is assumed that compliance policing will be performed by MJLL, athletes and parents, along with all relevant stakeholders.



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SECTION 1 – REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PHASES

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While MJLL will be looking at two phases for returning to baseball, there are several requirements and restrictions that will occur regardless throughout the season.

All discussion or coaching through any means to include reminders to players regarding the rules noted below with particular attention to social distancing, no spitting, no face touching, no contact between the athletes and what to do if you become sick.

Foundational Requirements

- Individuals **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate if any of the following are true:
 - Displaying **ANY** of the common COVID-19 symptoms as follows:
 - fever
 - cough
 - headaches
 - aches and pains
 - sore throat
 - chills
 - runny nose
 - loss of sense of taste or smell
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Travelled internationally within the last 14 days; and
 - Close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, that they are aware of.
- If a person becomes sick, they should immediately stop participating, notify the lead MJLL official and return home. The MJLL official shall implement the necessary measures as noted in Section 4.
- All requirements for social distancing (i.e. 2 meters of separation) and for outdoor team sports, as dictated by the Government shall be followed.
 - In regard to the maximum number of people permitted in outdoor gatherings, physical distancing and other protective rules, shall be observed.
 - *As of opening day the maximum is 30. Those on-field, home team spectators and visiting team spectators are each considered their own group and allowed up to 30 people each meaning each game / practice can have up to 90 people in total.*



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- Prohibitive activities:
 - No sharing of water bottles or food of any kind;
 - No spitting, chewing gum or sunflower seeds;
 - No sharing of personal helmets;
 - No sharing of catcher's gear unless disinfected between personal uses;
 - No congratulatory gestures such as high fives and handshakes; and
 - No sharing of any other equipment unless disinfected between personal uses.
- Sign in sheets will be required at every game and detail:
 - The coach, assistant coaches and any volunteers
 - Each player and any individual dropping off and / or attending on behalf of the player.
 - An indication that each individual noted as being present:
 - Is not currently displaying any of the influenza like symptoms of COVID-19 as per the Government;
 - Has not travelled internationally within the last 14 days; and
 - Has not had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, that they are aware of.
- Anyone taking part in baseball shall observe proper hygienic practices while participating in any MJLL sanctioned events.
- Participants should arrive no more than five to 10 minutes before they are scheduled to reduce people gathering in groups.
- No single group on the field shall exceed the gathering limits in the public health order. Teams need to be separated while on the sidelines and players cannot exceed gathering limits during games, practices or training.
- Shared equipment (e.g. bats and baseballs) are to be disinfected after each use or as frequently as possible
- Bases are to be disinfected after each session.
- All commonly touched surfaces at the ballfield – benches, hooks on the back of the dugout, gates that are touched shall be disinfected at the end of each game/practice by the team using that area
- Hand hygiene should be performed prior to play and contacting shared equipment, as well as through the duration of the game / practice and at the end.
- All participants to disinfect their equipment after each event.



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- All uniforms or clothing to be washed after each event.
- All participants to shower/bath at first opportunity after each event.
- Ride Sharing is discouraged whenever possible.
- For any baseball facilities that have bathrooms and/or canteens, both areas shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before each evening in use. If these areas are being used for an entire day, these areas also should be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day as well.
- If possible, hand sanitizer should be available to all players and coaches to use throughout the game / practice.
- All team meetings before, during or after the practice for coaching or teaching purposes shall respect physical distancing requirements.
- At any facility with more than one baseball field, each player, coach, official or person involved at a field must stay at the field their practice is taking place. They cannot go over to the other field(s) and watch as they may contribute to the breaking of the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering. Each field is considered one outdoor gathering, so long as people do not cross over into other fields.

Facility Adaptations

- Indoor Events (practice, cage, meeting, other) are permitted, but are required to follow current Government guidelines for social distancing and number of people indoors.
- Outdoor facilities can be used, but are required to follow current Government guidelines for social distancing and number of people outdoors.
- No changing or dressing rooms permitted.
- Signage advising and educating on social distancing measures in place should be present at every field and facility utilized.
- All field prep equipment to be disinfected and cleaned after every use
- All fan seating to be configured with social distancing requirements adhered to.
- Number of parents or fans attending (including teams on the field) must follow current Government guidelines for social distancing and number of people outdoors.
- No gathering around the park until your scheduled start time (please wait in your car). Athletes must leave the park immediately after the practice.



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Administration Recommendations and Responsibilities

- MJLL is aware that not all athletes originally registered will choose to or feel comfortable returning. Refunds are being made available, less an administrative fee in accordance with MJLL policies.
- Return to Play and Health & Safety roles are being assumed by each member of the MJLL Board of Directors, with one specific member being noted as the COVID-19 Coordinator. Where required, some of these roles and functions will be assigned to each team. In this situation, coaches will work with volunteers and families to assist.
- A waiver has been prepared for the 2020 season with a signature required for EVERY participant in order to return to train or play.
- MJLL will be working to source hand sanitizer, wipes and gloves and face masks (if needed) given stock issues related to the products.
- Players should have their own hand sanitizer for their own personal use at each practice and / or game.
- Field allotments will be modified for schedule and duration as needed to allow for all events to stay under the Government's gathering limits.

Grounds Keeping & Maintenance

- MJLL will minimize the number of maintenance personnel working on the field at one time.
- Maintenance personnel will adhere to Government's social distancing guidelines.
- MJLL will provide maintenance personnel with hand sanitizer.
- Maintenance personnel will regularly sanitize any surface that is contacted and / or in common areas
- If any equipment must be shared, they must be sanitized before being used by another employee.
- Maintenance personnel will regularly sanitize all shared umpire equipment.

Concession Recommendations

- Concessions to be open or provided, but are required to follow current Government guidelines for social distancing and number of people outdoors.

SECTION 2 – RETURN TO TRAIN

Introduction

While the Government's guidelines do permit games effective June 29, 2020, MJLL will be practice only for the first week of the 2020 season. This will allow for a practical adherence to the requirements noted in this document as well as time to make any necessary adjustments as required by MJLL or through revisions to Government guidelines.



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Requirements

- All requirements to be met as outlined in Section 1 above.
- No team huddles before, during or after the practice for coaching or teaching purposes
- All drills to be created and implemented ensuring social distancing requirements are met.
- Only 1 team to practice at a time with the exception of Learn to Play and Junior Rookie where the field can be properly separated into two distinct practice spaces.

SECTION 3 – RETURN TO PLAY

Introduction

While the Government's guidelines do permit games effective June 29, 2020, MJLL will be practice only for the first two weeks of the 2020 season. This will allow for a practical adherence to the requirements noted in this document as well as time to make any necessary adjustments as required by MJLL or through revisions to Government guidelines. As a result, the guidelines below are subject to change as the season progresses and will be distributed to all participants.

Requirements

- All requirements to be met as outlined in Section 1 above.
- No plate meetings or pre-game for lineup exchanges.
- No team huddles before, during or after the game for coaching or teaching purposes.
- Mound visits are permitted between the coach, pitcher, and catcher while ensuring Government social distancing requirements must be adhered to between all three individuals.
- No arguing with umpires within social distancing minimum requirements. Any instances to be met with a suspension for the remainder of the year.
- No postgame handshakes.
- All players to sanitize their hands when returning to the dugout from the field, after each at bat and as required.



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Umpire Requirements

- Umpires are to bring their own water and hand sanitizer.
- Umpires are recommended to wear a mask where possible or when adherence to Government's social distancing guidelines cannot be adhered to.
- Umpires should properly use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the game.
- The Plate Umpire is permitted to work behind catcher, avoiding any contact with the catcher. However, should they feel more comfortable social distancing, they can choose to call balls and strikes behind the pitching mound.
- Limit the handling of baseballs and line up cards.
- Ensure baseballs were sanitized by home team prior to the start of each competition.

SECTION 4 – INFECTION PROTOCOL

Introduction

These protocols are meant as a guideline to ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of any known or potential COVID-19 contact. This will include measure to address player, coach and participant safety, as well as public health requirements to ensure the Government is fully aware as well as any individual who could have potentially been contacted.

Before the Game

- If the following is true for any individuals, they should not attend the game or:
 - Displaying **ANY** of the common COVID-19 symptoms as follows:
 - fever
 - cough
 - headaches
 - aches and pains
 - sore throat
 - chills
 - runny nose
 - loss of sense of taste or smell
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Travelled internationally within the last 14 days; and
 - Close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, that they are aware of.



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- If the individual is a player or volunteer, that individual, or someone on their behalf, should contact the team's coach and let them know they will not be attending and the reason why.
- If the individual is a coach, they should contact the division coordinator and any assistant coaches let them know they will not be attending, the reason why and ensure a replacement is available.

At the Game – Sign-In

- As detailed in Section 1, sign in sheets will be required at every game and detail:
 - The coach, assistant coaches and any volunteers
 - Each player and any individual dropping off and / or attending on behalf of the player.
 - An indication that each individual noted as being present:
 - Is not currently displaying any of the noted symptoms of COVID-19 as per the Government;
 - Has not travelled internationally within the last 14 days; and
 - Has not had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, that they are aware of.
- In the event that an individual answers yes to any of the above questions
 - The individual and anyone they are with will be directed that they are unable to play / attend and cannot return until the required 14-day isolation period as noted by the Government has passed.
 - The coach or volunteer responsible for the sign in sheet will contact the MJLL COVID-19 Coordinator to indicate who the individual is.
 - The COVID-19 Coordinator will track the individuals noted for future games and practices.
- If any individual refuses to answer above, the action will be the same as above.



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At the Game – During Play

- If an individual becomes sick during the game or practice, the individual in question should immediately let their coach know that they are sick with the COVID-19 symptoms detailed as follows:
 - fever
 - cough
 - headaches
 - aches and pains
 - sore throat
 - chills
 - runny nose
 - loss of sense of taste or smell
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- In the event the individual in question is the coach, that coach will notify their assistant coach or designate another volunteer.
- Once the notification has been given, coach or designate will inform anyone who is with the individual in question and the following will occur:
 - Sick Individual and anyone they came with will
 - Leave the field and surrounding area (e.g. parking lot, shared public space, etc) immediately and avoid touching any shared surfaces.
 - Once it is appropriate to do so, it is recommended they call the Government's Healthline at 811 for further directions.
 - The individual can let the appropriate health authority know that MJLL has kept detailed records for contact tracing purposes in the event of a COVID-19 diagnosis. MJLL will work with that authority to ensure anyone who was potentially exposed is contacted appropriately.



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- The coach and or designate will:
 - Inform the parents, players and other team's coach of the individual leaving due to illness.
 - If in the opinion of the coach, there was sufficient exposure to any other individuals, the coach may cancel the game or practice. Everyone will then follow the same procedures as the individual who became sick.
 - The coach of the other team may choose to continue their practice and or game depending on the level of exposure to the other team.
 - Document on the sign in sheet who was the individual.
 - Immediately proceed with cleaning protocols noted in Section 1.
 - Notify the MJLL COVID-19 Coordinator who will track the individuals noted and field for future games and practices.
- The individual and anyone who was potentially exposed will not be permitted to participate in practices or games for a 14-day period based on the sign in question of having close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case.
- In the event the individual tests negative for COVID-19 and wishes to resume playing before the 14-days are up, that individual must provide proof of the negative test to MJLL.
 - MJLL respects all of its participants' privacy with regards to their health. It will not ask for any medical records or diagnosis as part of the season.
 - In only this instance will it be required in order for MJLL to bypass the required 14-day isolation period.
 - ***All individuals have the right to refuse to provide such information, but will be subject to the 14-day isolation period regardless of their COVID-19 test results.***

After the Game

- The MJLL COVID-19 Coordinator will:
 - Track any individuals who are unable to play due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
 - Work with the division coordinators and coaches on when individuals are able to return to play.
 - Work with the Government and any relevant health organization regarding contact tracing of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
 - Maintain all the necessary guidelines and documentation for COVID-19.
 - Field and coordinate any communications regarding the MJLL COVID-19 guidelines and requirements.



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SECTION 5 – OTHER RESOURCES

The following resources were researched and incorporated into these guidelines and are available for public distribution:

- [Little League Best Practice Return to Play](#)
- [Baseball Sask Return to Train and Play – COVID-19](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan – Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#)
- Government’s Healthline at 811
- The most up-to-date news and information on www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19