

GJLS Rec Baseball/Softball Procedures During the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic

June 15, 2020. Revised August 21, 2020.

The policy described in this document extends from June 1st, 2020 to October 31st 2020. Any changes or amendments to this policy from the period of June 1st, 2020 to October 31st 2020 will be communicated to all members of Gahanna Junior League Sports (GJLS), including City of Gahanna Parks and Recreation, Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools, GJLS Coaches, GJLS Parents and Players. Communication and this policy will also be provided to all outside organizations, teams, coaches, players and parents involved in a practice, or game, with a GJLS sponsored team.

Message to All

We, as a league, volunteer as board members, coaches, and active and engaged parents to encourage our children to play baseball/softball. While this season is going to be a little different, we still believe it can be fun and help our players improve. Gahanna Junior League Sports, the City Of Gahanna, and Gahanna Jefferson Public School District are publishing this policy to accomplish our common goal to provide a fun and rich instructional experience for our families. The league and coaches cannot do this alone. As a community we need to come together to help make this season successful.

1.1 Waiver

All Gahanna Junior League Sports coaches, parents and players will need to sign the Waivers on the registration form in order to participate.

1.2 Agreement to comply with Gahanna Junior League Sports COVID-19 Policy

All coaches, parents, and players agree to comply with the Gahanna Junior League Sports COVID-19 Policy defined in this document.

In addition to agreeing to the Gahanna Junior League Sports COVID-19 Policy, all coaches, parents, and players participating at any GJLS sponsored event will comply with the State Of Ohio Responsible Restart Ohio for Sports, defined by Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

Each GJLS coach, parent and player will be provided this document. Participation is voluntary, and your participation is an acknowledgement to comply with the policy described in this document.

1.3 Injuries

Injuries are a situation where your son or daughter may need immediate help from a coach. This will mean that the coach will have to break social distancing guidelines to evaluate the injury and attend to your child.

a. If any parent objects to the coach attending to their child during an injury. Parents must inform the coach prior to the game that he/she is not going to allow the coach to break social distancing guidelines to evaluate the injury, and at least one parent must be present at all times. If your child is

injured, the parent will be called out on the field to evaluate the injury of their son or daughter. If a parent is not present, within a "Shout" or not immediately available, then the coach will be allowed to break social distancing guidelines to evaluate and attend to your child's injury .

b. If no parent objects to the breaking of social distancing guidelines to evaluate an injury prior to the game then one of the teams designated coaches will be allowed to break social distancing guidelines, to evaluate an injury and attend to your child.

2 Gameday Procedures

2.1 ALL spectators MUST wear masks.

Masks are required by the Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, and Club and Professional Sports Restart order.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

2.2 Pre-arrival Requirements

Gahanna Junior League Sports will, to the best of its ability, provide schedules, practice and game times that will allow for adherence to the policies and procedures that comply with the Ohio Department of Health's guidelines for baseball and softball.

Coaches, parents and players, MUST conduct a daily symptom assessment, as defined in the State Of Ohio Responsible Restart Ohio for Sports:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

We strongly urge parents to only bring members of your immediate household to the game. If you know others will be attending, we also suggest notifying your coach of any others that may be attending the game on your child's behalf.

2.3 Weekend Arrival at GJLS venues

On weekends when multiple game times will be used, please remain in your car until 30 minutes before the scheduled start time. Head coaches will be responsible for communicating with parents if a game will start later than originally scheduled.

2.4 Bring your own seats

There will be no bleachers at any GJLS fields this season.

2.5 Social Distanced Seating

Sit in family or household groups, six feet apart from any other group.

There is a designated area for players to be seated during their teams time at bat until it is time for their plate appearance. A single parent or guardian, or responsible adult, may sit in that area.

You are encouraged to bring as few family members as necessary with you to each game.

3 Parental Responsibilities

3.1 Attendance at games

At least one parent guardian will be required to attend a game in which a child is participating.

3.2 Attendance at practices

For the A-Minor and A-Major Baseball levels and the 8U Softball level, one parent will be required to attend each practice with their child. This will be necessary to assist the younger children in drills and help the coaches maintain the social distance requirements.

3.3 Symptom screening

If any parent or player is exhibiting symptoms of covid-19, including, but not limited to, a cough and or fever, they shall not attend a game or practice.

3.4 Water

GJLS concession stands will not be operating this season. Please make sure your child has water to stay hydrated.

3.5 Equipment Sharing Prohibited

There will be no shared baseball bats or batting helmets in use this season. The only equipment that will be shared is catching equipment and baseballs, both of which will be disinfected and sanitized regularly.

GJLS has a limited supply of batting helmets and used bats. If you will need assistance procuring equipment for your child, please contact <mailto:registrations@gmail.com>.

4 Third Coach/Volunteer Position

Parents during practices and games we will need to maintain separation of the players' equipment. This is especially difficult when a player reaches first base successfully.

- a. Each team is required to have a 3rd coach volunteer (in addition to the head coach and assistant coach) who will be responsible for the sanitization of equipment, the social distancing of the players and maintaining turnover of the batting lineup.
- b. This coach/volunteer will be responsible for pickup of the bat in the field of play, when the player cannot. Then disinfect the handle of the bat, and place the bat with the player's equipment.
- c. This coach/volunteer will help players keep their helmets, bats, catcher's gear with the rest of the player's gear, disinfected when needed.
- d. During a game situation, this coach/volunteer will maintain a separate set of defensive baseballs for their team.
- e. GJLS will provide additional catcher's gear to teams for designated catchers on the team. If the situation should arise where a catcher will need to share a piece of catcher's equipment, it is the responsibility of this coach/volunteer to properly spray and disinfect the equipment prior to usage.
- f. If any other equipment will need to be shared for any reason, it is this coach/volunteer's responsibility to properly spray and disinfect the equipment prior to use. Recommendation: We

recommend all kids have their own helmet, glove, and bat. Additional catchers gear can be provided upon request to GJLS.

- g. This coach will be responsible for making sure the players - seated with their families during their time at bat - come to the dugout as the time of their plate appearance nears.

5 Field Maintenance

Parents volunteers will be needed, during practices and games. GJLS Teams will be responsible for cleanup before, during and after any game and practice. Parents, check with your coach to determine where he or she needs help.

Responsibilities for the GJLS Team (Coaches, Parents and Players)

Before the practice or game

- a. Setup of the field, dragging, lining, placing the bases.
- b. Assign a Bench Coach Volunteer (see section 4)
- c. If the field was not in use prior to arrival, any permanent or present benches, should be sprayed down with disinfectant. GJLS will provide coaches with access to spray bottles and disinfectant.
- d. If the field was not in use prior to arrival, the closest porta-john/restroom will need to be sprayed down with disinfectant. GJLS will provide coaches with access to spray bottles and disinfectant.

During the practice or game

- e. The porta-john/restroom will need to be sprayed down with disinfectant every two hours.

After the practice or game

- f. Tear down the field, filling in low spots, putting the bases away.
- g. Players will pick up any and all garbage around the dugout area
- h. After the players clear out of the dugout, any permanent or present benches, should be sprayed down with disinfectant.
- i. The closest porta-john/restroom will need to be sprayed down with disinfectant