2020 Little League®
Season Resumption Guide
Dear Little League® Volunteer,

In more than 80 years of Little League, there has never been a season like this one.

As we have navigated this unprecedented pandemic, we have all had to make some very hard decisions that have kept us from playing baseball and softball and supporting the children in our community. On behalf of the Little League International Board of Directors and our entire staff, we thank all of our Little League volunteers, District Administrators, league officials, coaches, and parents, for your patience, leadership, and understanding.

The season has changed, and many of our Little League communities around the world continue to feel the tremendous impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Yet, in some areas, volunteers are able to work on a local plan for returning to the field and providing a Little League experience for their players. As certain states and municipalities begin their phased approaches to reopening, it is highly encouraged that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their respective state and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings, organized youth sports, and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to Little League activities after May 11. Leagues should contact their state and local health authority and other municipalities for guidance prior to resuming any Little League activities. For a listing of state health departments, visit CDC.gov.

To assist our volunteers, we have compiled the 2020 Season Resumption Guide. In this resource, you’ll find guidance that will help leagues return to the field with information on team adjustments, interleague play, combined teams, tournament opportunities, updated rules and regulations that will be implemented for the 2020 season, communications tools, and more.

When we do return to the fields, it’ll be more important than ever to think about those things off-the-field that make the Little League experience special – teaching life lessons; being kind and gracious to umpires, coaches, and opposing teams; and supporting your community.

The safety and well-being of all our families, friends, and participants is always paramount, and today, is more important than ever. As we announced April 30, we are extremely saddened that we have had to cancel our World Series and Region Tournaments for 2020, and while we won’t have these events and opportunities to look forward to this summer, we hope that, if safe and appropriate, your league can find a way back to the field this summer and fall.

We will be back and stronger than ever in 2021. We will rally around our communities, welcome all of life’s challenges, and leave a legacy of time spent together at Little League fields around the world. We are all in this together. We are one team, one Little League.

Thank you again for your patience, dedication, and understanding.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Keener
Little League President and CEO
Little League International and Regional staff will continue to be a resource for our District and league volunteers, and volunteers are encouraged to contact SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org for additional support. For more information about Little League’s recommendations surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), including frequently asked questions, season resumption guidelines, and more, visit LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus.
We understand that many of our districts, leagues, volunteers, parents, and players want to get back to the Little League® field, and so do we, but our primary focus is on the safety and well-being of all of our members around the world.

Little League International will continue to monitor the progression of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak both in the United States and around the world and provide updates to its local leagues and districts, however, it is highly encouraged that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to normal activities. Leagues should contact their local health authority for guidance prior to resuming any Little League activities.

In the event that your league and/or community experiences a COVID-19 outbreak and/or is connected to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis of one of your participants, visit LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for additional information.
As your league prepares for a resumption of activities, we strongly encourage you to follow the important guidance outlined here:

- Determine the start date for practices and games according to the guidance above. Because every community is facing different circumstances, Little League® International strongly encourages leagues to contact their local/municipal/county health department to receive the most appropriate recommendation for your specific league. If your league plans to postpone or cancel your offerings for the 2020 season, please contact SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org.
  - Little League International strongly recommends at least two weeks of practice and warm-ups before game play begins.

- Contact board members, volunteers, and managers to confirm if anyone is unable to continue in their position for the rest of the planned season.

- Discuss and prepare guidelines that may need to be implemented to protect against the spread of COVID-19, including on-field activities (e.g. refraining from handshakes), interleague travel, etc. Little League International strongly encourages leagues to follow the guidelines of your local/municipal/county health department regarding these matters.

- Confirm field availability for the rest of the season and, potentially, for an extended season (through June/July/August).
  - If fields are unavailable because of local municipality health/social distancing/gathering restrictions, your league should not resume Little League activities in any way until told it is safe to do so by your local/municipal/county health department.

- Discuss and determine if the delayed season now conflicts with other sports and/or non-Little League programs in terms of family, volunteer, and facility obligations.

- Develop and share your league’s refund policy for families and sponsors that are unable to participate for the rest of the year.
  - Please review the Financial Guide at LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for more information.

- Update player registration on the Data Center to add new players. Leagues utilizing Sports Connect to manage their player registrations will have their registration information uploaded to the Data Center automatically.
If you haven’t done so, complete your ASAP Safety Plan and submit it through the Data Center. Visit LittleLeague.org/ASAP for up-to-date ASAP guidelines.

Determine if rebalancing teams will be required based on any new registrants or anyone unable to participate.

- Remember, it’s important to verify the eligibility of all players based on their residency and/or school enrollment (LittleLeague.org/ResidencyFAQ). If there are players who are looking to participate in your league that are not eligible based on residence and/or school enrollment, please contact Little League® Support (LittleLeague.org/Support) for guidance on how to provide those opportunities.
  - If after review, a player has registered for your league that does not qualify by residency or school enrollment, your league should:
    - Contact the players’ parents or legal guardian and inform them that they do not qualify for your league.
    - Direct the parent or legal guardian to the appropriate league using the League Finder tool.
    - If a player does not qualify to participate in any Little League program, or their home league is not providing opportunities to play, contact Little League Support (LittleLeague.org/Support) to discuss potential options for participation.
    - Please note that for the 2020 season, there is additional flexibility to provide opportunities to players from outside your league’s boundaries. Please see “Regulation and Rules Waivers for 2020” on page 27.

Confirm that all existing and new volunteers have completed the required background screening process. For complete information on our Background Check process and requirements, visit LittleLeague.org/BackgroundChecks.

- Please see Rule and Regulation Updates for 2020 in the Play Section for additional information.
- We would encourage any league with volunteer needs to actively reach out to its membership using this templated message:
  
  With the 2020 season set to resume, we need your help! {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} has immediate needs for volunteers to assist in the following capacities:
  
  {List opportunities and details here}
  
  If interested, please contact {insert contact} for more information. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you at the fields!

Ensure that any waivers are prepared and approved by the Little League International Charter Committee before the start of game play.

Communicate your full season resumption plan to families, volunteers, and sponsors via email, website, social media, and utilize local news outlets to help spread the word.
There are many factors that may impact the playing opportunities that your league is able to provide.

Based on the Pre-Start Checklist, your league should determine if you can modify your regular season game schedule for all divisions of play based on your start dates and ample practice time, or if you need to adjust your league’s offerings based on the timing, player availability, facilities, and/or financial limitations.

This is an opportunity to focus on fun and inclusiveness, providing a playing situation that is welcoming for all who are able to participate.
As play resumes in 2020, most leagues will need to make some adjustments to their teams due to players that are no longer available for the modified season schedule.
In determining what adjustments are needed, regardless if your league has already played games during the 2020 season, there are several steps that leagues should follow.

TEAM ADJUSTMENTS

**Step 1: Determine Player Availability**

Based on the modified schedule and ongoing recommendations in each community, it is likely some players who signed up at the start of the season may no longer be available to participate. After your league sets start and end dates for the 2020 season, reach out to parents and legal guardians to:

- Communicate Schedule Updates
- Confirm Availability to Participate
- Provide guidance on season details – number of games, interleague play, non-regular season opportunities, tournament opportunities, etc. – and communicate with the following email template:
  
  We are excited to announce that we are planning to resume Little League activities on {insert date here}. In advance of this resumption, we wanted to reach out to confirm that your Little Leaguer(s) are interested in participating in the resumption of our season. Please confirm your participation via email to {enter email address} by {enter date}. Below are a few highlights for the upcoming resumption of our season.
  
  - The season will run from {enter start and end dates}.
  - We will strive to provide each team with at least {insert number} games.
  - We will participate in games against the following other leagues in our areas: {list leagues}.
  - The following additional opportunities will be available to interested participants: {list here}.

**Step 2: Evaluate Updated Registration Numbers**

After availability of players has been confirmed, review the updated registration numbers to answer each of the following questions:

- Are there divisions where the number of teams need to be reduced?
- Are there any divisions that are no longer viable as originally planned due to a reduction in players?
- Are there any divisions where the age structure needs to be modified, while adhering to Little League® International regulations, to facilitate offerings for 2020?
Step 3: Adjust Divisions/Teams

In divisions where the number of teams needs to be reduced, leagues should consider the following options:

- Redraft all players registered for the current season.
- Dissolve the team(s) with the fewest remaining players and redistribute those players amongst the other teams in the division.
- Reduce the number of players on each regular season team (e.g. reduce roster size from 12 to 10 players per team).

In some cases, it may be necessary to adjust the structure of a division to facilitate offerings in the 2020 season. The age structure of Little League® provides flexibility in structuring all divisions of play. Sample adjustments may include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing 9- and 10-year-olds to participate in the Major Division for 2020.
- Realigning the Minor Division age structure to include broader age ranges.
- Combining Junior and Senior Divisions for 2020.
- Allowing players to participate in up to two Divisions (at the Major level and above) in which they are eligible to participate by league age.

Step 4: Consider the 2021 Draft

Team adjustments for 2020 may necessitate that leagues conduct a total redraft in all divisions of play for the 2021 season in order to establish parity as participation returns to normal levels. Communicate with parents regarding what to expect when registering with your league next season.

Once your league had determined its team numbers, you should contact Little League Support (LittleLeague.org/Support) for appropriate assistance.
INTERLEAGUE PLAY AND
COMBINED TEAMS

The following updates have been made to the Interleague Play and Combined Teams requirements for the 2020 season only.

Interleague Play

☐ Interleague Play forms will not be required for games that take place between leagues within the same district. Forms will still be required for interleague play between leagues located in different districts.

☐ Prior to engaging in any interleague play, your league should consult state and local health officials for guidance regarding travel to and from both communities. Interleague play should only take place when it is safe to resume travel between communities.

☐ The June 1 deadline for submission of Interleague Play forms has been waived.

☐ Assess any of your divisions that are approved for interleague play with other leagues during the regular season:
  - Will the other league be restarted on or before your earliest start dates above?
  - If restart date is later, can you wait for the other leagues?
  - Send new team/field availability to District Staff.
  - If fields are unavailable due to scheduling conflicts, contact neighboring leagues and your District Administrator for help in finding venues to play regular season games.

Combined Teams

☐ Any number of leagues from within the same district will be permitted to combine to offer regular season opportunities.

☐ League population will not be considered as a part of regular season approval for the 2020 season; however, combinations involving more than 30 players will be subject to additional review prior to approval.

☐ Districts may login as leagues in the Data Center and submit Combined Teams applications on behalf of leagues within their district.

☐ The June 1 deadline for submission has been waived.

☐ Assess any of your divisions utilizing combined teams:
  - Will the other league be restarted on or before your earliest start dates above?
  - If restart date is later due to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events, can you wait for the other leagues?
  - Contact your District Staff if you have questions about previously approved Interleague Schedules or Combined Teams.
As the season postponement/delay has caused many leagues to assess their operating expenses and determine what monies may need to be allocated to vendors, sponsors, and player refunds, the local league Board of Directors should create a detailed report of the league’s finances that can be shared with membership as needed.

The transparency of the league’s finances will be paramount in explaining to the league’s membership where the league stands financially as it navigates this uncertain time.
Little League® International has created an in-depth Financial Guide to help leagues answer common questions to review finances, which can be found on LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus.

Topics included in the Financial Guide that are important for your league to review are:

**Revenues/Savings:**

Start by assessing your league’s operating revenues as part of the annual financial plan. This is simply making a list of all the money collected for the year by category:

- □ Registration Fees
- □ Local League Sponsors
- □ Donations
- □ Fundraising Efforts
- □ Grant Funds
- □ Capital Fundraising
- □ Savings and Reserves

**Expenses:**

Make a list of the items your league spent money on, is committed to spending money on, or has already ordered for the season. Verify such expenditures with your League Treasurer and involve the Audit Committee of the local league Board of Directors, if available, to verify expenditures.

- □ Equipment
- □ Concession Stand Expenses
- □ Special Event Expenses
- □ Additional League Operating Expenses
- □ Little League International Expenses

Thoroughly reviewing your league’s financial position will allow you to plan for any potential refunds that you may be able to provide to your families, future financial planning and fundraising needed to support your league’s operations, and any limitations your league may face from a financial standpoint in operating this season.
As always, it’s important to be transparent with your membership and supporters about your financial position. Create a section in the budget showing lost revenue due to COVID-19, and share the following information with your membership:

In keeping with best practices regarding the full disclosure of [INSERT LEAGUE NAME]’s finances, we are providing a section within our financial report that highlights the lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The board’s objective in doing this is to communicate to our parents, guardians, volunteers, and to the community our financial standing as a result of this unforeseen event. Any questions regarding the league’s finances should be brought to the League Treasurer. Lost revenue for the 2020 season to date includes:

- [List lost revenue sources and amounts here]

**SPONSORSHIP**

It is important that leagues work to maintain positive relationships with sponsors who support the league on an annual basis. Communicating around modifications to the upcoming season and managing expectations is key to continuing to build positive relationships with supporters of your league. To accomplish this, leagues should consider completing the following items:

- Create a list of businesses that provided sponsorships and any costs associated with those sponsorships that have already been incurred (e.g. producing a banner for the outfield, ordering uniforms, etc.).

- Identify sponsors that are likely taking a substantial financial hit due to COVID-19.

- Consider ways that existing sponsorships can be extended throughout the fall based on the modification of the regular season.

- Focus on digital sponsorship opportunities for the 2020 season including website and social media recognition thanking sponsors for their continued support.

- Consider ways that the league and its membership can support sponsors during this time (e.g. restaurants offering take-out, etc.) and add value to the relationship.

- As adjustments are made, remember it is important to document all sponsorship agreements in writing.
SPONSORSHIP (cont.)

provide sponsors with an update on season modifications/status, including a transparent update on the league’s financial outlook, with the following template:

{Sponsor}:

Thank you for your sponsorship commitment to {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} for the 2020 season. {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} understands the uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It is our sincere hope that we can find ways to bring everyone back to the Little League fields this season, whether that’s later this spring or throughout the summer and fall. We have been working hard preparing to provide a great Little League experience for the families of our community and have already ordered equipment, jerseys, and other associated items for the season. {Insert additional financial details/outlook here}

Based on recommendations from our local officials, we are currently planning to resume the season on {insert date here}. We will provide regular updates as we progress through this situation and please feel free to reach out to us to discuss how we can best add value to your support of our league for this season and future seasons.
REFUND POLICY AND SUPPORT

As we prepare to resume the 2020 season, it is likely that each league will have some players/families requesting a refund due to their inability to participate in a modified season.

In some cases, leagues may need to issue refunds to all participants due to the cancellation or shortening of the spring season. Prior to issuing refunds, the league must decide on its refund policy. When considering your league’s refund policy, here are some questions you should be asking:

- How much of the season was completed or will be played this year?
- Will we issue refunds for players who choose not to play once the season is resumed?
- What expenses did we have for each player (e.g. uniform costs, equipment costs) that have already been incurred?
- Should we refund parents, or are we required to refund parents, based on any state or local laws?
- Should we refund the full amount or only a partial amount?
- Should we offer to push registration payments into a future season?
- What milestone dates should we set in assessing reimbursements?
- What will issuing refunds do to our league’s annual budget?
- Are there monies available to issue refunds to all registrants?
- Who will be responsible for developing the league’s course of action?
- How will reimbursement be managed by the league?
Leagues using the Sports Connect platform to complete their online registrations can use technology to assist in the refund process.

- Full or partial refunds can be issued to individuals at any point during the season. In order to issue a refund to your parents from within the Sports Connect platform, leagues will need to fund a refund pool amount since the registration funds have already been disbursed. A Sports Connect representative can assist with the steps needed to fund your league’s refund pool, and then manage the refund process for you from there.

- In the coming weeks, a feature will be added to the Sports Connect platform that will allow leagues to issue refunds in the form of credits that parents can use for future participation in the league. The credit amount is applied to the parent account that registered the player. Leagues may also choose to create coupon codes for parents to offer as a credit on future registrations. This coupon feature has recently been enhanced by Sports Connect and now includes a max number of uses for added security.

- Sports Connect has a dedicated team in place to assist leagues with issuing refunds and credits for the 2020 season. For assistance, leagues can search for an available time using this scheduling link (https://calendly.com/sports-connect/15min-call) or submit a ticket from within the product. Please be aware their support ticketing system is undergoing maintenance and will be unavailable from 6:00 p.m. EST Friday, May 1 to 9:00 a.m. EDT Monday, May 4.

- Please note the credit card costs and $3 service fee are not refundable, as it is a cost that has already been incurred.
Refund policy email

☐ To be sent once your league determines its season resumption or season cancellation plan.

☐ Should include the league’s refund policy and the process to request a refund

☐ Provide an explanation if only a partial refund is offered.

“Thank you for your interest in {INSERT LEAGUE NAME}. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} has established the following refund policy for those parents and legal guardians who choose to withdraw their child(ren) for the Spring 2020 season.

• Those requesting a refund will receive a {full/partial} refund of 2020 registration fees. {If partial refund, explain incurred expenses here}

Option #1 (Recommended): Registration fees can be rolled over as a credit towards a future season.

As this global pandemic was an unfortunate situation that is out of the control of our Board of Directors, we kindly ask those requesting a refund instead consider accepting a credit for a future season in order to help us offset operational costs the league has already incurred prior to the pandemic. If you have a player aging out of the league and you have other children enrolled, you may use the refund credit towards their registration fees in the future.

Option #2: Parents/Legal Guardians will be refunded the cost of registration in full, less the following expenses already incurred:

☐ Any administrative fees incurred by the league (credit card transaction fees, Sports Connect processing fees, etc.) will be withheld from your requested refund.

☐ The cost of any uniform or equipment purchased on behalf of a player will be withheld from your requested refund.

☐ Operational costs incurred by the league (field/facility rentals, field maintenance, etc.)

☐ {INSERT LEAGUE NAME} would also like to offer:

The league would kindly accept any refunds to be used as a donation to the league. Given the unforeseen circumstances our program has, and continues to be faced with during this pandemic, any donation is greatly appreciated.

If you have a player aging out of the league and you have other children enrolled, you may use the refund credit towards their registration fees in the future.
SEASON CANCELLATION

Unfortunately, your league may need to come to the conclusion that it cannot support a Little League® opportunity this year. We strongly encourage you to review all opportunities that may be available to get children back out to the field this year (including Fall Ball, Little League Sandlot Fun Days, T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby, etc.), but, if your Board of Directors has decided to cancel its season, please contact SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org or visit LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for additional support.

INSURANCE

Little League International understands that all of its local leagues, volunteers, parents, and communities around the world are struggling through the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and that every league is looking for ways to recover from the financial strains it has caused. One of the ways local leagues are looking to save costs is through their insurance. We have heard from many leagues inquiring about insurance refunds. It’s important to note that leagues who purchase insurance through the chartering process utilize the AIG Insurance Program for Little League. This program is not an insurance program run through Little League directly, but rather through AIG, who Little League International works with in order to help provide affordable options for its local leagues. Little League International is actively working with AIG on reimbursement options for our local leagues, and we will continue to communicate those to leagues utilizing the AIG Insurance Program for Little League, as AIG shares that information with us.

Little League International has put together a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding insurance coverage and cancellation following the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found at LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus. Information on the process for leagues to request a potential prorated return on insurance premiums purchased through the AIG Insurance Program for Little League will be available in mid-May.

Little League International highly recommends that every local Little League program maintain their insurance coverage, even if no games or practices are being held, to prevent a lapse in coverage and protect against potential issues. While a portion of the insurance premium may be able to be refunded upon cancellation, the overall risk of canceling the insurance policy, even in a minimal capacity, is not typically worth the money saved with this cancellation.

Please note that leagues who utilize outside insurance companies, whether in full or as supplemental insurance, are encouraged to reach out to their provider for more information.
As play gets set to resume for this season, we know that there will be players who choose not to participate based on a lack of availability during the timeframe of the revised season, concerns over resuming activities, and a number of other reasons.

To effectively market your league’s resumption, consider taking the following steps:

- Communicate regular updates on your resumption plan via your website, social media, and your local media outlets. Utilize your league’s email list and the templates included in this guide to communicate regular updates to parents and volunteers.

- Consider holding a supplemental registration to attract new participants looking for activities in your community. These registrants can help fill spots of players who withdrew from the league and provide an opportunity to grow in future seasons.

- Promote the resumption of your season via social media, the league’s website, and your local media outlets once play resumes.

- Maintain a list of players that withdraw from the league this season and create a plan to reach out to them to invite them back for the 2021 season.
If your league leadership has been able to prepare and confirm that your league’s activities adhere to the guidelines set forth by the state and local government and health officials in terms of public gatherings and sporting events when determining when it is safe to return to normal activities, here are some best operating practices for resuming play in your community.

As we work together to provide the most opportunities to as many children as we can, in a healthy and appropriate manner, it’s important to be flexible with what your league offers. Each opportunity is going to be dependent on state and local guidance, and your league should try to adapt its offerings to fit those guidelines.

In the event that your league and/or community experiences a COVID-19 outbreak and/or is connected to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis of one of your participants, visit LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for additional information.
Little League® International recommends all leagues implement a two-week training period prior to beginning any formal game play. This will allow all players to ramp up their baseball/softball activity without rushing to get back to action.

As leagues plan this two-week period, some best practices include:

- Week one should consist of at least two practices over the course of the week.
- Look at conducting open practices as frequently as possible. These practices can be for all participants and run by the league, focusing on different skills, such as throwing/fielding, hitting/baserunning, fly balls, etc. Open practices must be set up by division and may not include players from multiple divisions of play.
- During week two, it’s encouraged to weave in scrimmages or exhibition games with some of these best practices:
  - Have a one-hour and 30-minute (1:30) time limit.
  - Focus on education and fundamentals.
  - Game play can be stopped after a play to instruct players on how to properly make the same play. Reset the playing field the same way as it was prior to the play. This educational situation will allow participants to gain the understanding of what to do in that situation.
  - Rotate players through different positions.
SCHEDULING PRACTICES

Once a local league knows how many teams they have, work to provide each team with the opportunity to hold two to three one-hour practices during the first week.

☐ If a league is unable to provide enough practice time slots, based off field availability, leagues can look to group teams together to practice.

☐ Limit practice time to an hour and a half long.

☐ Leagues can also conduct open practices on the weekends. Pair players of like ability from the same divisions. This will allow groups of players to learn skills and drills together. Practices shall be conducted by approved coaches from the league/division that have completed their required background checks and follow appropriate safety measures.
PROTECTING OUR PITCHERS

Little League® has always placed safety as a top priority, and we continually strive to provide children with safe and healthy baseball/softball opportunities. For more than a decade, the Little League program has been at the forefront of promoting arm safety for youth pitchers. Our pitching regulations must be followed throughout all play, and it’s important to give your baseball and softball pitchers the opportunity to properly warm-up and get their arms used to throwing again.

Additionally, we recommend that coaches implement calisthenics, stretches (active and static), and jogging for pitchers, as well as all players, to loosen muscles, build endurance, and work back into the season in a safe and effective manner.

Here is some guidance to help in getting your pitchers ready for the resumption of play.

**Baseball**

- During week one, pitchers should throw to 1-35 pitches in a bullpen session. Pitchers throwing more than 21 pitches shall observe one day of rest. We recommend throwing 35 pitches on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

- Week two, we recommend pitchers throw no more than 35 pitches in their first exhibition game. Pitchers throwing more than 21 pitches shall observe one day of rest. Pitchers may throw up to 50 pitches in their second exhibition game if they have thrown in a previous exhibition game. If they have not thrown in a previous game, said pitcher may only throw up to 35 pitches. Pitchers throwing more than 35 pitches shall observe two days of rest.

- Little League recommends using as many pitchers as possible during exhibition games. This is a great time to work with and develop players who might not have otherwise had an opportunity to pitch.

- During the first week of game play, it is recommended that a pitcher not throw more than 65 pitches in a game. Pitchers throwing more than 51 pitches shall observe three days of rest.

- Week two of the regular season, regular pitching rules will apply as outlined in the rulebook.
PROTECTING OUR PITCHERS

Softball

If pitchers have not been throwing at home, coaches should ensure that pitchers start slow and gradually work up and into their workouts watching form and providing breaks when necessary. As always, pitchers may also go through the pitching motion without throwing a softball to loosen muscles and work on their pitching form and motion.

- During week one, pitchers should work through their normal warm-up (flips, K-drills, full arm circle, walk-throughs, long toss, full throwing, etc.), focusing on the basics and technique, starting slow, and building up. We recommend that any pitcher who throws (in total with warm-up) for approximately 30 minutes for Minors; 45 minutes for Majors; 60 minutes for Junior and Senior; observe a day of rest. Coaches should watch for signs of poor mechanics and fatigue and allow players to take a break or stop for the day when needed. We would suggest pitchers throw on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

- During week two, we recommend pitchers throw no more than 2-3 innings in Minors and Majors, or 4 innings in Junior and Senior, in their first exhibition games. Pitchers throwing more than those inning guidelines should observe a day of rest. We would suggest coaches permit pitchers to throw 2-4 innings for Minors, or 4-5 innings for Majors, Junior, and Senior in their subsequent exhibition games. As always, managers and coaches should watch for any breakdown in mechanics or fatigue in their pitchers and substitute when appropriate.

- Little League recommends using as many pitchers as possible during exhibition games. This is a great time to work with and develop players who might not otherwise have an opportunity to pitch.

- During the first week of games, it is recommended that a pitcher not throw more than 4 innings in a Minor game; or 5 innings in a Major, Junior, or Senior game; depending on inning length. While all regular season pitching rules apply, managers and coaches should watch their pitchers for signs of fatigue or poor mechanics to ensure pitcher safety and substitute when appropriate.

- During week two, and depending on each pitcher’s progress and endurance, managers may permit pitchers to throw additional innings; however, managers should speak with players and player parents to have a good understanding of how each pitcher is feeling – mentally and physically.
The goal of resuming play is to provide as many opportunities for as many children in your community as possible.

Every league will have their own unique circumstances with the availability of fields, players, umpires, and volunteers. It’s important to be flexible and strive to provide the most positive experience for all players and families, while also making sure that your league is following all local and state health authority guidelines for social distancing, organized activities, and large gatherings.

Here are some best practices to keep in mind as you’re scheduling and playing your games:

- Set a one-hour and 45-minute (1:45) time limit to allow for multiple games to be played in a day.
- If you decide to play doubleheaders, leagues can schedule two doubleheaders a week for Major Division and above. Minor divisions can have one double header per week. Doubleheaders will have a three-hour time limit and consist of two, four-inning games. If the second game of the doubleheader finishes prior to the three-hour time limit, teams may continue playing the game until the time limit is met.
- Strive to schedule as many games as possible based on your availability and local situation.
- If your league doesn’t already, use a continuous batting order to provide additional at-bats for all players.
- Discuss using Little League’s approved alternate methods of play to provide additional play opportunities.
- Leagues who continue or start Regular Season play into the Fall will have the ability to utilize the 2020 League Age Chart for players in all divisions of play. If a Local League is operating a traditional TAD (Training and Development) Program or Fall Season, they will have the ability to use either the 2020 League Age Chart or the 2021 League Age Chart for the appropriate division of play.
REGULATIONS AND REGULAR SEASON RULE WAIVERS

School Attendance Eligibility Requirements

☐ Accepts alternative method of verification for Little League School Attendance form when access to school and administration unavailable.

- **2020 A.R.** - For the 2020 season, any school document is acceptable to meet School Attendance eligibility verification.

Regulations I(a)(1), IV(a), and IV(j)

☐ Provides leagues additional flexibility options regarding age structure in select divisions.

☐ I(a)(1) and IV(a) - Leagues may permit 8-year-olds to participate in the Little League (Major) Division.

- **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, players who are league age 8 are permitted to participate in the Major division provided they have been assessed capable to participate in the division.

☐ Softball Only - I(a) Junior/Senior and IV(a) - Leagues may permit 12-year-olds to participate in the Senior League Division.

- **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, players who are league age 12 are permitted to participate in the Senior League Softball division provided they have been assessed capable to participate in the division.

☐ I(a) Intermediate (50-70) Division/Junior/Senior, IV(a) & IV(j) - Leagues may permit 15-year-olds to participate in the Junior League Division.

- **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, players who are league age 15 are permitted to participate in the Junior League division provided they have been assessed and their skill level is consistent with other players in the division.

Regulation I(b)

☐ Permits the Player Agent to manage, coach, or umpires during the 2020 regular season.

- **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, Player Agents will be permitted to manage or coach a regular season team or umpire in any division.
**Regulation I(b)**

- Permits the local league Board of Directors ratio to exceed 50% manager/coach representation following the suspension if leagues need to fill Board of Director positions.
  
  - **2020 A.R.** - For the 2020 season, manager/coach representation on the Board of Directors may exceed a minority.

**Regulation I(c)(5)**

- Provides additional Interleague Play and Combined Team flexibility. Leagues should reference the 2020 Season Resumption Resource Guide.

**Regulation II(a) and IV(j)**

- Removes the 2020 deadline for Regulation and Regular Season waivers.
  
  - **2020 A.R.** - The June 1 Deadline to submit waiver requests of Regulations (including out-of-boundary players) and Regular Season rules is waived for the 2020 season only.

**Regulation II(a)**

- Provides flexibility to leagues resuming play regarding registration of out of boundary players whose home league has suspended operations for the 2020 season.
  
  - **2020 A.R.** – Players will be permitted to register and be eligible for selection to a team, in any other league in the District, if their home league has concluded all team activity for the 2020 spring season; however, players must return to their home league effective 1/1/2021. Due to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the coronavirus pandemic, Little League will waive the Residency/School Attendance Eligibility requirement for the 2020 Regular Season only. Each local league will have the option to accept any player, whose home league has canceled the 2020 season, into their league for regular season only, regardless of whether the player lives or attends school within the approved geographic boundary. A league must provide a list of out of boundary players. Leagues opting to accept players that do not meet Residency or School Attendance Eligibility requirements, must adhere to the following conditions:
    - Leagues must provide a list of out-of-boundary players that were permitted to participate for 2020 through a process administered by their respective District Administrator.
    - Must communicate to parents that participation in the league is permitted for the 2020 regular season only.
Regulation II(d) and Regulation IV(h)

- Players claimed under Regulation II(d) or IV(h), with supporting documentation and paperwork, who are unable to participate for the 2020 season, will be entitled to retain their eligibility for 2021 and subsequent seasons with their respective league.
  - **2020 A.R.** – A player previously claimed under Regulation II(d) or IV(h) with proper supporting documentation and is unable to participate for the 2020 season, will not be considered to have a break in service. The regulation claim will be valid and reinstated for the 2021 and subsequent seasons.

Regulation III(a)

- Revises the minimum and maximum number of players required per team. Additionally, removes the requirement for teams to carry the same number of players per team for the 2020 season.
  - **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, leagues will not be required carry a minimum or maximum number of players on teams or carry the same number of players per team within a division.

Regulation IV(a)

- Permits local leagues to utilize the 2020 Age Chart for any regular season resumption play through December 31, 2020.
  - **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, leagues may utilize the 2020 Age Chart for all regular season play and Special Games through December 31, 2020.

Regulation IV(f)

- Waives the requirement for players to attend tryouts and/or provide an excuse to the Board of Directors for approval.
  - **2020 A.R.** – Tryout attendance will not be required for the 2020 season.
Regulation V(c)

- Modifies Player Pool guidelines. A league is permitted to use age-eligible players from a younger division who have been accessed capable of participating in the older division as a pool player.
  - **2020 A.R. 1** – For the 2020 season, the alternate Method of Operation/Pool Player system may be expanded to include age-eligible players from younger divisions.
  - Examples:
    - Minor Division up to Major Division;
    - Major Division up to Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division or Junior Division;
    - Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division up to Junior Division or Senior Division
    - Junior Division up to Senior Division
  - **2020 A.R. 2** – For the 2020 season, the Player Agent may modify the Mandatory Play minimum as a result of implementing time limits on games.

Regulation VII(d) and Rule 4.12 – Baseball Minor and Major Divisions Only

- Provides scheduling flexibility for Minor and Major Baseball teams. Leagues will be permitted to schedule and play two (2) doubleheaders per team per week for the Major Baseball division and one (1) doubleheader per team per week for the Minor Division.
  - **Major Baseball - 2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 Major Baseball season, teams will be permitted to schedule and play up to two (2) doubleheaders per week.
  - **Minor Baseball - 2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 Minor Baseball season, teams will be permitted to schedule and play one (1) doubleheader per week.

Regulation VII(a) and (g)

- Removes regular season scheduling and participation requirements.
  - **VII(a) – 2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, leagues do not need to provide a 12-game (Senior League: 10-game) schedule per team. Teams do not need to play a minimum number of regular season games.
  - **VII(g) - 2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, regular season play may continue after September 1.

Regulation VII(h) and X(c)

- Gives local leagues flexibility to implement time limits on games.
  - **2020 A.R.** – For the 2020 season, a local league may establish time limits in order to complete their regular season.
Regulation IX(c)

☐ Removes Special Games scheduling restrictions.
  - 2020 A.R. – For the 2020 season, Special Games may be conducted after September 1.

Rule 1.11 (a)(1) and (2), and 1.11 (b)

☐ Removes the Regular season uniform and patch requirements for the 2020 season.
  - 2020 A.R. – For the 2020 season, conventional uniforms that do not match nor meet patch requirements may be worn.

Rule 9.04(a)

☐ Provides flexibility regarding the position of the plate umpire.
  - 2020 A.R. – For the 2020 season, plate umpires may be positioned behind the catcher or behind the pitcher.

Operating Policies: Duration of Title - Local League Draft Flexibility

☐ Permits leagues to conduct a second draft, if there is an unbalance due to player return.
  - 2020 A.R. – For the 2020 season, leagues may conduct a second draft to help rebalance teams following 2020 season suspension.
LITTLE LEAGUE® SANDBLOT FUN DAYS

Come together and play. Sandlot Fun Days are a player-led, unstructured opportunity for local Little League® programs to provide a fun, relaxed activity for baseball and softball players, where kids make the rules, make the lineups, and make the calls.

These opportunities are available to bring kids together, have fun, and provide a relaxed playing experience. A comprehensive guide to operating Little League Sandlot Fun Days can be found at LittleLeague.org/SandlotFunDays.

While unstructured, there are some very basic requirements to follow, which provide a safe and fun environment for the participants and allow your insurance to cover these games:

☐ Players must meet age requirements outlined for each division of play and the league must be chartered/insured for the proper number of teams in those divisions.

☐ Players will determine selection of teams, as well as how many defensive players are used; continuous batting order is recommended.

☐ Each dugout must have an approved adult volunteer.

☐ If an umpire is used, they must follow guidelines outlined in the 2020 Little League Regulations, Official Rules, and Operating Policies or in the Rulebook App.

☐ Players must adhere to all player safety guidelines, such as:
  • All batters must wear protective helmets, while batting and while on base.
  • Catchers must wear approved catcher’s equipment.
  • Pitch counts must be followed (should be kept by approved adult volunteer).
  • Proper pitching distances must be followed.
  • Bases that disengage their anchor must be used.
You can still register and host a local T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby, if your season resumes in 2020, as the deadlines have been extended. By registering for this competition, both baseball and softball participants will have the opportunity to get back on the field and have some fun with their friends and teammates when it’s appropriate to do so, in accordance with Little League’s Season Resumption Guide.

Once your competition scoresheet, participant waivers, and champion photo are submitted, T-Mobile will donate six dozen A.D. STARR baseballs (if participating in baseball competition), four dozen A.D. STARR softballs (if participating in softball competition), two ball buckets (if participating in baseball division), two ball buckets (if participating in softball division), and one team equipment bag (for the first 750 leagues to submit their results).

Information regarding the Regional and Championship events of the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby will be shared later this spring.
TOURNAMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL GAMES

It’s important to remember when planning that each league and district adheres to the guidelines set forth by their national, state/provincial, and local government and health officials in terms of travel, public gatherings, organized youth sports, and sporting events when determining when it’s safe to organize a tournament. Leagues should contact their state and local health authority and other municipalities for guidance prior to resuming any scheduling these events.

If it is safe and appropriate to hold tournaments or special games, these events may provide opportunities for those moving up to a different division next year or aging out of the Little League® program.
Eligibility (League/Player) – Due to these unprecedented times, the regulations surrounding eligibility of both leagues and players for District/State/Section Tournaments have been relaxed for this season. Leagues must be chartered with the appropriate insurance coverage within the division of play that they intend to participate in a tournament prior to the start of the tournament. Please consult the updated Rules and Regulations Waivers and Approved Rulings for the 2020 Season for more information.

Tournament Calendar – Because there will be no Region or World Series Tournaments, District/Section/State Tournaments can be scheduled locally with much flexibility, when it’s safe and appropriate to hold these tournaments based on the guidance of state and local health authorities and other municipalities. This will allow for a longer regular season.

Affidavit – There is no requirement to have an affidavit. Tournament Directors and organizers may utilize their own documentation if desired.

Enrollment – The enrollment process will not be managed by Little League® International through the Data Center, as in the past. Instead, enrollments and fees will be managed locally by the tournament directors. District Administrators are encouraged to notify their appropriate Region Office if they will be holding tournaments.

Mileage Reimbursement – Because the enrollment fees are not collected by Little League International, there will not be any mileage reimbursement benefits from Little League International.

Protests – All protests will be handled locally with Region Office support.
Tournament Opportunities and Special Games

Special Games

These events can be with regular season teams or with tournament teams selected from leagues using similar tournament selection processes from previous years. Frequently, districts operate Tournament of Champions tournaments that provides additional play opportunities to league champions and/or Invitational teams.

Fees – The fees for any tournament held under Regulation IX Special Games remain local with the tournament host.

Enrollment – There is no enrollment for these Special Games Tournaments through the Data Center. However, leagues should submit their Special Games applications [Download Application for Special Games | Download Application for Special Games with Non-Little League Teams] to the appropriate Regional Office (LittleLeague.org/Contact).

Insurance – Those hosting and participating in the special games event must have appropriate insurance coverage as required by Little League® Regulations.

Protests – Unlike the International Tournament, all protests and concerns with the event rest with the local Tournament host or his/her local committee. Little League International is available for rule interpretation services, and you should contact your appropriate Regional Office (LittleLeague.org/Contact) for guidance.

Helpful Resources Available on LittleLeague.org:
- LLU- Special Games
- Benefit of Special Games
- Special Games as Development Tool

36 LITTLE LEAGUE® 2020 SEASON RESUMPTION GUIDE
The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted individuals, families, and communities in many ways.

Little League® International has worked with Darrell Burnett, Ph.D., a Clinical Psychologist and former member of the Little League International Board of Directors, to develop a series of resources that provides guidance to families and volunteers on how to navigate the emotional support needed as we return to a new normal.

Available on LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus, these resources include:

- “Calm” Emotions & “Positive” Feelings: Two Keys to Stay Healthy During Self-Isolation
- How Parents Can Help Address Their Child’s Anxiety

Future resources will be developed to support coaches and discuss returning to play. Please continue to check LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for more updates from Dr. Burnett and other great experts.
Perhaps now, more than ever, sportsmanship on the field and in the stands is paramount.

In addition to the various resources available on Little League® University (LittleLeagueUniversity.org) regarding proper behavior for players, coaches, volunteers, and parents, Little League International has partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance and John O’Sullivan, founder of the Changing the Game Project, to provide additional articles, guidance, and resources.

We strongly encourage your league to share these sportsmanship resources with your families in order to provide a positive experience for all participants.

Helpful Resources:

Little League Pledge
LLU - Three Tips for Instilling Sportsmanship
LLU – Parents Code of Conduct
Open Letter to the Out of Control Parent

DLTH: People Give Face to the Worst in Youth Sports
Changing the Game Project
Positive Coaching Alliance
Little League® is the reason your community comes alive.

Little League International has compiled resources to help leagues with best practices as they return to the field to help keep all players, volunteers, families, and fans safe at the Little League field, as well as ways that your league can stay connected to your community and celebrate those who are going above and beyond throughout the Coronavirus pandemic.

Best Practices on Organizing, Playing, and Watching Youth Baseball and Softball during the Coronavirus Pandemic

☐ Little League International is developing guidelines for leagues to implement as they return to play, to help follow social distancing best practices. Please continue to check LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus for updated information.

☐ Once developed, you’re encouraged to share this information with your league membership.

Celebrating Local Heroes and Contributions

☐ During these challenging times, Little League International wants to recognize the incredible volunteers and players who are playing an important role in keeping our communities safe during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. From league volunteers who serve as essential workers risking their lives on the front line, to the dedicated Little Leaguers working to make masks and other protective equipment for their community, join us in celebrating these individuals by submitting a nomination below. Little League International will recognize a number of these individuals on its official social media platform (@LittleLeague) and leagues are encouraged to share these stories on their platforms as well.

☐ To submit a nomination, please visit LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus.
Staying Connected with your Community

Since the first Little League® season in 1939, community has been vital to support the children participating in our program. As we continue to navigate this unprecedented situation, social media, video conferencing, and other digital media opportunities have provided innovative options for all generations to take advantage of to stay connected while socially distancing.

Some ways that your league can show its appreciation, connect with its players, and support its communities are:

• Thanking Your Community’s Unsung Heroes
• Use Digital Media to Connect with Your League or Team
• Support Your Sponsors
• Utilize Little League International Resources to Stay Active
• For examples on how other leagues are staying connected, visit the Stay Connected tab on LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus.
As we continue to work through the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, and do our part to return to normalcy, we wanted to share a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help your league, district, and community. If there is a question that you don’t see below, and would like some guidance, please email Support@LittleLeague.org.

The comprehensive and most up-to-date FAQs can be found at LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus. Some of those questions include:

- General Information and League Guidance
- When will Little League® International update district and local league volunteers on when to start/resume the 2020 season?
- Where can I find what my state or county is doing to educate on the coronavirus?
- What Little League activities should be suspended/delayed?
- How was the original May 11 date chosen for resuming Little League activities?
- Does Little League International support the proposed $8.5 Billion COVID-19 Federal Relief Fund for Youth Sports Organizations?
- Can the League President/Board of Directors decide to cancel the season without consulting the District Administrator, Regional Center, and Little League International Charter Committee?
- What should our league do if we’ve decided to cancel our season?
- Will refunds be issued on charter fees for 2020?
- What will Little League International do to financially support its local leagues?
- What if my school or municipality is suspending activities past May 11?
- What should league and district leaders tell parents and fellow volunteers about what our league is doing to protect against the coronavirus?
FAQs

How should our league/district handle our registration fees and other league finances?

How should a league communicate to its members about any confirmed cases of coronavirus in the league (players, parents, volunteers)?

If a (player or volunteer) in my league is diagnosed with coronavirus, will he/she need a doctor’s written permission to return to our league?

International Tournament/World Series

How was the decision made to cancel the Little League International Regional and World Series Tournaments?

Why wouldn’t you just postpone the tournament season and hold the World Series in September/October?

Will there be waivers to allow anyone who ages out of their division (i.e. 12-year-olds) to play next year?

Why couldn’t any of the events be moved to another city in an area that isn’t affected as heavily or play without fans?

How does this affect the expansion plans for the LLBWS/LLSWS in 2021?

Will the umpires selected for the 2020 Region Tournaments and World Series events now automatically be assigned to work the 2021 events?

If the Region and World Series Tournaments are canceled, will state/country, sectional, or district tournaments be held?

What type of tournament opportunities are available for my league/district to participate in?

If there is no International Tournament, will there be any fees that local leagues will have to pay in order to enter another local tournament-style event in place of the Tournament Enrollment fee?

Insurance Coverages and Cancellation Policies

What is Little League’s recommendation on cancelling insurance?

Will any Insurance Premiums be prorated?

How will any reimbursements be delivered to our league?

Can I cancel my insurance for this season and get a refund?

What are the implications to my league if I cancel my insurance?

Are there different policies or coverages that I can cancel?

Will canceling my insurance impact my charter status?

If our league cancelled its insurance, can it be restarted when we begin league activities?

Is coverage still in place during the suspension of play?

How can leagues request a cancellation of insurance?

If I reduce my team numbers and cancel my insurance for the 2020 season, does that impact my charter credit?