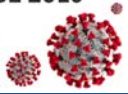


CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

**COVID-19**



# **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR RESUMPTION OF BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR**

Updated May 15, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019  
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# LET'S GET SAFELY BACK ON THE FIELD

- Follow local & state health guidelines at all times.
- Communicate with your league members on guidelines prior to the start of your season and throughout the 2020 season.
- Make modifications for scheduling of games and practices to meet guidelines.
- Have special COVID-19 waivers signed prior to the start of any league activities.
- Ensure that your charter & insurance are current for 2020 prior to the start of any activities.
- Move all league meetings to a virtual online format for the remainder of the 2020 season.
- Always check for updates online from local & state health officials, as well as from Babe Ruth League Headquarters.
- Play a FULL regular local league season into the fall (if permitted) to allow as many players as possible to participate playing baseball & softball within the community.
- Check in with District & State Commissioners for updates on possible local Tournament Trail.
- Stay Safe! Stay Positive! And, Work Together - **#StrongerTogether**



# REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PROGRAMS TO RESUME PLAY

- Local & state health officials have indicated a start date of when activities can resume. Local league officials must then make sure to review all guidelines provided by the local & state officials and Babe Ruth League throughout 2020 season.
- All restrictions that are imposed by local & state officials must be followed, with no exceptions.
- Notify all participants and volunteers of the changes being implemented in accordance with local & state guidelines.
- Local leagues must be chartered & insured before the start of any practices or games.
- Special “COVID-19” release waivers must be completed by all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires and/or regular spectators of program activities.
- Make necessary changes at the park to meet all guideline changes provided by the local & state officials.
- Review suggested Babe Ruth League Guidelines on social distancing for game activities.
- Establish a point of contact for any person wishing to advise a League Official of guidelines not being followed, and steps for the league to notify the person(s) or team that is involved.





# BABE RUTH LEAGUE GUIDELINES\*

## TO ENHANCE ANY LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH OFFICIAL GUIDELINES

\*At no time do these replace local or state guidelines

1. All local & state health official guidelines must be followed for any activity to take place.
2. No handshaking/celebrations: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
3. Only two (2) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players & coaches will be positioned down the left & right field lines (off playing field & outside of fence – if possible) away from throws that might come to 1st and 3rd base. Players will be seated or stand no less than 6' apart and must have at least one (1) Coach to watch over players in this area at all times.
4. Players should limit any sharing of playing equipment, bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catcher's gear, helmets, water bottles etc. Baseballs and Softballs should be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply should be on hand.
5. All participants should wear some type of face covering while at the park, and especially while at the games. For example, umpires, players, coaches, scorekeepers, etc. If a player chooses to wear additional PPE, they may do so as long as it does not compromise the safety of other players.
6. Cleaning supplies, as well as hand sanitizer, should be available in the dugout area. Also, hand sanitizer stations should be set up in locations around the park.
7. Parents should be advised to have backup supplies in the player's equipment bag for use when needed and their own marked water bottle or sports drink. No team or dugout coolers are permitted.
8. Review cleaning and sanitation of common areas like dugouts, bathrooms, concession stands or similar areas between games or activities. Teams should be advised to clean out and wipe down dugout or other field areas that they were in prior to leaving the playing field.
9. Limit the number of fans to one (1) spectator per player attending games in the park.
10. Review game schedules to allow for fields to not all be in use at the same time if they are in close distance to one another. Allow for greater gaps in between games to help limit the number of people at the park at one time. For complexes with more than one field, they should look to reduce the amount of games or activities to half of the normal scheduling to allow for greater space in the park.





# BABE RUTH LEAGUE GUIDELINES\*

## TO ENHANCE ANY LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH OFFICIAL GUIDELINES

\*At no time do these replace local or state guidelines

11. Fans attending games should follow 6' social distancing guidelines at all times.
12. Suggest that any player, or person not feeling well, should not attend games or practices.
13. Review new procedures with all Team Managers prior to the first activity or game at the park.
14. Managers & Coaches should help to educate players on the hygiene/handwashing/touching of the face suggested guidelines.
15. Any team or player awards are presented wrapped up and given to the Team Manager or team point person. There should not be any on field presentations.
16. Provide proper signage throughout the park on guidelines provided by local and state health officials. Contact Babe Ruth League HQ's for help in having signs made at a reduced cost.
17. Pregame conference will be limited to one (1) Coach per team and one (1) Umpire. Social distancing of 6' is required.
18. The use of candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds is not permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.
19. Batting lineup changes should be limited to communicating from a distance that maintains the 6' social distancing guidelines at all times.
20. Have each team keep track and report all of the players, coaches, umpires or spectator's names that are at the park for each game.
21. These guidelines are to enhance your local & state health guidelines should those guidelines be at a lower standard, or not as detailed for the sports of Baseball & Softball.



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# CHARTERING & INSURANCE

## FOR THE 2020 SEASON

### Leagues already chartered for 2020:

Can adjust local league team counts thru July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (known as “Add/Drop”).

### Leagues not yet chartered for 2020:

Must not hold any practices, games or league activities until charter & insurance is approved for the 2020 Season.

Access local league portal to complete the charter & insurance.

Once completed, the league can submit for review by Babe Ruth League Headquarters.

Once reviewed & approved, the league admin is notified to go and make payment via e-check.

*Please note that insurance becomes effective the day after payment is made. If you print out your invoices for your charter fees and insurance and mail in your payments for processing, your insurance is effective the day after postmark.*

*Leagues that choose not to have a season, or who are not permitted by local & state health officials to have a season, are recommended to charter & insure one (1) Major team for the 2020 Season. This will allow your league to still have insurance for league operations through January 31, 2021. Leagues that have chartered & insured but failed to have a season, may reduce team counts back to one (1) Major team in each of the age divisions that they had chartered. A credit will be applied towards the league's 2021 charter fees; however, insurance payments will be returned via a check from K&K Insurance to the league. We suggest that leagues complete the “Add/Drop” and submit by July 1, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Babe Ruth League Headquarters at 800-880-3142 Monday – Friday 9am-5pm EDT.*



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Babe Ruth League Headquarters will help to create local custom signage on any material or size needed, by our Local Leagues. Email [health@baberruthleague.org](mailto:health@baberruthleague.org) with signs you are looking to have created and we will contact you for the details that will be needed for an order to be placed. Signs can be produced on different materials as well as different sizes based on the need of the league.

# POSTED SIGNAGE SUGGESTIONS



**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Local Police: 555-555-1234  
 Local Fire Dept: 555-555-3456  
 League President: 555-555-5678  
 Safety Officer: 555-555-7890

**Or call 911**

**Response Address:**  
 Park Name  
 123 Main Street, Anytown, NJ

Emergency Contact List



**DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?**

**Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to reduce the spread of infectious disease.**

**CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES!**

Reminder signage for restrooms, concession stands, park & dugouts



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Local leagues, once given the approval to plan a season for 2020, should look to break new ground on a new format for local league play. Travel to and from tournaments, especially out-of-state tournaments, are in doubt for several reasons. The local league should look to extend the typical local league season further into the summer months, and even into the fall for 2020.

Leagues should not feel pressured to be finished with a “regular spring season” by any certain date. Allow for your leagues to focus on serving the community, and for as many children as possible to be a part of it by having all age levels play baseball & softball. If the local league wishes to play into June, July & August because local & state health officials say you can, then great! If you would like to extend your regular season into Fall Ball or have your spring season be your 2020 Fall Ball season, that’s okay, too.

Local leagues that are following the guidance of local & state health officials should not worry about finishing by a certain date to make the Tournament Trail, or because your league is used to being done by a certain date.

2020 is the year for trying something new and/or outside of the box!

# LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY IS THE FOCUS FOR 2020!







# 2020 TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Babe Ruth League's focus is to give every player the opportunity to play the game we love. With local league play being extended well beyond the normal spring dates, the Tournament Trail is going to be modified for 2020.

## LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY



**START DATE:**  
When league is given permission.

**END DATE:**  
When local league decides.



## TBD

DISTRICT  
PLAY

STATE  
PLAY

Commissioners will work with local leagues to determine when a tournament at these levels can be scheduled, and which leagues would like to participate. The tournament can be scheduled for any time up to October 10, 2020.



## 2020 AND BEYOND



Local leagues may now extend play for all age levels. This provides flexibility to leagues and Commissioners to schedule District/Area/State Tournaments.

NOTE: Depending on the part of the country, some regional sponsored events could be scheduled in the fall. These events will have different formats, but could be an option for another weekend tournament. Leagues will need to check with their Regional Commissioner to see what options might be available in the fall of 2020. Our normal annual Regional Tournaments will return in the summer of 2021.



## TBD



World Series or national BRL events may be possible to schedule in fall 2020 for most age groups. The details on age groups, locations and play dates will be announced later in the summer. Details will be provided to leagues once we can review the progress being made in the COVID-19 pandemic.