

Reading Babe Ruth Baseball Covid-19 Plan

Submitted by Jeff Pierce- President

The Reading Babe Ruth Baseball League (“RBRL”) will adopt the following policy as it relates to COVID-19 effective with the start of the 2020 baseball season.

The policy will be updated as necessary based on the continued direction from State and local authorities, and will be posted on our website at “readingbaberuthbaseball.com”.

Compliance with the policy is necessary and for all individuals participating in League activities.

Practice (Phase II)

- Coaches and players must adhere to physical six-foot distancing.
- Only coaches/players allowed on the playing field
- Only one team will be scheduled at the field for each practice slot
- Practice slots will have a 45 minute buffer to avoid cross-over contact
- All players and coaches must wear their own face mask in close contact areas that are not on the field of play or when coaches are providing feedback.
- Baseball drills should be setup that allows for proper distancing and individual drills such as hitting grounders or fly balls to players one at a time, throwing in the batting cage to one player, and pitchers throwing to catchers in pairs.
- No drills allowed that could precipitate accidental player contact (such as using base runners).
- No practice games/scrimmages or situational play that involves base runners.
- No player will be allowed to participate if they have presented symptoms or having knowingly be in contact with infected individuals.
- Each player must have the following items in their bag in order to participate:
 - Face covering
 - Batting gloves
 - Water bottle clearly marked with first name and last initial
 - Each player must have hand sanitizer.
 - RBRL will provide hand sanitizer and wipes in dugouts
- Equipment must not be shared between players not from the same household (with the exception of baseball bats*).
- Players that do not have their own batting helmet will be assigned a team helmet for their use only and labeled with their name.
- Catchers that do not have their own will be assigned a team set (mask, shin guards, mitt) for their use only and labeled with their name.
- Players must sanitize hands when instructed.
- RBRL equipment will be sanitized after each game.
- No shared drinking stations.
- No spectators allowed for practices

*Due to the high cost of Babe Ruth certified baseball bats every player cannot be expected to provide their own. If needed a limited number of team bats are supplied but the player using must use batting gloves and the bats will be sanitized after each use.

Coaches must document attendance of all participants by date of the practice and keep on file for contact tracing purposes

Games (Phase 3)

- Coaches/players/umpires must adhere to physical six-foot distancing outside of the playing field
- Only coaches/players/umpires allowed on the playing field or bench areas.
- Only one game will be scheduled at a field each day
- For travel league teams (HS aged 16-18) the games must not be played outside of the state of Massachusetts.
- All players and coaches must wear their own face mask in close contact areas that are not on the field of play or when coaches are providing feedback.
- No player will be allowed to participate if they have presented symptoms or having knowingly be in contact with infected individuals.
- Each player must have the following items in their bag in order to participate:
 - Face covering
 - Batting gloves
 - Water bottle clearly marked with first name and last initial
 - Each player must have hand sanitizer.
 - RBRL will provide hand sanitizer and wipes in dugouts
- Equipment must not be shared between players not from the same household (with the exception of baseball bats*).
- Players that do not have their own batting helmet will be assigned a team helmet for their use only and labeled with their name.
- Catchers that do not have their own will be assigned a team set (mask, shin guards, mitt) for their use only and labeled with their name.
- New baseballs will be rotated into the game at regular intervals.
- Players must sanitize hands when instructed.
- RBRL equipment will be sanitized after each game.
- No shared drinking stations.
- Spectators must be kept at minimum 20 feet from the playing field and bench areas

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Coaches must document attendance of all participants by date of the game and keep on file including the opposing coaches contact information (if not in-town team).

Players

- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing during practice.
- Players must wear their own face mask when not in the field of play.
- Players must have their own fielder's glove, batting glove, team baseball hat and jersey.
- Players are strongly encouraged to bring their own batting helmet, baseball bat and catchers equipment (when applicable).
- Each team will have a supply of helmets for individual use and extra sets of catching equipment.

- Due to the high cost of Babe Ruth certified baseball bats every player cannot be expected to provide their own. If needed a limited number of team bats are supplied but the player using must use batting gloves and the bats will be sanitized after each use.
- No avoidable touching, i.e. no high fives, handshake lines, chest pumps, etc.
- No spitting ,eating, or gum chewing

Coaches

- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices, except when not practical or to ensure safety of players, in which case the coach must wear a face mask.
- All coaches must wear their own face mask when appropriate in conjunction with this policy.
- Must stay away from field if symptomatic.
- Ensure that players are following COVID-19 -related prevention measures

Dugouts/Benches

- Players must be spread at distances no less than six-feet. Additional seating or standing area must be next-to or behind the bench (and behind a fence wherever possible).

Spectators/Parents

- Must adhere to this RBRL policy as it pertains to their presence
- Must adhere to six-foot social distancing practices near non-family members.
- Must not allow a symptomatic child to come to the field.
- Must not enter player areas (on the field of play or bench areas).
- Must keep 20 feet from the playing field
- Must wear face covering when in close proximity to others including team members, coaches and umpires before or after the game

Arrival-Departure to Field / Venue

- Carpooling with non-family members is not recommended

Parents are encouraged to reach out directly to the League President regarding any concerns that compliance to this policy is not being followed.