



**Hamilton Wenham Little League  
COVID 19 Protocols  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The following rules, created in concert with and approved by our local boards of health, are designed to allow for baseball activities in compliance with the Reopening Massachusetts plan. The rules apply to all players, managers, coaches, parents and other spectators, league officials and umpires.

All rules will be discussed in advance with all above parties. Prior to the beginning of the season, we will hold mandatory video conferences with all coaches, managers and league officials. All rules will also be disseminated to all players, parents and umpires.

As part of a COVID 19 specific waiver, and before beginning the season, families will sign, pledging to self-screen, in accordance with recommended guidelines, before attending each HWLL practice, game, or other event, while promising to stay home if symptomatic.

No player, manager, coach, umpire, league official or spectator is allowed to attend any HWLL event if they have had a known exposure to COVID 19, an elevated temperature, or any symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough or shortness of breath, sore throat, sneezing or runny/congested nose.

Any player, coach, manager, or league official who develops the above-mentioned respiratory symptoms will not be allowed to participate until they have been seen by, and cleared by, their health care provider. Also, any player presenting with any cold-like symptoms, mild or otherwise, will not be allowed to participate until they have been seen by, and cleared by, their health care provider. In addition, they will not be permitted to participate in any subsequent HWLL event until the HWLL Safety Director has received written proof from the individual's health care provider that they are safe to return.

If any player, coach, manager or league official is diagnosed with COVID 19, we will, in order to maintain confidentiality to the fullest extent, request that nurse from the Hamilton or Wenham Boards of Health ("BOH") inform any and all others who have been in contact with that individual. To this end, all managers and coaches will be required to maintain strict attendance for all HWLL

events. We will also inform the appropriate town board of health and follow their instructions as far as further measures.

To reduce the potential for contamination of surfaces, the dugouts will be off limits during HWLL activities except for the on-deck batter and the batter next in line to hit following the on-deck batter.

No player is to be dropped off early or picked up late from any HWLL game or practice. If a player arrives early, he or she is to remain in their vehicle until the event begins. No player is allowed to linger after the event ends.

As long as it is safe, players will wear masks when they arrive to the field and when they are picked up from the fields following any HWLL event.

HWLL will distribute hand sanitizer and equipment-sanitizing wipes to all teams.

Coaches will provide each player with hand sanitizer both immediately upon arrival to the event and immediately prior to departing by dispensing hand sanitizer into each player's hand, whenever possible, and observing proper use, whenever possible.

Coaches will be encouraged to formulate practice plans that work best within social distancing guidelines, minimizing an already minimal infringement on social distancing that is already consistent with the game of baseball.

Players will be encouraged to remain 6 feet apart. To this end, players will space their equipment 6 feet apart, on marked spots, along the backstop and foul line fences.

While off the field of play, all coaches, managers and players will remain in their area (behind the back stop and foul line fence). Any discussions between managers and/or umpires will be done while maintaining social distancing.

Players must wear masks at all times. All coaches, managers, and league officials will follow and relay any applicable social distancing guidance for the players. All coaches, managers, league officials, and umpires will also wear masks, as long as it is safe. All coaches, managers and be trained in the responsible use of masks, by the League Safety Officer.

Players will be required to bring their own helmet, glove, and any other equipment needed for play. Players are strongly encouraged to provide their own bat. However, parents may, at their own discretion and after relaying to their coach in advance, opt to use a league provided, team bat, which coaches will sanitize in between each players' use.

Catching gear should be provided by those looking to play the position of catcher. However, league provided catching gear will be given to each team and sanitized between each game. League provided catcher's gear will be worn by only one player in a given game. The league will provide an additional 1-2 sets of sanitized, packaged catcher's gear in the green boxes behind each dugout should a catcher/substitution situation arise creating this demand.

Each player will be responsible for handling his or her equipment. If a batter reaches base and is therefore unable to retrieve his or her bat, it will be retrieved by a member of the coaching staff who will return it to a player's equipment bag.

There will be no hi-fives, handshakes, or any other direct contact between players, and between players and coaches/managers at any time, except as necessary, such as in an emergency or when administering first aid.

Players, coaches and managers are prohibited from eating during any HWLL event. They may bring a beverage from home, but no sharing whatsoever is allowed.

Players will be reminded by coaches and managers not to touch their face at any time while at a HWLL event. Hand sanitizer will be available at all times should the need arise during the event, if a player needs to touch their face, or if first aid is to be administered by a coach or manager.

All other attendees to any HWLL event, excepting players, coaches, managers, and umpires, will remain in the designated spectator area. They will be prohibited from arriving early or leaving late. They will be instructed to maintain social distancing while in attendance at any HWLL event and must wear a mask.

Players families should clean all equipment at home, after each HWLL event, with a CDC-approved disinfection method. HWLL coaches and managers will likewise sanitize all used equipment and baseballs after each HWLL event.

HWLL will place required signs at all fields specifying the need for face coverings and social distancing, and prohibiting any spectators from handling any equipment, including foul balls, and prohibiting them from being present at any area of the field or park except the designated spectator area.

These protocols are subject to change and HWLL may update and amend, depending upon the guidance of the state of Massachusetts, local Boards of Health, and other sanctioning bodies.