

B-BUZZ BASEBALL LEAGUE - COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The 2021 B-Buzz Baseball League season has given us the chance to design, implement, and solidify COVID-19 protocols for the future. The B Buzz board of directors continues to tailor our safety protocols as appropriate for each age division. The league's goal is to provide our players the opportunity to practice and play baseball and for our league's families to return to our Little League community.

B Buzz's primary concerns are the health and safety of all participants.

B Buzz 's return-to-play rules and procedures meet the state's requirements for youth sports.

All league participants - players, managers, assistant coaches, team volunteers, and family members will assume some risk in all baseball activities.

Below are the basic protocols that B Buzz will implement to minimize risk. In addition to these protocols, individual leagues may institute rules to protect the health and safety of players and families.

MANDATORY RETURN-TO-PLAY PROTOCOLS

Social distancing of fans - During practices and games, fans must maintain a social distance of 6 feet away from anyone that is not a member of their family or household. Fans must also follow league guidelines for seating locations during practices and games.

Social distancing of teams - Players and coaches will maintain a preferred social distance of 6 feet, where practicable. Placement of players in dugout areas and during changeovers will assure social distancing. Game play will create situations in which players are less than six feet from each other.

Screening - Players, coaches, parents, and other family members must take their temperature and screen themselves before leaving their house for any practices, games, or team events.

Illness /Symptoms - Parents, coaches, and other family members may not participate in any B Buzz event if they have any illness or symptoms of COVID-19.

Mask – Mask are to be worn at ALL times by managers, coaches, fans and players not currently on the field.

Baseballs – The League Commissioner will supply the baseballs for each game. Baseballs will be wiped down with a sanitation solution before they are put back into play. Coaches will maintain two buckets of baseballs during games: one for clean baseballs, ready for play, and one for baseballs that need to be sanitized.

Sanitizer - Players will bring their own hand sanitizer to events and apply it every inning.

After outs - The ball will go immediately back to the pitcher. Teams will not throw the ball around the infield after an out in bases empty situations.

Equipment - Players will use their own gloves and batting gloves. Helmets and bats will be sanitized after each use.

Drinks - Teams will not share drinks or provide a team cooler. All players must bring their own drinks.

Contact - No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs, spitting, sunflower seeds, gum, and things similar between anyone.

Meetings - Teams must maintain social distancing during team meetings.

On-field Conferences - All participants should maintain social distance of at least six feet during on-field conferences. All participants must wear a face covering when conferring at a distance of less than six feet.

Extended dugout and seating areas - Players and coaches should maintain social distance when entering and leaving the dugout areas.

Dugout Areas - Players will be assigned a spot in the dugout areas that provides 6 feet of social distance from other players, where practicable. Players are encouraged to bring their own chairs for use during practices and games. Players will keep their equipment in their assigned dugout spots.

Line-ups - Teams will exchange lineups via text message or email.

Umpires - The home plate umpire will call balls and strikes from a socially distanced position behind the pitcher's mound. Base umpires will stand in socially distance positions in the outfield grass.

Covid-19 Reports - B Buzz players, coaches, parents, other family members, and spectators who test positive for COVID-19 or who have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 must immediately contact the team manager and league commissioner.

In case of a COVID-19 report connected to B Buzz, league administrators will consult with and follow the guidance of the Cuyahoga County Health Department.

