

BCYL



**Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders
Baseball & Softball Program Plan**

COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

June 18, 2020

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders (BCYL) Mission is to provide youth with diverse sports, education and community awareness programs that foster physical, intellectual and social development, while instilling pride and helping them build character and self-esteem, so that they can reach their full potential and value their role in society.

Due to the recent developments surrounding COVID-19, school districts have shut down for the foreseeable future. Many youth are lacking the necessary physical activities and social interaction. Based on a recent parent survey, over 80% of parents are in a favor of their child participating in the baseball and softball season.

BCYL has created a COVID-19 Taskforce to study best practices and develop guidelines that are in alignment with the recommendations and/or requirements of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Public Health (DPH), the offices of the Mayor and Governor and Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball to ensure a safe environment for everyone involved. BCYL is prepared to respond to community needs when it safe to do so.

Safety Protocol & Expanded Measures

Staffing

As part of enhanced safety and health protocols, BCYL will assign at least one On-Site Coordinator at each field to ensure compliance as outline on this plan is adhered to by the players, coaches, parents and guests. All On-Site Coordinator will undergo training in regards to safety protocols, observation, and sign-off from the Director of Sports.

Staff and Coaches Uniform Requirements

To address safety and to easily identify staff and coaches, all staff must wear a BCYL Logo Royal Blue Polo Shirt and/or jacket and coaches will wear BCYL Logo Red Polo Shirt. A face covering must always be worn.

Parent Expectations

Parents are asked to support BCYL in providing a safe space for our members and staff by informing BCYL of any changes to their child's health or community exposure.

- Parent must sign waiver for child to participate
- If a child exhibits any symptoms of fever, runny nose, coughing, or shortness of breath, parents are asked to keep them home until their symptoms have subsided. If symptoms continue for 3 or more consecutive days a written confirmation from an authorized medical professional the allowing child to return is required.
- Parents are expected to answer a verbal health questionnaire and authorize BCYL or its representatives to administer a temperature check on their child prior to admission onto the field for practice or game.

- In addition, any person positively diagnosed with COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate in practice or game for 14 days after their symptoms have subsided. Anyone who would have come in contact with that individual (staff, coaches or players) 2 days prior to their symptoms will need clearance from the local department of health to return for participation.
- Parents and family members will abide to the 6-foot social distancing requirement and wear face coverings at BCYL practices and games.
- Parents, family members and guests are encouraged to bring a chair and sit in the designated area in the outfield perimeter and will not be in direct contact with the players or coaches.

Parents who show disregard for these above mention expectations or BCYL's Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action up to including expulsion from BCYL.

Player Expectations

Players are expected to follow the BCYL code of conduct, hygiene, health practices and social distancing as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Public Health (DPH), the offices of the Mayor and Governor and Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball. Players must be able to follow the instructions of coaches and BCYL personnel to ensure participation and everyone's safety.

Players who show disregard for BCYL's Code of Conduct or exhibit intentional disruptive behavior will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from BCYL.

Practice and Game Protocols

- Players accompanied by a guardian, Coaches, Umpires and staff members prior to going on the field will have their temperature taken before each practice and game at a designated location by designated BCYL member. Persons will be sent home if temperature exceeds 100.4 Degrees Fahrenheit after a 2nd verification. A sticker will be placed on the person's chest of jersey or shirt indicating they have met the approved temperature.
- T-Ball, Rookie and Minor Divisions games and practices will be cancelled and rescheduled if possible when air quality advisory and/or forecasted temperature exceed 90 degrees during assigned start time.
- Players should bring their own personal drink with their name marked on the container. Drinks are not to be shared. BCYL will discontinue the use of water coolers to be shared by team members.
- Players are allowed to wear PPE items if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game or practice.

- Players should have their own personal, hat, uniform, helmet, bat, glove, folding chair and hand sanitizer **not to be shared**. This applies to other personal equipment.
- The social distance pre-game meeting at home plate with the umpire(s) should be limited to one coach from each team.
- Maximum number of players allowed in the dugout will be marked to ensure 6 feet spacing. The remaining players will sit on the bleachers or in chairs they bring from home. Whether in the dugout or on the bleachers (or in their own chairs), everyone must maintain distancing of 6 feet or more.
- Teams are required to clean their dugout of all trash and other items before and after each game, and wipe down (clean) hard surfaces such as benches, bat racks, etc.
- Any foul balls hit out of play into the spectators/fans area will be sanitized by designated team official before being put back into play.
- The catcher and batter shall position themselves during a player's at-bat to allow for at least 3 feet.
- No spitting and sunflower seeds are banned. First violations will result in automatic 2 innings removal from the game. 2nd violation ejection of game and subject BCYL Code of Conduct.
- The "plate umpire" should be positioned behind the pitcher's mound, at least 6 feet from the pitcher.
- Players and coaches are prohibited from hand to hand contact.
- **T-Ball and Rookie Divisions only** – 1 parent per player shall bring a lawn chair to games and practices and sit 6 feet apart on the field so that, when their child is not hitting or on the field, they will sit with their child to ensure social spacing.

General Hygiene

BCYL urges all players, coaches, family and staff members to follow CDC, State and Local Health Department recommendations for reducing transmission, and a healthy environment including but not limited to:

Wash Hands

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- After using the restroom
- Before/after eating
- After outdoor play
- Following CDC guidelines concerning gloves
- “The outside of gloves is considered to be contaminated”. Therefore, the recommended guideline for protecting your hands and health is frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol and avoid touching the face.
- Further, according to the CDC, “Non-sterile disposable gloves should be prioritized for use during activities when gloves are recommended to protect the hands from contact with potentially hazardous substances, including blood and body fluids (e.g., wound care, aerosol generating procedures).”

Face Coverings

- All staff, adult volunteers are required to wear face covering while attending a BCYL game or practice.
- **Everyone (including children) must wear a face covering to enter public bathrooms**
- Everyone should minimize face touching.
- Coughing & sneezing should be into a tissue or inside of the elbow

Suggestion

- Player should bring their own helmet and bat in addition to the normal glove, cleats and protective cup (boys). Ideally, all of a player's possessions should be organized in a bat bag.
- Players and anyone attending a BCYL game or practice when possible should disrobe in a private area (back porch, foyer, hallway) before entering their home and immediately shower before interacting with anyone or touching anything.