



Welcome back to Miracle League Baseball! As we return to play, our goal continues: To create positive life experiences for individuals with special needs and for their families through team sports. In order to do so, we ask parents, athletes and coaches to join us in returning to play responsibly by learning our new guidelines for Spring 2021.

The guidelines below are adopted from the Mississippi guidelines for re-opening youth sports, as well as suggestions from the National Miracle League.

### **CHANGES TO OUR LEAGUE**

- We will decrease the number of players on the field by staggering games.
- We will conduct deep cleaning between game days and wipe down surfaces during and between games.
- Any person with a fever or symptoms related to Covid-19 is prohibited from entering the facility.
- Social distancing measures will be implemented on the sidelines along with modified celebrations.
- Athletes are recommended to travel with people from their immediate household. No outside volunteers will be permitted to participate.
- Please bring your own personal water container (filled) or purchase one from the concession stand. Water coolers will not be provided in the dugouts.

### **FIRST STEPS TO STAY HEALTHY**

- **Good Hygiene** – We recommend that you wash your hands often. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the facility for your frequent use.
- **Social Distancing** - Please maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and others. We ask that only immediate family members/care givers attend games at this time. Please do not congregate around the concession stand, bleacher areas or parking lot.
- **Face Coverings** – Participants are highly encouraged to wear face masks if they can. All other individuals, spectators, and coaches must wear masks or face coverings while visiting the premises.
- **Health Monitoring** - Please stay home if you are displaying *any* Covid19 symptoms: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

### **BUDDIES AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

- To minimize outside exposure, we will **not** have gameday sponsors/outside volunteers, therefore our volunteer pool will be significantly reduced. We need your help to support games.
- When possible, we ask family members (age 12 or older) who reside with players to *please* commit to be that player's buddy for the season.

### **PRE-GAME**

- Teams will check-in at the Parker Miracle Field.
- Baseballs will be designated to each team.

- Players who want to use a ball glove must bring a clearly labeled one from home. Please do not share your glove with anyone.
- Players are encouraged to bring their own helmet if used during batting.

### **DURING THE GAME**

- Participants are highly encouraged to wear face masks, if they can. Coaches and buddies must wear face masks.
- Dugouts will be expanded down the fence line. Please refrain from interacting through the fences to help with social distancing.
- The league will have bats available for players use that will be wiped down after each use.
- Sharing of helmets, baseball gloves, or any other personal equipment will be prohibited.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the dugouts and is intended to be used upon entering and exiting the dugout, including between innings.
- Please avoid high-fives, handshakes and hugs.
- NO visitors in the dugouts except one buddy per player

### **POST-GAME**

- In lieu of handshaking lines, each team will line-up on their base path, tip their caps or wave to the opposing team and then to their fans.
- Please clean up all of your trash and items in the stands to limit contact.
- Please promptly leave the facility so the cleaning process can take place in a timely manner.

### **FOOD & BEVERAGE**

- Limited concessions will be available.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

Throughout the season as medical and governmental guidance changes, our Return to Play policies will continue to evolve. All updates will be communicated to participants in-advance of their event. Updates will be sent via email.

### **USE SOUND JUDGEMENT**

This has been a difficult time for all of our Miracle League families. Social distancing, face masks and many other restrictions we have been dealing with are tough for our players to understand. While the League will do its best to make accommodations and provide the best experience possible for all of our participants, we also recognize that not everyone will be ready to return to the ballfield with the guidelines we are required to uphold. You know your situation best. We depend on you to make the best decision for your family while considering others who are participating and following the guidelines set upon the League.

If you are not comfortable with your player joining us this season, we completely understand. We welcome you back at any time to play.