



MELROSE BABE RUTH



The Melrose Babe Ruth League Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to providing supervised baseball competition for 13 through 16-year old players. This document is a best practice outline for returning to play. All league members (coaches, players, parents, umpires, volunteers, spectators) will need to be responsible for doing their part to ensure a healthy safe environment for our community.

Melrose Babe Ruth intends to follow the guidance set out in the resumption guidance as allowed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Melrose. The guidelines listed in this document are for use during Phase II and Phase III of Massachusetts re-opening.

Summer 2020 Melrose Babe Ruth League Safety Guidelines (Phase II)

- Participants will be divided into groups of no more than 10, including coaches. Groups are permitted to practice at the same time; however, they must be spaced at least 20 feet apart.
- No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations.
- Athletes, managers/coaches, volunteers should bring their own personal drinks to all activities. Drinks should be labeled with the person's name.
- Players, coaches and volunteers should wear cloth face coverings when in close contact areas and in places where recommended social distancing is not feasible, such as dugouts. Players should bring a zip-lock bag with their name on it to place their face covering in while not being used.
- When dugout use is required, players will be assigned spots where they should remain until it is their turn to bat. At some field locations, players will be assigned spots in the bleachers, outside of the fence or with their family where they are to remain until it is their turn to bat or take the defensive position in the field.
- No personal player bat bags/equipment bags will be allowed in the dugout, Players equipment should be spaced evenly outside the dugout to prevent direct contact.
- Players are required to have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, and bat. Melrose Babe Ruth will supply participants with their own batting helmet if needed.
- Catcher's equipment – Each team shall be provided with one set of catcher's equipment. Each team shall have a designated volunteer to clean and disinfect the equipment after each game/practice and keep the equipment in their possession away from other equipment. Families are more than welcome to purchase their own set if their child wants to catch a lot, but it is not required nor can we guarantee your child will be used as a catcher frequently.
- Parents/guardians should clean and disinfect player's equipment after each practice/game.
- Baseballs will be rotated through on a regular basis. Foul balls landing outside the field of play should be retrieved by a player on the defensive team. No spectators should retrieve the ball.
- Sunflower seeds, gum, etc...will not be allowed in the dugouts or field of play and all players and coaches are to refrain from spitting at all times.
- Practices will be limited to players and managers/coaches only. During Phase 2, one adult chaperone may attend, but must remain outside the field of play and are required to social distance from others.
- Parents/guardians are asked to remain at all practices and games in the event the player feels ill or is injured and needs to be attended to. Coaches will be provided with medical gloves to administer aid if needed until the parent/guardian can tend to the player.
- Games will be restricted to players, managers, coaches, umpires and family members living in the immediate household of the player/volunteer. All spectators should follow best social distancing

practices – stay 6 feet away from individuals outside their household and avoid direct hand or other contact.

- We will **NOT** require spectators to wear face coverings. Our fields are large enough that each family should have enough room to remain socially distant.
- At the completion of each game/practice, coaches will be required to sanitize and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as benches and fences surrounding the dugout.
- Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 30 minutes before their scheduled game time.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as it is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game/practice to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches and spectators from the next game/practice.
- Coaches, players and umpires must conduct a daily symptom assessment (self-evaluation) and anyone experiencing any symptoms must stay home.
- If any individual develops symptoms of Covid-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform the league and must remove themselves from the activity.
- Managers/coaches/umpires/board members are all volunteers. We are all involved for the benefit of your children and will not tolerate spectators that are not following the guidelines we have provided. As the permitted user of the field, our volunteers have every right to remove spectators if they refuse to abide by the guidelines set forth.

Summer 2020 Melrose Babe Ruth League Safety Guidelines (Phase III)

- Baseball is considered a “Moderate Risk” activity and game play will be allowed.
- Spectators must maintain distance of at least 6 feet between spectators groups. Spectators are encouraged to wear masks.
- Face coverings will be required of players when social distancing is not possible, for example, players will be required to have a face covering while in the dugout.
- Sportsmanship should continue in a touch less manner – no handshakes/slaps/fist bumps.
- Coaches and umpires will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at all times.
- Home plate umpires will be positioned behind the pitching mound, NOT behind the plate.
- Participants will be required to have their own water bottle and equipment.
- Coaches will disinfect any shared equipment, i.e. catcher’s equipment, prior to each practice or game.
- To participate or attend, organizers should ensure that participants, volunteers, coaches and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.
- If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.