



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 South Carolina 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. Only immediate family members of players will be allowed to enter the facility.

FIRST STEPS TO STAY HEALTHY

- **Good Hygiene** - 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. Six-foot spacing markers should be used for all waiting lines in common areas such as bathrooms and check-in.
- **Face Coverings** – Participants, spectators, and coaches must wear masks or face coverings while visiting the premises of the Grand Strand Miracle League facility.
- **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.

MINIMIZING FREQUENTLY TOUCHED AREAS

- Picnic table seating will not be available.
- Playground and ZipKrooz areas will be closed.
- Water fountains will be disabled. Please bring your own personal water container (filled) or we will provide water bottles.

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 front gate and be spaced 6 feet apart in line.
- Baseballs will be designated to each team.
- Only plastic and metal bats can be properly sanitized. GSML staff will disinfect equipment prior to the next team's use.
- Players who want to use a ball glove must bring a clearly labeled one from home. Please do not share your glove with anyone.
- Participants will take their positions on the field or extended dugout for the National Anthem and Announcements.

DURING THE GAME

- Participants, coaches and buddies must wear face masks. Anyone not wearing a mask or face shield will be asked to leave the facility.
- Dugouts will be expanded down the fence line. Please refrain from interacting through the fences to help with social distancing.
- 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 promptly leave the facility so the sanitation process can take place in a timely manner.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Individually wrapped lunches will be available this season as you exit the field. The concession window will be closed.
- Water will be available for self-serve on the concession counter for grab and go and in dugout coolers.

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 posted at grandstrandmiracleleague.com, the GS Miracle Leagues Facebook page, and sent via email.

USE SOUND JUDGEMENT

This has been a difficult time for all of our Grand Strand 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.