

JCLL Update 5/9/2020

Things to remember

JCLL is a volunteer organization. Everyone, including a board member, is a volunteer. All the money collected during the season is used to help pay for maintenance, uniforms, baseballs, equipment and other expenses no matter how many games are played. Whether we play a full season or a short season, the same expenses occur. The actual execution of a game is free outside of light usage. We pay to have port-a-potties available, trash picked up, and for concession stand power as part of our regular operating costs. Schedules are fluid based on registration and the number of volunteers that step up to coach or manage teams. Sometimes people accuse the league of lack of organization when we can't schedule because we don't have enough volunteers to coach or we have late registrations that change the number of teams. Each year is different and the number of teams are fluid year by year based on the age of registrants. In this special case, we may have to restructure teams again based on cancellations of players and coaches or managers that may not be able to continue. The board members work real day time jobs like everyone else and they spend their evenings and weekends trying to provide a positive experience.

What is the plan?

With the recent communications from the Governor, we can now try to project possible schedule dates as the state opens. Governor Justice is looking to allow Little League to start playing June 1st. After speaking with the Jefferson County Health Department, we may be able to start practice once the county is no longer considered a hot zone and the group size is expanded to 25. Since the fields are outside, we do not have any square footage requirements but we still have to practice at a safe distance until we can play games.

When will we play?

Proposed Schedule: We can't start practice until groups of 25 are allowed.

- Week of 5/26/2020 start practice (2 weeks of practice)
- Week of 6/8/2020 start games
- End games on 7/25/2020 (7 weeks)
- After the season is over, we will be holding Saturday sandlot games for all divisions as long as people participate.
- If you have to miss some time for vacation or any other reason, let your manager know. Each division has a standard plan for managing numbers to help prevent games from being cancelled when a team does not have enough players. The manager can reach out to the player agent for details.

If your player has any intentions on playing on a tournament team in the future, they will have to play during the summer. From the Minor to Junior division, tournament teams usually play in June, July, and August depending on the tournament and how far the team makes it. As for this year, tournament teams are unknown. If we have any options, they won't be available until late July or August. All tournaments at the regional level and beyond have been cancelled. If we don't have a district tournament option, we will offer internal options for any division that would like to participate.

What about Fall Ball?

We will not be holding Fall Ball this year. There is so much unknown about the future that we cannot plan to hold a Fall Ball season this year. Our goal is to make sure we offer something this year to allow our youth to experience something somewhat normal. Baseball is designed for social distancing and if you make the spectators separate, the fielders are good because they are always more than 6 ft apart. Base runners are always 60-70-90 feet apart unless you have a fast runner. Since we have to expand further into the summer for this experience, we will not have a fall season.

What does a safe practice look like?

Example Practice: It is important to remember that the normal baseball positions are more than 6 ft apart. The only place players are close to each other is in the dugout. We will avoid the dugout during the first couple weeks of practice. Once games start, we will implement a dugout plan for space and standard safety based on the guidelines at that time.

- 1) Parents check your player for fever and possible symptoms of COVID. If the player has a fever, shows symptoms, or the player was in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID, please stay home.
- 2) Parents make sure your player uses hand sanitizer before practice. Talk to your player about keeping a safe distance and following the rules provided by the coach. If players can't follow the rules, they may be asked to sit out during that practice.
- 3) Parents make sure the player has plenty of water in their bag.
- 4) Players place or hang bags down the outfield fence. Each player puts their bag at a pole. Poles are more than 6 feet apart.
- 5) When warming up, the players should line up with a fence post to remain more than 6 feet apart. From here, they can perform any type of warm up routine and then pair up to throw. (15 min)
- 6) Players go to their bags for water.
- 7) A coach helps with infield practice (6 positions, 6 players), have only one extra person per position if needed and have them stand a safe distance away from the active player. A normal safe distance should be more than 6 ft away to ensure they don't get hit by a missed ball. Players switch. Extra players (3-4 players) can run bases as the coach hits the ball to work on situational plays. Rotate runners for base running practice. (40-60 min)



- 8) Players go to their bag for water.
- 9) A coach helps with outfield practice (3 players) with infielders (5-6 players) to receive the ball. One player per position in the outfield with one backup standing at the outfield fence at least 6 ft away. Can add base runners for situational plays. Rotate. (30-40 min)

- 10) A coach works on hitting drills with one player at a time during infield & outfield practice. Use the outfield or batting cage. Rotate (10 min per player – 7-10 players)
- 11) A coach works on pitching drills with one player at a time during infield & outfield practice. Use the outfield. A catcher can be added. Rotate (10 min per player – 7-10 players)
- 12) End with a team meeting with each player standing next to their bag. Coach gives speech and players leave without touching or shaking hands. (5 min)
- 13) Parents give players hand sanitizer when they get in car and enjoy the smile from being able to participate in something.

What about games?

We will have a plan for games once we know the guidelines provided to start games. We know spacing in the dugout is a major concern but we need to see how this situation progresses to determine guidelines in the dugout during games. The league is looking into hand sanitizer but supply is limited so we may have to rely on parents to help with the situation. We are reaching out to suppliers to see if something is available.

I don't feel safe

It is time for parents to make a decision so the league can move forward. If you do not feel safe and you don't think you can help guide your player to safe practices, you can cancel your registration for this season. If you don't feel safe, we don't want you to feel like your player has to play.

The league will continue to monitor and share the guidelines provided by the Jefferson County Health Department but we will need the help of the volunteers and parents to make sure the guidelines are followed.

We still plan to complete the raffle drawings no matter what happens. Everyone is expected to help continue with the mandatory fundraiser so that we can make sure we have the money to cover expenses until next spring. New raffle dates will be announced once we know when games can resume. This will give time for people to continue to sell tickets if they have not already sold them. If you need to drop off or pick up raffle tickets, someone will be at the JCLL complex every Saturday from 1-2 PM to help.

We are currently working on our financial situation. The league started planning this season in January and we have already spent money on several items including uniforms and maintenance projects before the virus closed everything down. We will need to know all of the cancellations now so we can figure out how to refund and if we need to restructure teams. Since the situation is fluid, we need to assess the situation and then we will share our financial status with a full detailed report after we know the options selected.

Here are the options.

- 1) I wish to participate (do nothing)
- 2) I do not wish to participate but I want to donate my registration fees to help the league
- 3) I do not wish to participate and would like my registration fees credited towards next season
- 4) I have fallen on hardship and I need my registration money refunded (please share a reason)
- 5) I will not be participating and I will not participate in the league next year. I would like my registration refunded (please share a reason)

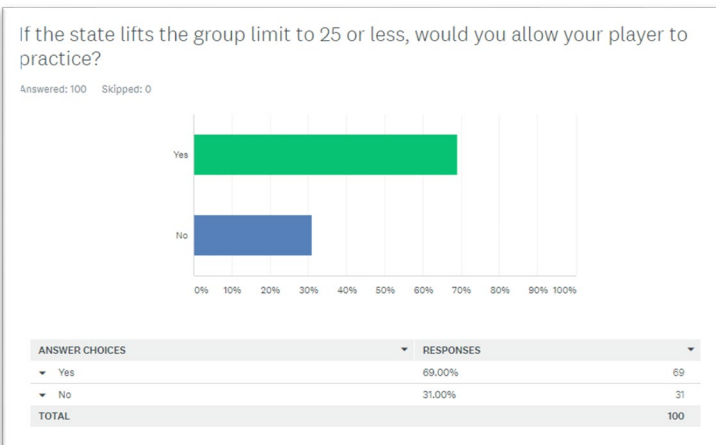
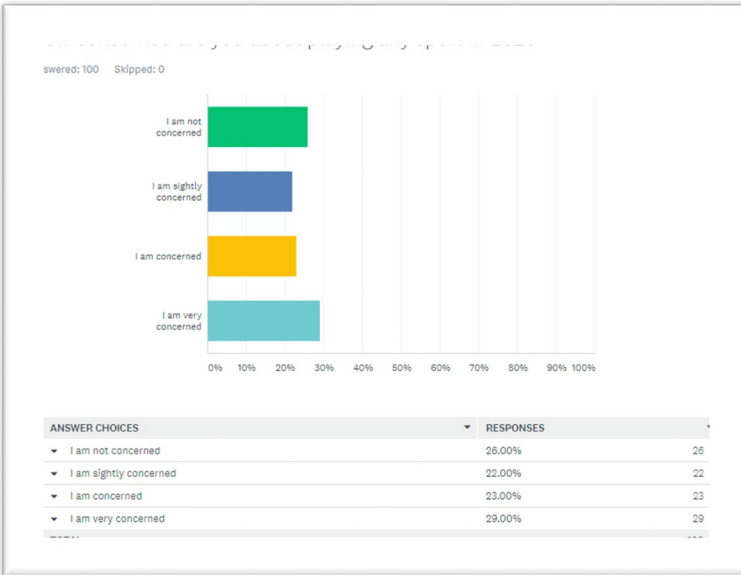
If you decide you do not want to participate, please contact the league at jeffersoncountylittleleague@yahoo.com and request a cancellation. Please share your player's name and the option above along with explanation if needed.

Thank You

The league would like to give a very **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the parents and volunteers that have been patient during this time. This is certainly a new experience for us all and we know everyone has tough decisions to make while we work through this situation.

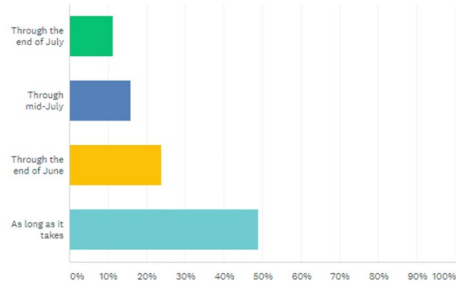
What were the survey results?

Here are the survey results from the 5/1 league email.



How long would you be willing to play a regular season?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Through the end of July	11.36% 10
▼ Through mid-July	15.91% 14
▼ Through the end of June	23.86% 21
▼ As long as it takes	48.86% 43
TOTAL	88