

Qatar Little League parent meeting

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Recording Available [HERE](#)



Agenda

- Welcome and key information about the start of the season
- Qatar Little League Board
- Communication
- Safety expectations
- Covid-19 protocols
- League expectations
- Codes of conduct
- Parental expectations/commitment to League activities



Qatar Little League - welcome

25th Anniversary this year.

179 Registrations as of today (We will take new registrations through October 1st
(If you know someone who would enjoy joining please have them contact us)
24 Tee Ball; 33 9U; 25 11U; 26 13U; 14 15U; 19 18U; 11 18U softball; 19 Challengers.

Increase in registration due to our Get in the Game Camp and in part to visibility out at Doha Sports Park and your Word of Mouth.

Currently all games and practices will be at Doha Sports Park.

Opportunity for Travel teams are being solidified. Participants must be vaccinated. Dubai has tentatively scheduled a tournament Decemer 9-11 plus Spring tournament Divisions offered are still being determined. (Look for Travel team selection in the near future)



Communication

Primary Qatar Little League email,
qatarlittleleague@gmail.com

- Coaches email
- [Qatar Little League Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)

How parents address concerns

The collage features several key elements:

- Facebook Page:** A screenshot of the Qatar Little League Facebook page. The page name is "Qatar Little League" with the handle "@QatarLittleLeague". It shows 653 followers and a post with the text "WE DON'T JUST COACH SPORTS. We coach people. We coach choices. We coach consequences. We coach respect. WE COACH LIFE AND OFF THE FIELD/COURT." A purple circle highlights the "94 Followers" count.
- Website:** A screenshot of the Qatar Little League website. The header includes "QATAR LITTLE LEAGUE EST. 1997" and navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, REGISTRATION INFO, PHOTO GALLERY, and SPONSORS. A "HELPFUL LINKS" section lists: REGISTER HERE, Registration FAQ-1, Registration FAQ-2, Available Programs, Executive Board Updates, Follow QLL On Facebook, Follow QLL On Instagram, and Umpire Sign-Ups. A "NEWS" section includes a "REGISTRATION FAQ" dated Sep 04, 2019 and an "AGM MEETING SCHEDULED MAY..." dated May 05, 2019. A "FIELD STATUS" table shows "BASEBALL FIELD" and "SOCCER FIELDS" (Field 1 and Field 2) as "OPEN".
- Photo Grid:** A grid of photos showing various scenes from baseball games, including players on the field, a pitcher, and a catcher.
- Event Schedule:** A graphic for the "QLL Opening Day Ceremony November 1st, 2019" with a "CHECK EMAILS FOR MORE INFO - CEREMONY STARTS AT 10AM" and a sign-up for volunteer slots for the opening day concession stand.
- Other Photos:** A photo of a person in a black shirt standing by a green fence, and a photo of a young boy in a baseball cap holding a hot dog.

Qatar Little League Board Members

Patty Klennert, President

Melissa Paul, Vice President

Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, Secretary

Stephanie Brierty, Treasurer and Registrar

Lynn Daley, Player Agent & Website/Social Media Manager

Steve Riddle & Stephanie Dilling Safety Officers

Nathan Agnew, District Administrator and League Coordinator

Still looking for a representative, Community Affairs/Military Liaison
Corporate Sponsorship (Military and others)

Still looking for a representative, Sponsorship

Division Coordinators: **6U OPEN**; **9U** Stephanie Sperling; **11U** Carol Buijs; **13U** Steve Brierty;
15U OPEN; **18U**; **Open Softball Open**; **Challengers**: Sheryl Stotland

****Consider shadowing a Board Member or Division Coordinator****



Information on start of season

- Practices started this week for all divisions EXCEPT tee-ball
- Tee-Ball will have their Meet and Greet October 22nd, 2021 9:00 a.m.
- All practices and games will be held at the Doha Sports Park. We do want to return to ASD, but ASD is still working on parameters and such.)
- Here is a link to DOHA SPORTS PARK: <https://goo.gl/maps/nT7dxZYt2RP3oD5V6>
- Be aware that it is a very busy facility alongside a golf course. Please be aware of moving traffic and possible golf balls.
- There are no bleachers, so please bring a lawn chair to sit. Please look for a QLL coach to direct you to the practice field this week.
- No outside food or drink can be brought into the facility. (Bring enough water for whole practice)
- Remember to send in your [QID and Vaccination Status Form Linked Here](#)



Information on start of season

WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES QLL PROVIDE FOR THE LEAGUE?

- QLL will have league owned C-Flap helmets available for players to use, but helmets will need to be disinfected between players according to Covid-19 return to play rules.
- QLL will have bats available for players to use, but they will need to be disinfected between players.
- QLL will have catcher's gear, but it will need to be disinfected between players.
- QLL also provides a uniform top and baseball cap.

WHAT DO THE PLAYERS NEED TO PROVIDE?

- A glove (no stores in Doha carry baseball or softball gloves--you will need to order if your size is not available at the used equipment sale)
- Athletic footwear (cleats are suggested, but not required)
- Athletic attire. (We encourage baseball or softball pants, but they are not required)
- An athletic cup for 11U and up
- You can purchase your own helmets, bats, batting gloves, and more, but they must meet our safety requirement and bat standards per division.



A Note about Bats & Catcher Gear

- [USA Baseball Bat Standard](#) must be used in the Little League Major Baseball Division and below.
- Either USABat Standard bats **or** BBCOR bats must be used at the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball and Junior League Baseball Divisions.
- At the Senior League Baseball Division, all bats must meet the BBCOR standard.
- For more information and a complete list of bats approved, [visit usabat.com](http://visit.usabat.com)
- Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with face mask and throat guard, chest protector and shin guards. Male catchers must wear a long-model chest protector, protective supporter and cup at all times.
- QLL will ensure team equipment has been inspected by a QLL official to ensure that it is functioning properly.
- Parents are encouraged to inspect personal equipment prior to each game



QLL safety plan

League officers, coaches, parents and players will take safety issues very seriously.

- In 1995, Little League Baseball introduced A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) with the goal of re-emphasizing the position of a Safety Officer to “create awareness, through education and information, of the opportunities to provide a safer environment for kids and all participants of Little League Baseball”.
 - The QLL Safety Plan is qualified by the ASAP program.
 - The following is a list of the important features, policies, and requirements of the QLL Safety Plan for Infectious Diseases.
 - The Qatar Little League program has an active Safety Officer(s) on file with Little League Headquarters. Th Safety Officer(s) for the 2020 season is/are: Steven Riddle and Stephanie Dilling.
 - Who knew we would be needing it now more than ever?



Covid-19 protocols

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All coaches, volunteers, umpires, etc., are expected to wear PPE whenever applicable and possible, such as face mask/covering.
- Players should wear face mask/covering when in close contact areas and in places where recommended physical distancing is challenging or not feasible, such as in dugouts.
- We will revisit these mandates as the various Phases in Doha evolve.

Equipment Disinfection and Hand Sanitizer are provided by the League.

- Sanitize hands before each water break.
- All helmets, bats, and catcher gear should be disinfected between uses.
- We encourage purchasing a pair of batting gloves to minimize risk and reduce exposure.
- It is preferred players not share personal equipment
- Do not share towels, clothing, or other items that may be used to wipe their face or hands



Covid-19 protocols- continued

Dugouts: (Game or Scrimmages)

- Coaches and players should be assigned spots in the dugout or on the bleachers so that they are at least 1.5m apart and must be placed behind a fence.
- Players shall put their equipment bag outside the dugout. Personal bat, helmet and other game use equipment should be kept under their designated seat until the equipment needs to be used
- Players shall stay in their assigned personal spot when in the dugout while waiting for their turn to bat or sitting on the bench when their team is on defense.
- Players and coaches should wear a face mask or covering while in the dugout.
- Bats cannot be shared between players without first being disinfected.
- It is strongly advised that all players have a pair of batting gloves to minimize contact and reduce the risk of exposure.
- When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of shared equipment (especially equipment contacting the head and face) will be cleaned first and then disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant and allowed sufficient time to dry before used by a new player.



Covid-19 protocols- continued

**YIKES THAT IS A LOT OF WORK TO DO
AND**

WE ARE 100 PERCENT VOLUNTEER. WITHOUT YOU...THERE IS NO US

- We need parents to donate their time in support of these Covid-19 protocols, specifically, to clean and disinfect shared equipment during game days.
- PLUS... equipment set up and take down requires a lot of time. Please plan to assist YOUR CHILD'S COACHES during practices. 90 minutes of practice time goes by fast (and we don't want 30 minutes of it to be used for station and equipment set up and take down)

Notify your coach or Division Coordinator that you are here to help

See a problem solve it

If asked to do something, please say yes

I bet you will find you and your child will enjoy helping.



Final Misc. Covid-19 protocols -

No Handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations:

- Players and coaches will take measures to prevent all but the essential contact necessary to play the game. This includes refraining from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.
- Spectators, observe social distancing and mask wearing requirements.
- Umpires are encouraged to keep a safe distance from players as much as possible; however, they will be calling from behind the plate this year.
- Unofficial pre- and post-practice or game activities should be discouraged.
- We are working on having a Virtual Opening Ceremony and ideally an in person closing ceremony. Look for future details.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I SHOULD ATTEND A PRACTICE OR A GAME?

Practice and Game Day Spectator Attendance:

A spectator with any of the following conditions **should not attend a practice or game** until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:

- Active COVID-19 infection
- Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
- Fever
- Cough

Covid-19 protocols - continued

Any players, spectators, umpires, etc., who either:

- are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
- experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) **must stay at home** throughout the infection period and cannot return to any team activity until they meet the return criteria.
- **In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19**, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to team activities until the individual has completed the return criteria.
- **Individuals – including players, spectators, umpires, workers, coaches, officers and visitors—who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**, as determined by the appropriate public health official, should stay at home through the 14-day incubation period, and should not attend games, practices, or team events. They need to meet the return to play criteria to resume participation.

WHAT IF THERE IS A + CONTACT?

If a player, coach, or anyone with direct contact with the team has a positive test for COVID-19 in addition to the stay home criteria, the positive results need to do the following:

- Report it to the coach (Please report when symptoms first appeared).
- Coach will report it to the Division Coordinator and the Safety Officer(s).
- The coach will then advise the team of a positive test, and if the close contact criteria apply then the team will need to follow the appropriate quarantine steps.

If a single player, coach, or anyone with direct contact (dugout help) with the team has a positive test for COVID-19 the team will be asked if the close contact criteria apply and to self-evaluate for symptoms and follow the proper CDC guidelines.

If two or more players, coaches, or direct contact helpers, from the same team have symptoms or test positive in a 7-day period the entire team will be asked to refrain from all baseball activities for a period of 10 days and asked to report self-evaluations for symptoms to their coach. Games that are scheduled during the suspension of team activities will be re-scheduled if possible.

Covid-19 Return to Play Criteria

Return to Play Criteria

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to team activity when all three of the following criteria are met):

- **at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);**
- **the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and**
- **at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.**

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual may return to any team activity when the ABOVE criteria are met:

If the individual has symptoms that could have been COVID-19 and wants to return to games or practices before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return to play.



Air quality Index & wind advisory

Air Quality:

Air Quality will be monitored using [+IQAir](#). +IQAir uses the US EPA's AQI (Air Quality Index) as noted in the subsequent table for monitoring. The AQI is a uniform, color-coded index developed by the US EPA for reporting and forecasting daily air quality.

The Air Quality Index includes AQI categories and colors, corresponding index values and cautionary statements for different levels of health concern.

Practices and Games **should** be cancelled when the AQI is 151 to 200 US AQI and **must** be cancelled or stopped when AQI is 201 to 300 as reported by +IQAir the day, no later than 7am the morning and/or by noon of practice or game day. Practices and/or games shall not take place on days with Purple or Maroon categories. The QLL reserves the right to cancel any practice or game with lower AQI thresholds in the interest of play, family or spectator safety as the discretion of the QLL Board.

Wind Thresholds:

Qatar has periodic winter shamal winds, which are associated with the strengthening of a high-pressure area over the peninsula after the passage of a cold front. These winds also present a unique hazard for baseball. Windy conditions can make the ball more difficult to catch. Wind can make the ball more difficult to field and throw accurately. In addition, increasing wind can create other unforeseen hazards, including higher AQI and flying debris such as portable hitting nets, backstops, canopies, etc. This is especially true for fields surrounded by flat areas. At wind speeds of just 15-25 miles an hour, unsecured objects will be blown around and even staked down objects can be pulled loose from their stakes and blown away, presenting the potential for injuries to people and/or property damage.

Consideration **should** be given to cancel or stop practice and/or games when wind conditions exceed the 15 mph/24 kpm/13kn threshold and **must** be cancelled or stopped when winds exceed 25 mph/40 kpm/22kn.

Winds speed forecasts and most current information can also be found using [+IQAir](#) or through Qatar's [Civil Aviation Authority's Meteorology site](#).

Additional guidance on the QLL Lightning Policy can be found in Appendix D.



Safety Should come first

Practices and/or games may be called at the discretion of the QLL board in the event of any adverse weather or air quality condition. Additionally, Coaches and/or Division Coordinators can exercise stop play authority at any time for any adverse weather or air quality concern deemed as a hazard at the time.

The above guidelines align with safety procedures already in place at our (usual) host school ASD.

Families ALWAYS have the individual choice to decide if they want to keep their player home due to a potential concern about heat, wind, AQI, or more. What we ask is you inform the coaches.

Remember...

Nothing comes before the safety of our players, families and spectators.

If there is any doubt, stand-down practices or games.

Coaches and Division Coordinators should always check conditions beforehand.

The Board does its best to make determinations of when to call a game, or a practice as soon as we possibly can, but we also recognize the changing weather patterns can happen very quickly, so please be patient with us



In addition to these protocols, we work to ensure the following:

- It is the intent of Qatar Little League that all coaches, and assistant coaches attend and participate in a fundamental coaches training session at the beginning of the season. (Occurred before the Get in the Game camp)
- Qatar Little League expects all coaches and assistant coaches to attend a first aid training session prior to the start of the spring season. This training includes CPR familiarity. (This is a work in progress and a date has not yet been determined)
- All QLL board members, division reps. and coaches are encouraged to take and complete a concussion training course. This mandatory training is to be completed prior to holding any practices or games with our players.
- All umpires are expected to participate in a pre-season rules and umpire clinic in the direction of QLL league officials.



We Want to Keep Our Players Safe

We are reliant on the QLL community to follow these COVID-19 safety and preventive guidelines and to volunteer their time during games to help implement covid-19 protocols (cleaning; social distancing, PPE, etc.) so that we may remain open and active.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

Just a few more slides.



League expectations & Codes of Conduct

- Arrive on time for practices; being on a team is a commitment.
- Enthusiastically attend all games, but leave coaching to the coach and calls to the umpire.
- Praise effort, not just outcome.
- Help kids learn the importance of being a good loser.
- Learn the game if you don't already know it, but don't let a lack of expertise stop you from volunteering.
- All equipment in the equipment closet is the property of QLL; personal property of QLL players may not be stored in the equipment closet.
- Don't belittle players, coaches, officials or the parents of the opposing team. Everyone knows this, but incidents have been known to occur. So don't.
- **Thank your coach. The hours of thought and time he or she puts into coaching are directly benefiting your child and your community.**



Parent code of conduct

As a Qatar Little League player's Parent/Guardian, I hereby pledge that I will:

- to the best of my ability, ensure my player arrives to practice on time ready to play ball.
- encourage good sportsmanship and demonstrate positive support at all times.
- remember that players participate to have fun and the game is for youth.
- not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
- teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- respect the officials and their authority during games.
- not confront coaches at any time during games.
- refrain from coaching my child during games and practices.



Player code of conduct

As a Qatar Little League participant, I hereby pledge that I will:

- respect the game of baseball by playing by the rules/policies of the game.
- respect property belonging to QLL, ASD, and equipment of others.
- show respect to my fellow team members and coaches by playing hard, and giving maximum effort.
- display good sportsmanship at all times.
- be a team player and support my teammates.
- refrain from using violence, unfriendly language, or insults to others.
- refrain from challenging or questioning on-field calls by officials or coaches.
- be generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
- conduct myself with honor and dignity.



Coaches code of conduct

As a Qatar Little League Coach, I hereby pledge that I will:

- respect the game of baseball and softball by coaching by the rules and adhere to league policies.
- place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of personal desire to win.
- treat each player as an individual, remembering the broad range of emotional and physical development across our league divisions.
- do my best to provide a safe playing environment for all players.
- lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.



Coaches code of conduct- continued

As a Qatar Little League Coach, I hereby pledge that I will:

- teach the rules of the game to all players, officials, and parents.
- remember my responsibility to the QLL mission to foster a developmental league and serve as a developmental coach for youth.
- not abuse other coaches, umpires, parents, or players.
- promote fun, fairness, and sportsmanship over winning.
- not engage in the use of profanity or any other offensive language.
- encourage all team members to treat all players, teammates, coaches, officials, and parents with respect.
- not leave the sports area until all players have been picked up.



Parent/guardian acknowledgment

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Covid and Safety Protocols Receipt:

- I understand and agree that these guidelines are necessary for my child(ren) to play Little League and that refusal to follow these guidelines may prevent Little League from remaining open for play and that I may be asked to leave the game site if I do not abide by these guidelines.
- Waivers were required of all when registering this semester, so now you know.



Thank you!

We are excited about the upcoming baseball season. Thank you for coming out today and supporting QLL to ensure we have a successful baseball, softball, and Challenger season.

Q & A

