



POLICY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The Franklin Township Baseball League (FTBL) is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes, develops, and supervises youth baseball. It has served the growing and diverse community of Franklin Township NJ since 1953 and provides organized youth baseball programs for over 500 children annually, ranging in ages from 4 thru 18.

FTBL is excited at the prospect of providing the children and families in its community with the opportunity to return to baseball in a safe and responsible way during the COVID-19 outbreak. The policies and procedures of FTBL comply with all applicable local, state and federal health official guidelines. In cases where FTBL guidelines do not meet legally required minimum standards, such standards will instead apply. All other FTBL guidelines **must be followed**, and these guidelines are considered in force until they are amended and approved by its Executive Board.

FTBL will abide by the gatherings-limitations outlined in the NJ Department of Health Executive Order No. 152 (2020), or the Order in effect at the time. The permissible number of people gathering was increased to 500 people on effective July 3. Concession stands should meet the requirements for outdoor dining outlined in Executive Order No. 150 (2020) and Department of Health Executive Directive No. 20- 014.

The FTBL Board of Directors is the governing body of the Franklin Township Baseball League, and will be responsible for defining, implementing, executing and overseeing its policy requirements, as set forth in its by-laws.

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

All FTBL board members, coachesⁱ, volunteers, umpires and concession stand staff, especially those new to their roles and/or FTBL, will receive this document and will be required to read and follow it's guidelines on COVID-19 health and safety protocols prior to the resumption of athletic activities, and/or their participation in FTBL activities. These protocols include but are not limited to the following:

- Revised practice and game play rules in place during the COVID-19 Outbreak
- Communicating and supporting the need of players, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators and workers to stay home when appropriate in order to help stop the spread of COVID-19
- Demonstrating and supporting social distancing, face covering requirements and proper hand hygiene
- Addressing situations where players and/or adults present with COVID-19 symptoms

- Situations where social distancing and/or other necessary protocols are challenged by players and/or adults will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and could result in a forfeit of a game if coaches and/or parents refuse to follow these rules.

COVID-19 RELEASE/WAIVER FORM:

All active coaches, volunteers, umpires, players, parents/guardians, concession stand staff must sign the COVID-19 Release/Waiver Form. It is the responsibility of all board members and coaches, as well as player parents/guardians to remind individuals to obtain the COVID-19 Release/Waiver Form and complete it if they will be physically present for FTBL activities, whether practicing, playing a game, spectating or working. This form does not need to be completed more than once in a season and will be kept on file with the league Safety Director.

REVISED PRACTICE & GAME PLAY RULES:

Games, tournaments, and other activities or events that involve interaction between players from the same team or between teams carry significant risks that FTBL, coaches, parents and others will carefully consider.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring the following rules are met during every practice and game. For games held at the FTBL complex, coaches will have the support of the Directors of the Day. Coaches may delegate responsibilities to other member of their coaching team and/or parents of team players, but ultimately the coaches are responsible for ensuring these rules are met.

REMINDERS ABOUT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: Before activities commence (i.e. practice, warmups, games), coaches will remind and review with their teams' coaches, players and parents/guardians the required safety precautions.

SYMPTOM SCREENING & TEMPERATURE CHECKS: Parents/guardians are encouraged to perform symptom screenings and temperature checks on their players prior to arriving for practice or games. Coaches are encouraged to check themselves, as well.

Regardless of whether checks were done prior to arrival, before activities commence coaches will perform symptom screenings and temperature checks on their coaching teams (including themselves) and players, following the CDC's guidelines (below).

- Coaches should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, put on a facemask.
- Eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), and a single pair of disposable gloves is encouraged.
- Make a visual inspection of the person for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks or fatigue, and confirm that the employee is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

- Take the person's temperature. Coaches must use a clean pair of gloves for each individual and the thermometer must be thoroughly cleaned in-between each check. If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and coaches did not have physical contact with an individual, they do not need to change gloves before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, they should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions.
- After each screening, coaches should remove and discard PPEⁱⁱ and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

HYGIENE/HANDWASHING/TOUCHING OF FACE: Coaches should help to educate players on the hygiene/handwashing/touching of the face guidelines.

FACE COVERINGS (MASKS): All coaches, team parents, umpires, board members, concession stand staff, parents/guardians, spectators and/or visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings at practices and games. Players are encouraged to wear masks during downtime, but not during physical activity. Face coverings should not be worn by coaches or players when engaging in high intensity physical activities or where doing so would inhibit the individual's health. A player may choose to wear additional PPE provided it does not compromise the safety of other players.

PRACTICE & WARM-UP ACTIVITIES: Practice and warm-up activities should be limited to those that do not involve person-to-person contact between players and/or coaching staff.

TEAMS IN & OUT OF DUGOUTS: Only two (2) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players and coaches will be positioned down the left and right field lines (off playing fields and outside of fences) away from throws that might come to 1st and 3rd base. Players will be seated or stand no less than 6' apart and must have at least one (1) coach or team parent, to watch over players in this area at all times. When necessary, the parents/guardians of individual players may be asked to watch over them.

EQUIPMENT: Sharing of playing equipment should be extremely limited. Do not share bats, gloves, fielder's masks, catcher's gear, helmets, water bottles etc. whenever possible. **When equipment must be shared (i.e. catcher's gear) it must be cleaned and sanitized between uses.** Baseballs and softballs should be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply should be on hand.

CLEANING SUPPLIES & HAND SANITIZER: FTBL will provide cleaning supplies (wipes or spray and disposable towels) as well as hand sanitizer, in the dugout areas. Hand sanitizer stations may also be set up in other locations around the complex. Directors of the Day are responsible for ensuring supplies are available and stocked. See the *CLEANING & SANITIZING COMMON AREAS* section for more information.

PLAYER SUPPLIES: Players should have their own backup supplies in their equipment bags for use when needed. Players should also bring their own water bottles, towels, gloves, helmets or other equipment. There should be ABSOLUTELY NO sharing of these items or any materials involved in direct bodily contact. **No team or dugout coolers are permitted.**

Candy, chewing gum and/or sunflower seeds are NOT permitted by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.

COMMUNICATING ON THE FIELD: Information exchanges, such as lineup changes, must be communicated from a distance of 6' or more to comply with social distancing requirements.

ABSOLUTELY NO HANDSHAKING/CELEBRATIONS: Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, group celebrations, etc.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS: Team or player awards may be presented wrapped up and given to the coach or appointed team representative. There may be on field presentations if proper sanitization and social distance is observed.

CLEANING & SANITIZING COMMON AREAS:

FTBL will work to schedule games at intervals that allow for proper sanitation of facilities and equipment following each game. It will also provide cleaning supplies and instructions on proper cleaning and sanitizing procedures for its complex. The Director of the Day will oversee these practices.

DUGOUTS may be cleaned/sanitized by the team occupying them prior to leaving the playing field.

BLEACHERS will be available for use but will not be cleaned/sanitized and it is strongly recommended that each individual clean/sanitize the bleachers where they will be sitting. Social Distancing rules apply on the bleachers.

BATHROOMS may be cleaned and disinfected based upon usage, and routinely in-between, as needed.

- Bathroom occupancy will be limited to 1 person for each restroom (NOT each stall) to avoid over-crowding and maintain social distancing. Individuals requiring assistance (i.e. young children) may be accompanied by an adult.
- Signs with instructions will be posted on each restroom door, and (when possible) volunteer attendants will monitor capacity.

SNACK SHACK COUNTERS & TABLES will be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning and end of each day the complex is open, and routinely in-between, as needed.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- Players or any person not feeling well, must not attend games or practices.
- Spectators attending games must follow 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. Signs, tape or physical barriers may be used to assist with guiding social distancing requirement, especially in high traffic areas and spectator viewing sites.
- Nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, vendors, members of the media, and activities involving external groups or organizations should be limited as much as possible.
- FTBL reserves the right to limit the number of spectators per player attending games to ensure safety and compliance with its and legally required guidelines.
- FTBL will schedule games to stagger beginning and end times, allowing for greater gaps between games to help limit the number of people in common areas of the complex (i.e. entrance/exit, parking lot, Snack Shack) at one time.
- Practices should be scheduled according to the team issued permits. Coaches wishing to switch practice days or times need to consider that this may interfere with other team practices. Coaches should not join practices with other teams if social distancing could become an issue.
- Proper signage in highly visible locations with reminders regarding social distancing protocols, face covering requirements, good hygiene practices (e.g., hand hygiene, covering coughs) and other guidelines will be displayed throughout the complex.

KNOWING WHEN TO STAY HOME:

FTBL board members, coaches, other volunteers, umpires and concession stand staff should educate players, parents/guardians, coaches and workers about when they should stay home and when they can return to activity.

- Actively encourage sick players, parents/guardians, coaches and workers to stay home without fear of reprisal.
- Individuals should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Individuals who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home.

SHOULD SYMPTOMS ARISE DURING ACTIVITIES:

- Immediately separate players, parents/guardians, coaches, officials and workers with COVID-19 symptoms at any sports activity; notify the Director of the Day.
- Individuals who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms should be separated and sent home; notify the Director of the Day.
- Should someone fall ill at the complex the Director of the Day will work to ensure they have proper transportation home or to a local health facility, whichever is deemed necessary.

- In all instances the Director of the Day will contact the FTBL Executive Board to report the incident, and they will determine next steps.

SYMPTOMS &/OR DIAGNOSIS AFTER THE FACT:

Coaches who learn that they, or a member of their team (coach, player, parent/guardian) has developed symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of participating in FTBL sponsored activities should contact their FTBL division liaison.

ⁱ All references to coach or coaches in this document, unless specifically designated otherwise, refer also to team managers.

ⁱⁱ PPE = Personal Protective Equipment