

Palm Beach Kickoff 2021-COVID 19 Guidelines

Tournament Staff will be enforcing these guidelines. Should visitors choose not to follow these guidelines they will be asked to leave the program area.

1. A team and event e-mail must be sent to all teams, team managers, coaches, players/parents, and officials/referees in the week leading up to an event of play. The e-mail will 1) encourage all event attendees to practice social distancing including bringing own chairs to facilities; players to bring personal coolers instead of watercoolers and/or team coolers; 2) explain that any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from attending the event/venue of play; and 3) make clear that all posted and published local- and state-regulated guidelines shall be followed.
2. Take proactive steps in creating social distancing environments, where possible.
 - a. Require facial coverings if a person does not qualify under the terms of the Emergency Order exemptions and are not physically distanced 6 feet away from others, they must be wearing a facial covering. "Facial coverings must be worn by all persons in public places where social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines is not possible or not being practiced."
 - b. Inspect designated seating and viewing areas for fans.
 - c. When using a tent, we will restrict it to family members only. (NO CANOPIES/TENTS BEHIND BACKSTOPS)
 - d. We will use staggered scheduling (allowing only 2 games to start at same time in same quad but cater-cornered from each other) to minimize foot traffic for entrance/exits.
3. We will minimize player contact by eliminating team/player handshakes and team/player high fives. At end of game teams will tip hats to one another.
4. Directors, players, umpires and spectators must adhere to the guidelines from CDC, state and local authorities regarding potential state travel restrictions and stay-at home orders, including return to state of residence.
5. In dugouts, we will discontinue use of water coolers that are provided by tournaments or teams. Players will be asked to bring their own, personal cooler instead of using a team cooler. Players will be asked to bring an individual water bottle.

For the Field-of-Play:

1. Follow all local and state guidelines for facilities and events.
 - a. Including wearing facial coverings. If a person does not qualify under the terms of the Emergency Order exemptions and are not physically distanced 6 feet away from others, they must be wearing a facial covering. "Facial coverings must be worn by all persons in public places where social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines is not possible or not being practiced."

2. The managers meeting at home plate will be limited to one coach from each team plus the umpires. No players at plate meeting.
3. Teams will be encouraged to spread players out; expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Expansion of the team dugouts will include behind dugouts, on the side of the foul line outside of the fence and on the bleachers. Teams will be told to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel.
4. Encourage parents to supply their players with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and cleaning hands before and after each game and between innings.
5. Allow players to wear PPE items if they choose, as long as the items do not compromise the safety of any and all participants in the game.
6. Require teams to clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each game, and to wipe down (clean) hard surfaces such as benches, bat racks, etc.
7. Upon arriving at a dugout for the first time, teams are to disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.). *Procedures #6 and #7 here will comply with the CDC recommendation of a two-step process for cleaning and disinfecting.* We will also be spraying the dugouts down before every game as well as spraying spectator bleachers (using a Clorox Cleanup solution in a pump sprayer once the areas have been cleared of people).
8. Directors should consider adjusting the playing formats and increasing the amount of time between games, to minimize overlap and traffic flow where needed. (Using staggered games and allowing at least 15 minutes between games for cleaning the benches)
9. Ban the use of sunflower seeds, peanuts, and gum.

SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES TO BE USED (These guidelines are sent out to all coaches to send to their families in our email)

1) Remember that social distancing is mandatory. If a person does not qualify under the terms of the Emergency Order exemptions and are not physically distanced 6 feet away from others, they must be wearing a facial covering. "Facial coverings must be worn by all persons in public places where social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines is not possible or not being practiced." Therefore, WE ASK THAT EVERYONE WEARS A MASK WHILE ENTERING THE PARK AND WHILE THEY ARE IN AREAS THAT THEY CAN NOT ADHERE TO THE PRACTICING OF SOCIAL DISTANCING (6 FEET APART). THEY MAY TAKE THEM OFF ONCE AT THEIR FIELD WHILE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING (6 FEET APART).

Families can sit together but we ask that everyone maintain 6 feet between themselves and others. These are very open parks, so utilize the outfield area if it gets too crowded in one area. Bleachers are open for seating but 6 feet separation is still required. We encourage families to bring their own chairs and tents to spread out. NO TENTS/CANOPIES BEHIND BACKSTOPS.

2) There may food trucks both days. Please support staff, cash will be allowed. Please remember to practice SOCIAL DISTANCING BY STAYING 6 FEET APART.

3) Players can have small water containers or individual coolers in the dugout. (NO TEAM COOLERS)

4) Families and coaches are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes. Sharing of equipment is prohibited.

5) Players are to enter through the gate while the teams leaving the field are cleaning out the dugouts. Players can place their bags along the fence in the outfield until the other team has left the dugout and our staff has been able to spray down the dugouts.

6) No more than 4 coaches are allowed on the field and in the dugouts. Parents are not allowed in or near the dugouts with the exception being if they are helping to wipe down the benches between games. This is not mandatory but you are welcome to wipe them down. We will be going in between games and spraying the dugouts with disinfectant.

7) Fans are asked to wait until game time to enter the park. We ask that fans do not hang around the fields until your team actually is playing. Please try to avoid big groups stay behind the outfield area until the game before yours is completely over.

8) If asked by a county park staff or an event staff member to move to a different area to keep everyone spaced out, please do so. Understand that we are trying to keep organized and safe.

9) Sunflower seeds, chewing gum, chewing tobacco, and all other items that encourage any type of spitting are prohibited.

10) At the conclusion of each game handshake lines are prohibited.

11) ANYONE THAT IS NOT FEELING WELL OR HAS A FEVER, STAY HOME AND DO NOT COME TO THE PARK.

12) Please clean dugout after each game (bottles, trash, etc.) and also do not throw things against fencing, etc. take care of the park space.