



PALM BEACH GARDENS

YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION^{INC}

Return to Play Guidelines

Updated June 3, 2020

Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association Mission

The Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association shall assist in the positive physical and emotional development of our youth by providing programs for active participation in amateur sports.

- It shall encourage children of school age (K-12 grade) to participate in these programs.
- It shall take whatever steps necessary to provide an opportunity to participate, to any child, regardless of physical ability, ethnic background or financial resources.
- It shall seek to demonstrate and promote the concepts of team participation, spirit of competitiveness and fair play, both on and off the field, by players, coaches, officials, family and fans alike.

Content Disclaimer

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak is an ongoing, rapidly developing situation. The PBGYAA encourages its members and volunteers to monitor publicly available information and to always follow federal, state and local health organization guidance and government mandates.

The information provided within this guideline document is obtained from publicly available sources, including federal agencies and governmental entities, other leading sporting associations. This information may vary and will be updated depending upon current situations. Further, the information contained is provided for general

informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter.

PBGYAA Guidelines for all Sport Divisions - Baseball, Soccer, and Softball (Staff, Volunteers, Coaches, Players, and Families)

***It is expected that the protocols and guidelines defined in this document will update as additional sports begin season play Basketball, Flag Football, Tackle Football, Lacrosse later in the Fall of 2020.**

- All local & state health official guidelines must be followed for any activity to take place.
- All parents/guardians, coaches and volunteers must sign the PBGYAA Waiver and Liability Release, COVID-19 Waiver, and additional third-party affiliation Waivers as required.
- If you are not comfortable with returning to play, DON'T. You are the only one who will make the decision when your child returns to play.
- Players must have no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. If a person has had a documented case of the COVID-19 infection, a doctor's note is needed to clear to participate in any sport activity.
- Maintain normal temperature readings; temperature checks should be conducted by players and their families prior to attending any training, practice, or game.
- Coaches & Staff/Board Member Volunteers should ask each athlete if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If the athlete shows any signs or symptoms of infection, they should be sent home and contact a healthcare provider.
- Parents and coaches should assess the ability of a player at higher risk of developing serious disease to participate, such as children who may have asthma, diabetes, or other health problems.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Coaches, staff, and volunteers must maintain social distancing from all athletes, as well as ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible.
- Face masks are highly recommended for all coaches, volunteers, referees/umpires and spectators (children and adults) during any on field or court session.

- Face masks are not mandatory for players, however any player wishing to wear a face mask or gloves shall be permitted so long as it does not compromise the safety of any participants.
- Infection prevention supplies will be present & utilized at all field and court facilities. (hand sanitizer, facial tissues, facial coverings, hand wash stations, etc.)
- Parents should supply their player with hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes for use in the dugout or on the bench.
- All sport activities (practices, training, game) will be staggered/spaced out to limit interactions between other athletes. (Minimum 15 minutes)
- For all City facilities with more than one field, available space will be reduced from the normal scheduling to allow for greater space in the park.
- Athletes and coaches should use their own equipment and properly sanitize all equipment after every training session. Do not share or touch another participant's equipment.
- Players and Coaches need to bring their own drinks or snacks to be consumed before, during or after practices/games. There will be NO SHARED or COMMUNAL food or drinks.
- No physical contact between players is permitted. This includes no high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs.
- Spectators (players not scheduled for practice/training and parents/guardians/family members) are highly recommended to remain in vehicles during any training or practices.
- In the event of inclement weather, players and spectators should go to their family vehicle. If they are not able to go to the car, they should maintain social distancing in a safe area. There will be no congregating under overhangs or pavilion spaces.

COVID-19 PBGYAA Point of Contact

The PBGYAA Executive Director, Laurie French is the primary staff person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns on behalf of the PBGYAA.

Each sport division will have a designated staff person or Board Member responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns within their respective Division and expected to immediately report them to the PBGYAA Executive Director.

All coaches, staff, volunteers, officials, and families should know who these people are and how to contact them.

PBGYAA - Laurie French, Executive Director

Phone: 561-203-9588 Email: lfrench@pbgvaa.com

Communication

All communication regarding PBGYAA and Sport Divisions, updates, guidance, practice, training, and game schedules will come from either Sports Connection or Demosphere email platforms.

Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, coaches, staff, volunteers, umpires/officials, and families of players (as feasible) should self-report to the PBGYAA COVID-19 Point of Contact if they have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19.

PBGYAA COVID-19 Point of Contact will communicate with local health officials regarding any suspected concern for COVID-19 exposure during PBGYAA related activities.

Preventative Measures

The CDC recommends everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

Sport Division Specific Guidelines

Softball

1. In order to provide maximum space for social distancing at Lake Catherine, Fields 1, 2 and 4 will be permitted.
2. Any person who is experiencing symptoms of sickness will be prohibited from attending any practice or event.
3. Social distancing must be maintained at all times. Dugouts should have no more than Four players with the remaining players and bags outside the dugout. Players should have designated spots to place tier personal items.
4. Recommend that practices be split into for smaller groups, for example one group utilizing the Batting cages and one group on the field.
5. Coaches should provide hand sanitizer at practices in the dugout.
6. Sunflower Seeds, Peanuts, gum or any item that may involve spitting are prohibited.
7. The Team use of shared equipment should be limited as much as possible and should be sanitized after each use.
8. Face masks are not mandatory for players, however any player wishing to wear a face mask or gloves shall be permitted so long as it does not compromise the safety of any participants.
9. Teams must clean their dugout of all trash and other items after each practice/game.
10. If there are practices/games that are back to back, the next team should give ample time to clean up and vacate the dugout prior to use. Practice times should be spaced out to accommodate this.

Baseball (Per Babe Ruth League)

1. Only two (2) players MAXIMUM in the dugout at one time, while also following 6' social distancing guidelines at all times. Remaining players & coaches will be positioned down the left & right field lines (off playing field & outside of fence – if possible) away from throws that might come to 1st and 3rd base.
2. Players will be seated or stand no less than 6' apart and must have at least one (1) Coach to watch over players in this area at all times.
3. Players should limit any sharing of playing equipment, bats, gloves, fielder's mask, catcher's gear, helmets, water bottles etc. Baseballs should be cleaned whenever possible and an adequate supply should be on hand.

4. If a player chooses to wear additional Personal Protective Equipment, they may do so as long as it does not compromise the safety of other players.
5. Teams should be advised to clean out and wipe down dugouts or other field areas that they were in prior to leaving the playing field.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

Florida Youth Soccer Association

<http://www.idevmail.net/link.aspx?l=1&d=64&mid=396170&m=1238>

Babe Ruth League Organization

http://www.baberuthleague.org/media/317863/BRL.CV19%20PLAN_5.15.20.pdf

US Club Soccer

<https://www.usclubsoccer.org/coronavirus>