

Pinellas County Schools

Spring Sports Protocols **2021**



Director of Athletics: Albert Bennett

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Baseball Practice and Game Guidelines

Pinellas County Schools Athletics

General

- Athletes must have all required FHSA and district paperwork completed prior to attending practice.
- Athletes and volunteers must sign the COVID waiver before participating.

Practice

- Coaches and athletes are required to be screened daily using the COVID questionnaire.
- Athletes should always wear a mask or face covering until actively engaged in practice.
- Social distancing should be practiced whenever possible.
- Athletes should remain in workout pods of 20 or less, including coaches.
- Each athlete is responsible for their own equipment and water bottle.
- Frequent breaks should be provided to allow participants to sanitize hands and equipment.

Games

- Athletes should always wear masks or face coverings unless they are actively participating in pre-warm-up, the game, or the post-game cool down.
- Host schools should provide competing teams with a designated area for warmup and cool down.
- For pre-game meetings, umpires and coaches should always wear masks.
- Supplies will be available at each game for athletes to sanitize hands.
- Each team provides sanitized balls (bucket) while on defense.
 - Have a bucket for “dirty” balls available so they can be sanitized after the game.
- Sanitize bases after each contest.

Travel

- No more than 35 coaches and athletes are permitted to be transported on a bus at one time.
- All participants must wear a mask while riding the bus to and from the event.
- A list of the players and other personnel riding the bus should be maintained in the event COVID contact tracing is required.

Additional notes

- Spectators are required to wear masks while in the stands or bleachers.
- During the regular season, permission from the County Athletic Director is required to participate in games outside of 75 miles.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Wear masks on and off the field.
- Eliminate handshakes post-game- tip a hat to the other team instead
- Maintain 6' distance between players and umpires.
- No seeds, gum or spitting.

Considerations for Players:

- No seeds, gum or spitting.
- Players must clean and sanitize equipment after each game
- Social distancing on the bench and/or dugout.
- No sharing of water bottles.
- Sanitize batting helmets in between each inning.
- No sharing of catcher's equipment.
- Sanitize the bats in between each player before it is used again.
- Sanitize all equipment after each game.
- No physical contact.
- Eliminate handshakes post game.
- Eliminate handshakes with coaches/umpires' pre-game.
- Evaluate pre-existing health conditions.
- Carry hand sanitizer.

The safety and health of the players and coaches is priority. The is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps individual schools take to increase safety.

Flag Football Protocols

Pinellas County Schools Athletics

General

- Athletes must have all required FHSAA and District paperwork completed prior to attending any practice.
- Athletes and volunteers must sign the COVID waiver before participating.

Travel

- No more than 35 coaches and athletes are permitted to be transported on a bus at one time.
- COVID screening should take place prior to players entering the bus.
- All participants must wear a mask while riding the bus to and from the event.

Practice

- Coaches and athletes are required to be screened daily using the COVID questionnaire.
- Athletes should wear a mask until actively engaged in practice.
- Social distancing should be practiced whenever possible.
- Athletes should remain in warm-up pods of 20 or less, including coaches.
- Each athlete is responsible for their own equipment and water bottle.
- Frequent breaks should be provided to allow participants time to sanitize hands and footballs.

Games

- Players should be screened using the COVID questionnaire prior to each game.
- Athletes should always wear masks unless they are actively participating in warm-up or game play.
- Coaches and other sideline personnel should always wear a mask.
- Host schools should provide competing teams with a designated area for warm-up and cool down.
- The coin toss will be conducted with only the referee and a single captain from each team, maintaining physical distancing and without handshakes.
- The team box will be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines for players and coaches.
- Increase the sideline belt from 2 yards to 4 yards when feasible to give officials more space.
- Only essential personnel are allowed in the bench area. Spectators are required to remain in the stands.
- Supplies will be available at each game for athletes to sanitize hands.
- The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest.
- No loitering by athletes on the field after the game is completed.

Additional Notes

- Spectators are required to wear masks while in the stands.
- During the regular season, permission from the County Athletic Director is required to participate in games outside of 75 miles.

****The safety and health of the players and coaches is the priority. This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps individual schools can take to increase safety. ****

Lacrosse Practice and Game Guidelines

Pinellas County Athletics

General

- Players must have all required FHSAA and district eligibility paperwork completed before participating in practices or games.
- All players and volunteers must have a signed liability waiver on file to participate.

Practice

- Coaches and Athletes are required to be screened daily using COVID questionnaire.
- When possible, players should come dressed for practice.
- Masks are required when players use the locker-room. In addition, limit the number of players in the locker-rooms at one time to allow for social distancing.
- Players and coaches will wear masks during team meetings and warm-ups.
- Players should wear a mask when not actively engaged in practice.
- Players are responsible to bring their own water and towels to practices.
- No lacrosse equipment should be shared by players.
- Breaks should be worked into the practice schedule to allow players to sanitize their hands and equipment. Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies should be available.
- Non-essential personnel are not allowed to attend practices.

Competition

- Pregame equipment inspections should be conducted after the players have placed their equipment on the field and leave. Officials then may inspect equipment and blow the whistle for the teams to retrieve their equipment.
- Coaches are required to wear masks during the entire game.
- Masks should be worn by officials during the pre-game coach's meeting /certification.
- Meeting with Captains: One captain from each team, officials and players wear masks, captains stay apart, officials show coin result to each captain.
- Provide adequate spacing to allow 6-foot social distancing between individuals at the scorer's table.
- Extend the players and coaches box to end line to ensure proper social distancing on sidelines.
- Only essential personnel are allowed on the team's sideline and at the official table area.
- Players are required to wear masks when not activity involved in the game.
- No sharing of equipment, water bottles, or towels can occur.
- No handshakes before or after contest. In addition, no loitering on the field after the game.

Travel

- A limit of 35 people including players, coaches and other personnel are permitted on a bus at one time.
- All personnel riding the bus must wear a mask, to and from the match.
- A record of players and other personnel riding the bus should be maintained in the case that COVID contact tracing is necessary.
- When more than one bus is used for transportation to a match, the same people should ride the same bus to and from the game.

Spectators

- A limit of 20% of the stadium's capacity can attend a game in person.
- All spectators must wear a mask while attending the game.
- All Pinellas County lacrosse matches will be streamed to the public on the NFHS network.
- Only pre-packaged food and drinks will be sold at the concession stand.
- No parents or other spectators are permitted on the field at any time.

The safety and health of the players and coaches is the priority. This is not an exhaustive list and there may be additional processes taken by individual teams to increase safety.

Softball Protocols

Pinellas County Schools Athletics

General

- Athletes must have all required FHSA and district paperwork completed prior to attending practice.
- Athletes and volunteers must sign the COVID waiver before participating.

Travel

- No more than 35 coaches and athletes are permitted to be transported on a bus at one time.
- All participants must wear a mask while riding the bus to and from the event.
- A list of the players and other personnel riding the bus should be maintained in the event COVID tracing is required.
- Contact Tracing: every team will create a bus seating chart that is used for each trip. Players will remain in the same seat to and from each contest for that season.

Practice

- Coaches and athletes are required to be screened daily using the Covid questionnaire.
- Athletes should always wear a mask/gaiter until actively engaged in practice.
- Social distancing should be practiced whenever possible.
- Athletes should remain in workout pods of 20 or less including coaches.
- Each athlete is responsible for their own equipment and water bottle.
- Frequent breaks should be provided to allow participants to sanitize hands and equipment.

Games

- Athletes should always wear masks/gaiter unless they are actively participating in pre-warm-up, the game, or the post-game cool down.
- Host schools will provide competing teams with a designated area for warmup and cool down.
- For pre-game meetings umpires and coaches should always wear masks.
 - Limit the pre-game meeting to 1 coach per team and the umpires only.
- Supplies will be available at each game for athletes to sanitize hands.
- Each team provides sanitized balls (bucket) while on defense.
 - Have a bucket of “dirty” balls available so they can be sanitized after the game.
- Sanitize bases after each contest.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Wear masks on and off the field.
- Eliminate handshakes post-game- Wave/acknowledge to the other team instead.
- Maintain 6' distance between players and umpires.
- No seeds, gum or spitting.

Considerations for Players:

- No seeds, gum or spitting.
- Players must clean and sanitize equipment after each game
- Social distancing on the bench and/or dugout.
 - There will no HR celebrations at the plate. Players are to remain in the dugout.
- No sharing of water bottles.
- Sanitize batting helmets in between each inning. (If teams are sharing helmets)
- No sharing of catcher's equipment.
- Sanitize the bats in between each player before it is used again.
- Sanitize all equipment after each game.
- No physical contact.
 - Avoid infield/ outfield huddles during the game.
- Eliminate handshakes post game.
- Eliminate handshakes with coaches/umpires' pre-game.
- Evaluate pre-existing health conditions.
- Carry hand sanitizer.

Additional notes

- Spectators are required to wear masks while (on school property)
- Spectators are required to social distance in and around the stands.
- Scorers Table will be limited to essential workers only: scorer, scoreboard, announcer.
 - All volunteers will be expected to wear masks at all times.
- During the regular season permission from the County AD is required to participate in games outside of 75 miles.
- **All spectators (non-coaches/ non-players) must clear the softball field and bleacher area directly after the game. If parents/ spectators need to wait for a player, they may do so from the parking lot (in their vehicle)**

The safety and health of the players and coaches is the priority. This is not an exhaustive list and there may be additional steps taken by individual schools to increase safety.

Tennis Practice and Competition Guidelines

Pinellas County Athletics

1. Players must have a signed COVID release form to participate in practice or matches.
2. Players and coaches should always wear masks, except when active on the court. This includes during transportation to and from matches.
3. Players should wash their hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer before, during, and after play.
4. Maintain physical distancing when changing ends of the court.
5. When playing doubles coordinate with your partner to maintain physical distancing as much as possible.
6. Players should bring their own water bottle and towel to the matches and practices.
7. No handshakes before or after matches.
8. No loitering by players or coaches after the practice or match is over.

The safety and health of the coaches and players is the priority. This is not exhaustive list and there might be additional steps individual schools can take to increase safety.

Track and Field Practice and Competition Guidelines

Pinellas County Schools Athletics

General

- Athletes must have all required FHSAA and district paperwork completed prior to attending practice.
- Athletes and volunteers must sign the COVID waiver before participating.

Travel

- No more than 35 coaches and athletes are permitted to be transported on a bus at one time.
- All participants must wear a mask while riding the bus to and from the event.

Practice

- Coaches and athletes are required to be screened daily using COVID questionnaire.
- Athletes should always wear a mask until actively engaged in practice.
- Social distancing should be practiced whenever possible.
- Athletes should remain in workout pods of 20 or less including coaches.
- Each athlete is responsible for their own equipment and water bottle.
- Frequent breaks should be provided to allow participants to sanitize hands and equipment.

Meets/competitions

- Athletes should always wear masks unless they are activity participating in pre-warm-up, the race, or the post-race cool down.
- Host schools should provide competing teams with a designated area for warmup and cool down.
- Limit the number of teams in each meet when possible.
- Meet officials and coaches should always wear masks.
- Only essentials personnel are allowed in the track/ field area. Spectators are required to remain in stands.
- Supplies will be available at each meet for athletes to sanitize hands.
- No loitering by athletes after their race is over.

Additional notes

- Spectators are required to wear masks while in the stands.
- During the regular season permission from the County Athletic Director is required to participate in meets outside of 75 miles.

The safety and health of the players and coaches is the priority. This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps individual schools can take to increase safety.