

City of Stuart

Athletics Programs, Covid-19 Guidelines



To: David Dyess, City Manager
From: Jim Chruski, Community Services Director
Lead: Jeff Hughes, Athletics Coordinator
Subject: COVID-19 Athletics
Date: May 27, 2020

VISION / PURPOSE

The purpose of this outline is to have measures in place that will help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, preserve public safety, and protect staff as the City returns to use of the facilities.

This outline certain measures that will be used by staff and administration when re-opening youth sports programs. The Athletics Coordinator will be providing these guidelines to all youth sports programs for their reference.

GUIDELINES

The following will be followed when re-opening athletic facilities for organized youth sports programs:

Guidelines:

- The City will need a minimum of two (2) days' notice before any practices can take place and seven (7) days prior to scheduled games. (Standard prep time per field reference: football field 8-10 hours; full size soccer 8 hours, youth soccer 6 hours; baseball/softball 2-3 hours; lacrosse 8 hours)
- Youth Sports programs must submit a plan for resuming sports activities following CDC guidelines. Each organization should abide by their sanctioning body's recommended guidelines.
- The City may post recommended CDC, and County guidelines for social gathering at athletic sites.
- Field reservations process with the City will be contact-less and payment will be accepted over the phone.
- City will discuss guidelines with program each youth sports provider prior to re-opening.
- Supply needs and resources for parks restrooms will be coordinated through the Public Works Turf and Grounds Division. Youth sports programs will be responsible for supplying their own supplies for use during play.
- In the interest of Public Safety, any person who exhibits continued disregard or violation of approved Organization and City of Stuart guidelines needs to be asked to remove themselves from the program and facility. Repeated behavior may result in further actions.

Youth Sports Program Guidelines:

- Registration should be contact-less and cash-less.
- Organizations are responsible for informing all participants, parents, and spectators of guidelines in advance and at the start of every session.
- Have a communications plan in place in case someone experiences symptoms, is sick with the virus, or is exposed to the virus which includes contact with the Health Department and notification to players, families, the staff, and City point of contact.

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- Limit participation to those players living within the local geographical area. Tournament Guidelines should be followed if tournaments are considered.
- Assess risks of full competition between teams compared to the lower risk of team-based practices and within-team competition.
- In the event of a known infection, have protocols in place that adheres to CDC guidelines.

- Check-in/Check-Out Children: Organization's personnel/volunteers to greet child and parent at designated area and sign the child in. Personal belongings of participant to be placed by participant in a designated area assigned by the coach. Adults: Organization's personnel/volunteers to greet participant at the designated area and sign the person in. Personal belongings of participant to be placed by participant in a designated area assigned by the Organization's Director.
- Organizations are encouraged to inform participant and spectators to plan for an arrival no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the scheduled activity, and to plan to depart the facility no longer than 15 minutes after the activity concludes.
- Eliminate pregame or post game meetings between coaches, volunteers, participants, or teams.
- Set up a "station" for hand sanitizing before, during and after activity and must have additional sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer on hand during all practices and games.
- During practices, create games and activities that follow social distancing strategies; keep same coaches with the same group for each session.
- Adjust game and practice formats and increase the amount of time between each, to minimize overlap and traffic flow.
- Food and beverages: should be served in individual portions (not family style) and utensils should not be shared (disposable cups, plates, and utensils should be used when possible). Consider limiting number of individuals serving food to 2 and maintain social distancing. Individuals serving food must wear face coverings. Children bringing lunches/snacks from home should bring them in a disposable bag when possible. Meals and snacks should be consumed with assigned group and groups should not share space with other groups when eating. Careful cleaning and sanitizing procedures should be followed before and after food consumption.
- Discourage use of public water fountains. Organization must not use water coolers. Individual water bottles only.
- No eating in dugouts/benches, especially sunflower seeds or gum.
- Participants should be permitted to wear PPE items if they choose as long as items do not compromise the safety of any and all other participants. Coaches, volunteers, and spectators are encouraged to wear face coverings.
- No handshakes, high five's, huddles, etc. before and/or after games. Develop a different form of postgame sportsmanship utilizing social distancing guidelines.
- No sharing equipment between participants, coaches, volunteers, umpires, and referees.
- All equipment must be sanitized periodically throughout practice/games.
- Routinely sanitize dugouts, benches, and all common areas before, during, and after play and all trash must be bagged and removed after play.
- Remind players to keep hands off fences.
- Distance between players in dugout and on player benches and allow teams to spread players out. Expand the participant seating areas when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Attempt to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel only.
- Spectators: maintain social distancing and proper CDC sanitizing guidelines. Limit participant spectators to 2 persons only.
- Restrooms: encourage participants, spectators to maintain social distancing guidelines when entering restrooms.
- Programs will be responsible for supplying their own supplies for use during play.