

Procedures for Returning to Play for Youth Sports Programs

2020 COVID-19



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PROCESS AND PROCEDURES TO RESTART PLAY

These Procedures for Returning to Play have been established to set out requirements and recommendations for youth sports program providers (“Program Providers”) to follow prior to returning to play on Martin County athletic fields and facilities. Upon compliance with these Procedures, athletic fields and facilities may be utilized for practice and games. Tournaments will not be considered under these Procedures at this time.

- These Procedures for Returning to Play for Youth Sports Programs (“Procedures”) will be posted on the County’s website:
www.martin.fl.us/YouthSports
- The Parks and Recreation Department’s (“Department”) Recreation Division will email these Procedures to all Program Providers that have utilized the County’s athletic fields and facilities in the last one (1) year. All other Program Providers will be directed to the Procedures on the website if they reach out to the Department to request athletic fields or facilities.
- Once Program Providers have the Procedures in their possession, all Program Providers must contact Dave Gladding, Sports and Athletics Supervisor, at (772) 221-1419 or by email at dgladdin@martin.fl.us to schedule a virtual meeting or phone call. During this virtual meeting or phone call, the Department’s Recreation Division will review the Procedures in detail with the Program Provider.
- The Program Providers must develop a Re-Opening Plan that ensures safe practice and play for youth related to the COVID-19 virus that complies with these Procedures. At a minimum, CDC guidelines, the County Requirements, and the Program Providers’ sanctioning board’s guidelines must be included in the Re-Opening Plan. If the Program Provider has a Board of Directors, the Re-Opening Plan must be approved by that Board. The County recommends that the Program Provider also include the County Recommendations in the Re-Opening Plan.
- The Program Providers must submit a Re-Opening Plan and Affidavit to Dave Gladding, Sports and Athletics Supervisor, by email at dgladdin@martin.fl.us. The Affidavit must be completed and fully executed in the form provided by the Department.
- The Department will review the Re-Opening Plan and Affidavit within 10 business days, though staff will strive to complete this in less than 5 business days. Once both documents have been reviewed and the Department determines that the Re-Opening Plan and the Affidavit are in compliance with these Procedures; the Department will contact the Program Provider in writing to notify the Program Provider that the review has been completed and that the field reservation and scheduling process can commence. If the Department determines that the Re-Opening Plan and the Affidavit are not in compliance with these Procedures, the Department will notify the Program Provider in writing with the

identified deficiencies. The Program Provider will then be required to resubmit a revised Re-Opening Plan and Affidavit.

- Once the Program Provider is notified that the field reservation and scheduling process can commence, the Program Provider must contact Dave Gladding, Sports and Athletics Supervisor, by email at dgladdin@martin.fl.us with its field reservation request at least two (2) business days prior to any requested practices and at least seven (7) business days prior to any requested games to give the Department enough time to prepare the fields for play. This is based on the following standard field preparation times: football field: 8-10 hours, full-size soccer field: 8 hours, youth soccer field: 6 hours, baseball/softball field: 2-3 hours, and lacrosse field: 8 hours.
- The Department will schedule field and facility use for the Program Provider based on availability and will contact the Program Provider to proceed with the contactless permitting process.

COUNTY REQUIREMENTS

The County requires that Program Providers address the following in their Re-Opening Plan:

CDC GUIDELINES

- Program Providers must adhere to the CDC's Guidelines for Considerations for Youth Sports listed on the CDC's website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES

- Program Providers must adhere to the Florida Department of Health's Guidelines:
www.floridahealth.gov

ASSESSING RISKS

- Program Providers must assess the risks of different types of activities, i.e. full competition between teams is considered a higher risk than team-based practices and within-team competition, and address ways to limit these types of risks.

PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

- Program Providers must limit participation to players and coaches living within the local geographical area.
- Program Providers must develop a process for conducting symptom screening and monitoring symptoms before and during each session, isolating the person from others if they experience COVID-19 symptoms, and disinfecting the areas where the sick person has touched or been.

- Program Providers must advise participants, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators to stay home if they are feeling ill, have a fever, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Program Providers must notify participants, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators of COVID-19 guidelines prior to the start of every session.
- Program Providers must provide all supplies needed to comply with these requirements, except for restroom supplies. The Department’s Parks Operations Division will coordinate supply needs for park restrooms.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

- During practices, Program Providers must create and utilize games and activities that follow social distancing strategies and keep the same coaches with the same group for each session.
- Program Providers must prohibit handshakes, high fives, and huddles before or after games and must develop a different form of post-game sportsmanship utilizing social distancing guidelines.
- Program Providers must create distance between players in dugouts and on player benches, allow teams to spread participants out, expand participant seating areas when room permits and participant safety will not be compromised, and limit bench personnel to essential team personnel only.
- Program Providers must prohibit sharing of equipment between participants, coaches, volunteers, and officials.
- Program Providers must provide a “station” for hand sanitizing that utilizes sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol for use before, during, and after activity and will have additional sanitary wipes and hand sanitizer on hand during all practices and games.
- Program Providers must identify one adult at each session to ensure the safe and routine sanitization of dugouts, benches, and all high touch or common areas before, during, and after practice and play.
- Program Providers must clean up all Personal Protective Equipment, cleaning products, and sanitizing products used before, during, and after the sports event and dispose in a proper method and receptacle.
- If offering concessions, Program Providers must serve food and beverages in individual, wrapped portions and will use disposable cups, plates, and utensils so that utensils are not shared.

- Program Providers must not use shared water coolers and instead must provide or require participants to bring individual water bottles.
- Program Providers must prohibit permit eating in dugouts or on benches, which includes sunflower seeds and gum.
- When participants are eating meals or snacks as teams, Program Providers must require the participants remain in their assigned groups and eat separately from the other groups.
- Program Providers must carefully clean and sanitize the area before and after serving food or food consumption.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

- Program Providers must conduct a contactless and cashless registration process.
- Program Providers must provide training for coaches, officials, and staff on COVID-19 related safety protocols.
- Program Providers must communicate with parents of children who are medically vulnerable and attempt to make accommodations for those children if they are able.
- Program Providers must designate a youth sports program staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.

PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

- Program Providers must develop and submit protocols for attending to an injured person that will protect both the injured person as well as those attending to them related to COVID-19.
- Program Providers must create and submit a communications plan and process to address if a participant, staff, volunteer, official, or a coach experiences symptoms, contracts the virus, or is exposed to the virus. The communications plan and process must include notification to the County Health Department and notification to participants, families, staff, volunteers, officials, coaches, and Dave Gladding, Sports and Athletics Supervisor, at 772-221-1419 or dgladdin@martin.fl.us.

COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The County recommends that Program Providers address the following in their Re-Opening Plan:

PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

- Program Providers should communicate the importance of face coverings and recommend these for all coaches, volunteers, officials, and spectators. Participants should be permitted to wear PPE items if they choose as long as items do not compromise the safety of themselves or other participants.
- Program Providers should remind participants and spectators to keep from touching fences and other surfaces that do not need to be touched.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

- Program Providers should adjust game and practice formats and increase the amount of time between each to minimize overlap and traffic flow.
- Program Providers should encourage participants and spectators to maintain social distancing guidelines when entering restrooms and follow CDC guidelines on handwashing.
- If providing concessions, Program Providers should limit number of individuals serving food to two (2) and those individuals should maintain a minimum of six (6) feet apart and wear face coverings and gloves at all times.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

- Program Providers should eliminate pre-game or post-game meetings between coaches, volunteers, participants, officials, or teams to the greatest extent possible.
- Spectators should be informed of and encouraged to maintain social distancing. Program Providers should inform the spectators that the seating areas are not being sanitized and suggest a limit of two (2) spectators per youth player.
- Program Providers are encouraged to have personnel/volunteers greet each participant and parent at a designated area and sign the child in. Personal belongings of the participant should be placed by the participant in a designated area assigned by the coach.
- Program Providers are encouraged to regularly assess new developments related to COVID-19 guidelines and how they may affect their operations.

PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

- Program Providers are encouraged to establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to that person's home or to a healthcare facility. If an ambulance is called or someone is being brought to the hospital, they should be alerted that the person may have COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

- Program Providers must comply with these Procedures prior to using County athletic fields or facilities.
- Program Providers must comply with their Re-Opening Plan which will include: CDC guidelines, the County Requirements, and the Program Providers' own sanctioning board's guidelines, if applicable, and may include the County Recommendations.
- If any Program Provider is found to be in non-compliance with that Program Provider's Re-Opening Plan at any time in the future, the Program Provider's field use privileges may be revoked.

Affidavit
Compliance with Procedures for Returning to Play
for Youth Sports Programs
2020 COVID-19

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF (_____)

I, the undersigned, being first duly sworn, do hereby state under oath and under penalty of perjury that the following facts are true:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am a resident of the State of Florida.
2. I am the _____ (title) of _____ (entity) (“Program Provider”) and I certify that I have the authority to make the representations set forth within this Affidavit.
3. I hereby certify that the information provided herein is correct and truthful.
4. I hereby certify that the Re-Opening Plan submitted to the County by Program Provider setting out its plan for return to play in Martin County during COVID-19 complies with the County’s Procedures, including compliance with the CDC guidelines, the County Requirements and Program Provider’s sanctioning board’s guidelines.
5. I hereby certify that Program Provider will at all times operate in compliance with its submitted Re-Opening Plan.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

By _____
(Signature)

By _____
(Name and Title)

The foregoing Affidavit was acknowledged before me by ___ physical presence or ___ online notarization this _____ day of _____, 20__, by _____, ___ who is personally known to me or ___ who has produced _____ as identification and who did take an oath.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this _____ day of _____, 20__.
(NOTARY SEAL)

(Signature of person taking acknowledgment)

(Name of officer taking acknowledgment)
typed, printed or stamped
My commission expires: