

Spring 2021 FPW+SL Proposed COVID-19 Risk Management Policy

Our League is subject to the enhanced Safer at Home rules and regulations of the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Department, available at <https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-parks-recreation/> and last updated in a January 27, 2021 announcement.

In addition, all coaches, team representatives, and players agree to abide by applicable State and Local guidelines, along with the following guidance to permit the safest possible opportunity to play together.

A. Safety and Reducing Spread:

1. Players with known or suspected exposure to COVID are prohibited from attending games or League events for 14 days. Negative test results prior to return are strongly preferred.
2. Players with any COVID symptoms are encouraged to quarantine and seek testing. These players should refrain from attending games or League events for 10 days from last symptomatic day. Negative test results prior to return are strongly preferred.
3. Proof of vaccination will not excuse any player from the other precautions in this policy, but will greatly support our ability to proceed with play after this season. Vaccination is an individual choice that is highly recommended for all League participants, as available through your healthcare provider or local Public Health administration.
4. Contact tracing by coaches/team representatives will be required for each game. Participants are asked to conduct themselves at all times with consideration for the current Public Health guidelines, and choose to support the safety of all others involved in the League
 - a. Players should notify their coach and the Board of any emerging COVID issues as soon as possible, so that Board can contact and notify other potentially affected teams.
 - b. No lists of players are required to be submitted per game - The Board will assume all rostered team members may have been in attendance at any game, and all members will be contacted should there be a need to for possible Covid contact tracing reasons. Contact will be made via email through LeagueOne.
5. Masks are required. At minimum, clean, disposable/surgical masks or cloth masks with a design and ability to block the transmission of small droplets are to be worn correctly over the mouth and nose at all times by all players, team representatives, and umpires while involved in games or in-person League activities.
 - a. CDC guidelines about mask selection and effective use can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
 - b. Bandannas and neck gaiters are not preferred face coverings. If used these should be doubled or combined with paper masks to create sufficient protection
 - c. Coaches are responsible for ensuring adherence to adequate mask use and maintaining a backup supply to ensure coverage.
 - d. Players/coaches may temporarily take masks down when appropriately distanced from all others, for example in the outfield / pitching, to cool down etc.
6. Social distancing is an established public health measure for mutual safety and limiting opportunities for viral transmission. Maintenance of 6 foot distance whenever possible on and off the field is strongly advised. If a participant must remove their mask for any reason (fit adjustment, eating/drinking, etc) they should ensure sufficient distance from all others before removing the mask.
7. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are effective ways to minimize physical spread of the COVID virus. Teams who share equipment should wipe bats, catcher masks, balls,

- and other shared materials or high-contact surfaces, as well as regularly sanitizing hands after touching balls, faces, or any shared equipment.
8. Communal water/drink sources (such as large volume coolers with a tap) are prohibited. Individual water/drink containers are recommended. Individuals within the same household may share storage coolers if needed, but larger group shared coolers are discouraged to reduce contact transmission.
 9. Adult spectators are prohibited at this time by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Guidelines.
 - a. Teams will need to place a visual barrier before all games, representing a 25 foot radius from the backstop and benches. No adult who is not actively involved in game play, regulation, or recording may enter this perimeter for the duration of each game unless in the case of emergency medical intervention. Children of players and representatives are permitted within the perimeter for supervision.
 - b. The League will provide each team with cones at the beginning of the season
 - c. Between games, teams should quickly gather belongings and remove them from the perimeter area to allow the next team to gather without overlap or loss of social distancing precautions.
 10. The League will provide a basic “sanitization pack” at the beginning of the season, to each team, which should be brought to each game (as should a first aid kit). The contents (disposable masks, sanitizer, wipes) will not be enough to supply the full team for the entire season, please replenish and supplement as needed to serve the team’s needs.

B. Adjustments to FPW+SL Rules of Play - *Our goal is to be able to play safely and fairly.*

1. Player substitution will be permitted for COVID-related reasons. Teams should maintain rosters with enough players to field a team for all scheduled games.
 - a. In the event of COVID illness or precautionary quarantine, previously registered players from other teams will be permitted to play as substitutes.
 - b. The Board and opposing team will need to be made aware of substitutions.
 - c. Please do not abuse the trust of this accommodation by “roster stacking” for competitive reasons. Suspected poor sportsmanship of this type will be investigated by the board upon report.
2. Teams will be permitted to start play with a minimum of 8 players. If either team has less than 8 available players due to illness or precaution, teams can accept substitutes within comfort of coaches, with updated rosters, and with maintenance of masks, hygiene and social distancing as above.
 - a. Teams playing with 8 will not be required to take an automatic out.
 - b. Forfeit rules still apply - if teams have less than 8 players as a result of general team availability (non-Covid reasons) then the team are required to inform the board via official email no later than 4:30pm on weekdays, and 8am on weekends. (Otherwise the League incurs umpire fees)
3. Refund policy – no refunds will be granted for individual players who have to opt out during the season due to COVID illness or other personal reasons.
 - a. If a state/city wide shutdown occurs, and the league receives a partial refund from Parks & Rec, partial refunds to players may be considered for approval by the board and league representatives.
4. Scheduling of games may be adjusted during the season to increase the opportunity for clearing of team groups and reduce overlapping use of the available fields. Those waiting to play or having finished earlier games must remain clear of the visual boundaries used to indicate the area managed by the league during games.
5. Due to the potential health risks of prolonged mask use in extreme heat, the League reserves the right to cancel or reschedule games when public health warnings are issued for heat index concerns in the Philadelphia region.

6. The maximum allowed time for regular season games is 90 minutes. The League reserves the right to enact use of a 1-1 count and/or 60-75 minute limit to support safe play, including regularly scheduled and makeup games.
7. Catchers and umpires are permitted to alter their position within the backstop area to support social distancing as needed while fulfilling essential game responsibilities.
8. If League-funded umpires are not available due to COVID illness or quarantine precaution, teams may notify the Board via email of their agreement to take one of these courses of action:
 - a. Proceed with a volunteer umpire (not participating as a player in the game) and record the official score - volunteer umpire would receive payment from the League
 - b. Both teams agree to have a player call balls/strikes - score would still be official
 - c. Scrimmage with or without umpire and no official score
 - d. Request to have the game rescheduled, if possible
9. In order to manage costs and provide more time between play for symptom monitoring, games will be scheduled for play only on Fridays and Sundays.
10. As we will not be engaging in regular recruitment activities, within-league substitution is allowed, and some teams will not purchase new team shirts for 2021, the rules around team uniforms will be somewhat relaxed. If at all possible, players on a team should wear the same color shirt, and those substituting against their regular team should wear a different color or turn their jersey inside out for clarity during the game.
11. All other rules regarding play as outlined in the League rules & regulations still apply if not explicitly overridden by this Covid policy. In particular:
 - a. Players are playoff eligible if they participate in 5 regular season games
 - b. Rainouts will be notified 2 hours before games

Refer to full league rules & regulations for all game play details.

All participants in activities related to the Fairmount Park Women's+ Softball League will adopt the above additions to our standard liability waiver.

All participants further commit to individual responsibility for monitoring health, using protective measures (masks, sanitizing equipment, social distancing etc) between and during League activities.

In the event any potential COVID exposure risk is discovered following League activities, (ex: a player develops symptoms 4 days after a game, or learns that someone they had recent close contact with has symptoms or a positive COVID test) participants are responsible for notifying their team leadership as soon as possible. The coach or team representative will notify the board.

I have read, understood, and agreed to all of the above regulations. I intend to support FPW+SL in creating a healthy, respectful, and fun Spring 2021 season.

Signature	Date	Print Name	Phone Contact