

Seminole County COVID-19 Return to Play Operating Expectations for Tournaments and Events

Seminole County has set forth the following expectations for all tournament organizations hosting future tournaments and events at our facilities. Please review carefully as these expectations must be instituted and managed by event organizations to ensure that tournaments operate safely for all parties. It is the responsibility of the event organizer to ensure that these expectations below are communicated to all teams, coaches, officials, parents and spectators prior to the event. Furthermore it is the sole responsibility of the event organizer to ensure that these expectations are adhered to throughout the event.

Seminole County Expectations for Event Organizer and Event Attendees:

- Every tournament will be required to submit an event operations/management and sanitation plan which must be approved by Seminole County at least one week prior to the start of a tournament.
- All tournament guests must adhere to social distancing regulations and maintain at a minimum of 6 feet apart from one another. Event organizer is responsible to ensure appropriate social distancing throughout the facility including spectator seating areas, parking lots, concession area and all other spaces.
- Event Organizer is responsible for the removal of any player, tournament staff, coach, umpire or spectator who appears or is showing signs of COVID-19.
- All spectators, players, officials and staff should wear masks while at the facility when social distancing cannot be observed.
- Ensure traffic flows through proper gates to help improve social distancing and crowd management.
- Event organizer (or teams if designated by event organizer) will be required to bring their own cleaning solution to the venue to wipe down the dugout bench prior to their game and after their game concludes. Tournament organizer is responsible for disinfecting work areas such as tournament desks, sales areas or entrance tables.
- Teams will be required to designate a social distance captain or “team parent” to help ensure that their players, coaches, and spectators are maintaining a safe social distance (6ft) on and off the field. Social distancing must be monitored and enforced at all times by the designated “team parent” while their teams and spectators are on property. Event organizers need to be informed of this designee prior to the start of the event.
- Players will be required to maintain social distancing standards in the dugouts. Event organizer can utilize adjacent bleacher seating as an overflow bench if needed. Event organizer will be responsible for marking off designated overflow bench areas.
- All teams, spectators, coaches, and officials should bring their own hand sanitizer to the facility as access to hand sanitizer will be limited.
- Seminole County strongly encourage only immediate family to attend the event. Individuals 65 years old and older as well as those with known high-risk medical conditions are strongly encouraged to remain cautious and adhere to strict guidelines if they decide to attend the event.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs to help facilitate social distancing measures. Tents should have only family members under them.
- No team or personal coolers or outside food is permitted; players should bring their own water or sports drinks to ensure proper hydration. Players should label bottles and fit inside their bat bags.
- Absolutely no seeds, chewing gum or spitting is allowed anywhere at the venue.
- No sharing of equipment between players- gloves, helmets, catchers gear, etc.
- During rain delays everyone should return to their vehicle or shelters. Offices and administrative buildings will be closed due to occupancy requirements.

Seminole County will provide the following:

- Signage and floor markings will be in place throughout the facility reminding all guest of appropriate social distancing protocols.
- Doors will be propped open whenever possible to reduce excessive contact on shared surfaces.
- Increased cleanings of restrooms and high traffic areas during event.
- Tables around concession areas or open spaces will be arranged to provide appropriate social distance between groups. Park staff will rearrange tables throughout the day to continue to provide social distancing.
- Portable hand washing station(s) will be available at the facility providing easier access for guests to wash hands.
- Handwashing soap in the restrooms and limited quantities of liquid hand sanitizer will be available for our guests.
- Dugouts and playgrounds will be chemically fogged prior to the start of each day of play.
- Concessions staff and park staff will utilize proper protective equipment such as protective Plexiglas barriers and wearing face coverings.
- Public service announcements will be broadcasted over the public address systems throughout the day reminding all to practice social distancing and to proper handwashing.

Helpful suggestions to consider by Event Organizer include the following:

- Build in more time between games to allow more time for ingress and egress of teams and spectators.
- Consider double headers to reduce traffic and limit the movement of teams in and out of the dugouts and facility.
- Suggest that teams arrive at a facility at designated times. This will allow for less traffic and congregating around high traffic areas.
- Disallow trophy ceremonies or do social media award ceremonies following games
- Discourage team meeting or huddles on field, skip handshakes after the games, limit mound visits.
- Conversation between coach and umpire or coach and player must maintain a 6 foot distance.
- Consider implementing additional safety measures for the umpires or realigning position of umpire to reduce congestion around home plate.
- Each team utilize their own set of baseballs/ softballs throughout the game with the defensive team only playing with their provided balls to reduce passing germs back and forth.

Event Organizer Signature: _____

Date: _____

By signing you understand the guidelines and expectations set forth by Seminole County. Signee agrees to ensure that these expectations are clearly communicated to all participating teams, coaches, officials and spectators prior to the event. Tournament organization is responsible to manage and ensure that these expectations are satisfied throughout the event. If expectations are not met during the event, Seminole County reserves the right to cancel the remaining portions of the event and/or any future events. Seminole County is committed to ensure all guests have a safe and enjoyable event experience.