

Framingham Girls Softball COVID-19 Safety Guidelines Updated September 16, 2020

Introduction

According to the Standards for Sports & Recreational Activities in Phase III, Step 1, softball is an example of a “moderate” risk sport. These are defined as sports or activities that involve intermittent contact, but with protective equipment or mitigating measures in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants. (e.g., wearing masks, modifying play). These guidelines will be shared with all coaches and families registered in FGFS, and all visiting organizations coming to play in Framingham from other cities and towns.

General Requirements for FGFS Operation

- FGFS will provide bottles of sanitizer to be utilized to clean hands and wipe down equipment on Framingham fields.
- FGFS will close off access to the bleachers as the organization cannot verify sufficient cleaning before and after each use.
- FGFS will close off access to all dugouts. In their place, home and visitor bench areas will be outlined in chalk markings to have players and coaches maintain 6 ft spacing at all times in the bench area.
- Spectators will be confined to “outfield” viewing areas only and will be responsible for maintaining 6 ft distancing from each other, observing individually or in groups as families.
- One person from the organization will be charged with monitoring crowd size to ensure compliance with the 50 or 100 person limit per field of play. This amount shall include athletes, coaches, umpires, staff, spectators, media, scouts, etc.
- FGFS will not supply portable bathrooms as the organization cannot meet the standard for cleaning the portable bathrooms each day as outlined in the state and local guidelines.

General Requirements for Coaches

- Coaches, staff, umpires and other officials are required to wear facial coverings (masks) and maintain social distancing of 6ft from players, coaches, spectators, and other persons at all times.
- The number of coaches and staff should be limited. (specific numbers of coaches per team will be discussed and outlined by the FGFS Board of Directors)
- Written attendance of participants (players) and coaches will be maintained at each event.

General Guidelines Governing Play & Players

- No more than 25 players or participants may be on a single playing surface (the field of play) at any one time.
- Facial coverings and social distancing of 6 feet is required from all participants at all times.
- Dugouts will not be utilized. Chalk lines will be drawn behind or adjacent to a dugout, outlining specifically where players will remain when not in the field of play.
- Balls will be sanitized each half inning.
- Bats will be sanitized each use.
- All players and participants are required to sanitize hands each half inning. Coming off the field and going onto the field.
- All players and participants are required to bring their own bottled hand sanitizer.
- All players should have 2-3 of their own ice packs, bandaids, and minor treatment type supplies or kits should they sustain bruises or cuts. The league will also provide these items in an emergency.
- All players should bring their own bottled water. The sharing of water or snacks is not permitted.
- Contact between players is not permitted. (this includes handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc)

General Guidelines for Spectators

- The field bleachers will be closed and spectators will not be permitted to use them.
- Spectators will remain in the outfield area as illustrated in the “FieldDesign.”

Communications Plan

- Coaches will be responsible for all communications with families and players.
- FGFS President or Vice President will be responsible for all communications with Framingham City Departments (e.g., Parks & Rec, Board of Health, etc)
- Communications with the media:
 - Coaches will be responsible for any communications with media regarding game play only (e.g., scores, highlights, interviews summarizing player performance, etc)
 - FGFS President or Vice President will be responsible for any communications with media regarding any other topic (e.g., COVID Policy questions, field of play guidelines and map, general league and/or policy questions, etc)

Field Diagram

- Spectators limited to outfield only 6 ft spacing.
- Team benches clearly outlined with chalk and cones to promote 6ft spacing and a player walkway on and off the field.
- All dugouts and bleachers will be closed off and not utilized. In the case of Walsh, the first base side is closed off because it is impossible to maintain 6ft spacing safely in that area.

Walsh Middle School

