

Frankfort Baseball Inc. COVID-19 Return to Baseball Rules

As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Frankfort Baseball Board is committed to the safety of all league members.

With that in mind, the FBB Board established the following policies and procedures for the 2020 Travel Baseball season. Our intent is to mitigate the risks associated with the current health emergency while at the same time not to materially affect the play of the game.

We understand that some will feel these policies to be too stringent, while others will feel they aren't stringent enough. Therefore, we will allow any paid member who is uncomfortable playing under these conditions to opt out of the 2020 season and receive a partial refund on their fees based on each individual teams expenses and expenses related to FBB Travel fees.

It is absolutely vital that umpires and managers consult with every member of their team regarding the following conditions.

Practice Rules- Phase 3

1. All teams must follow guidelines set forth by Restore Illinois
 - a. <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines3/youthsports.pdf>
 - b. <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businesstoolkits/youthsports.pdf>
2. All teams must follow guidelines set forth by the Frankfort Park District & FBB which include the following:
3. Each team needs to sign and return the FPD Covid Youth Sports Guidelines.
4. Each team needs to sign and return the FBB COVID Waiver
5. Submit a plan of how you intend to implement practices within the guidelines which includes a diagram of how each group will be positioned in the field of play
6. Contact information for who will be the point person for Covid related issues- see Attendance Tracker form
7. Submit 7 days in advance a schedule of your practices- this will be performed by exporting schedule from the FBB Website
8. Practices will not be held until the plan is submitted and approved by the FBB Executive Board and the Frankfort Park District- All Team events must be entered in the FBB website schedule

Practice Rules- Phase 3

9. Attendance must be taken and tracked for practices, it is key, and organizations should be prepared to submit records of attendance for practices held- see attached Attendance Tracker
10. FBB will be submitting a practice schedule within the guidelines of the fields that are normally permitted to Frankfort Baseball organization.
11. Teams should not take liberties to practice on the football field or other areas that are not part of the field allocation.
12. Issues related to the Covid Pandemic are fluid. If updated guidelines are provided by the State, the Park District will work to implement those changes accordingly.
13. All teams must follow the Game Rules below as it applies to player equipment, set up, positioning, social distancing guidelines and PPE practices

Game | Practice Rules- Phase 4 and above

1. Home plate umpire required to wear a nose & mouth mask (PPE) or full game-mask shield. We simply believe the umpire breathing over the catcher's shoulder is virally dangerous, so additional spacing can be considered. (This rule will be based on Phase 4 guidelines set by Restore Illinois- Youth Sports Reopening Guidelines which could be more restrictive)
2. Umpires calling balls and strikes should allow adequate distance behind the catcher while still able to perform their duty. If no mask available, plate umpire will stand behind the pitcher's mound with appropriate distance from the pitcher
3. We suggest the use of gaiter scarves. These can be pulled up to cover the mouth and nose and then easily lowered as the situation dictates.
4. Nose & mouth mask for infield umpire optional.
5. Nose & mouth masks for catchers, hitters and defensive players are optional, but also depending on Restore Illinois Youth Sports Reopening Guidelines- meaning if face coverings are suggested then FBB will require face coverings in situations where social distancing and contact cannot be maintained.
6. Sanitary hand gloves for all participants is optional, but recommended
7. Pre-game meeting, lineup exchange: Social distancing is mandatory- lineup cards to umpires and opposing manager are placed in a designated area for

retrieval. It will be suggested that all normal considerations for pre-game requirements should take place electronically. Manager masks are required for any distance that would normally encroach 6'

8. Dugout usage and or player situations for team at bat or players not playing in the field- All players shall have their own chair which is placed outside the dugout and spaced at a distance greater than 6' in circumference. If at such time the Restore Illinois Guidelines indicate that dugout usage is safe then it will be possible to relax this rule if approved by the FBB Executive Board. Allow teams to spread players out; expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Expansion of the team dugouts should not be done into foul ball areas. Attempt to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel.
9. All equipment to be kept outside dugouts, near on-deck circle. Scorekeepers can sit in portable chair outside dugout socially distanced from others
10. Teams required to clean their dugout or team designated area of all trash and other items after each game
11. Players should bring lawn or folding chairs to be socially distanced apart along the fence, inside or outside. See rule 8
12. Belongings should be used only by the individual owner including, but not limited to water bottles, gloves, bats, hats, and other on- and off-field gear.
13. HELMETS: Everyone will need to have their own personal helmet. There is to be no sharing at all.
14. BATS: Since most players use batting gloves, bats may be shared. FBB will require sanitary (disinfectant) wipes be used for shared bats.
15. Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation.
16. DISTANCING: Players should keep the appropriate 6' distance at all times, pre-game warm-ups, dugouts (see rule 8 and rule 12) and on the field including mound conferences. This should also be observed for any required post game maintenance. The traditional postgame meeting of the teams for handshakes will be discontinued. Standing on the baselines and tipping your cap has been suggested. We'll leave it up to the individual teams to find an appropriate way to show respect as long as social distancing measures are followed.
17. Meetings on the mound should be limited to Pitcher-Catcher and/or manager (mask is required), but socially distanced. Infielders can do it from 10 feet from the mound.
18. Injured players: Anyone attending to an injured player on the field or in the dugout should wear a nose & mouth mask or a shield. In dugout, injured

player being attended to must have a mask. Participants advised to also wear face covering until deemed a safe situation.

19. **No Spitting:** Spitting creates an aerosol, and COVID- 19 transmission is significantly enhanced via aerosol.
20. No spitting or eating seeds, gum, other similar products.
21. All players are prohibited from spitting on their hands and then rubbing down the game ball. Use clay or dirt.
22. Pitcher cannot go to his mouth, even if he wipes before releasing the ball. 2 warnings per game, 3rd offense he cannot pitch any longer. 2 offenses in the same inning, he must be removed. In any event, ball needs to be taken out of play and sanitized or replaced permanently
23. No team water coolers or shared drinking stations. Players should bring their own coolers but keep coolers outside the dugout or with participant's chair.
24. **NO PLASTIC CUPS**
25. Spectators: For the time being discouraged; however, if in attendance, they must observe social-distancing guidelines. Spectators would be well-advised to bring their own portable chairs which will be placed well outside the player areas. It will be suggested spectators are along the foul lines and outfield.
26. Baseballs: Suggested ...Managers supply umpires with Clorox wipes and request that they wipe down baseballs in their ball bag between innings.
27. Liability waivers noting the risks of participation should include virus & bacteria language as well as "hold harmless" provisions covering league, field owner & employees. Waiver **MUST** be signed before playing their first game by every participant, including umpires, who also need to be aware of these guidelines. i.e. visiting teams or tournament teams
28. Umpires will now be required to sign waivers prior to participation as well.
29. Schedule games with at least 1/2 hour in between games in an effort to limit the amount of player interaction entering/leaving the field.
30. **POSITIVE TESTS/QUARANTINE:** We'll follow the same procedures as the those outlines by the Frankfort Park District guidelines.

Additional Guidelines

Anyone who tests positive or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive will not be allowed to attend a game for 2 weeks. More than one positive test on the same team will result in that team being suspended from play. This will be determined on a case by case basis. Managers are tasked with closely monitoring their players. The league must be notified immediately of any positive tests. Failure to notify will result in removal as coach from FBB.

Frankfort Baseball Inc. reserves the right to consider modifying or adding to the above based on field design, field conditions and lessons learned as the year progresses.

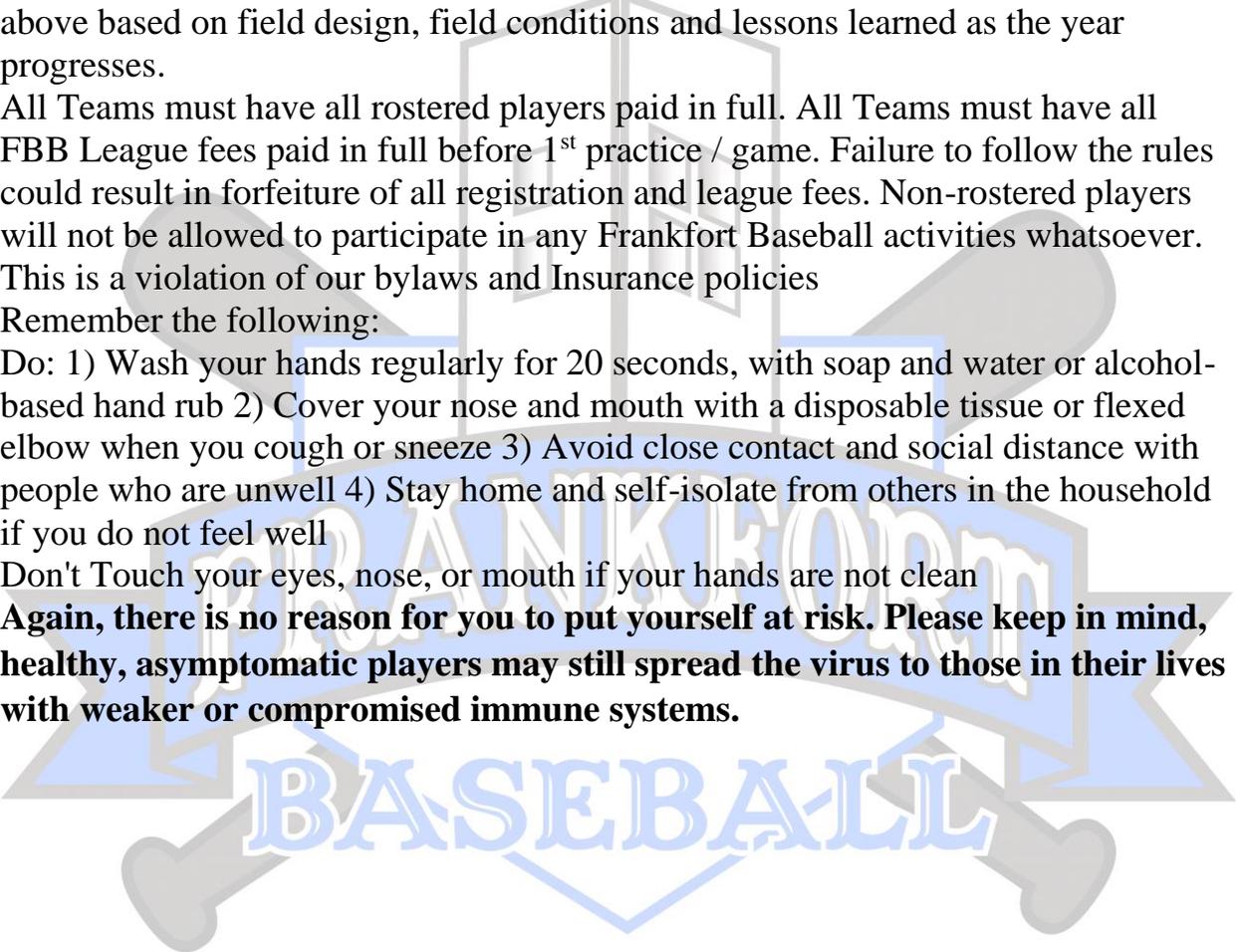
All Teams must have all rostered players paid in full. All Teams must have all FBB League fees paid in full before 1st practice / game. Failure to follow the rules could result in forfeiture of all registration and league fees. Non-rostered players will not be allowed to participate in any Frankfort Baseball activities whatsoever. This is a violation of our bylaws and Insurance policies

Remember the following:

Do: 1) Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub 2) Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue or flexed elbow when you cough or sneeze 3) Avoid close contact and social distance with people who are unwell 4) Stay home and self-isolate from others in the household if you do not feel well

Don't Touch your eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean

Again, there is no reason for you to put yourself at risk. Please keep in mind, healthy, asymptomatic players may still spread the virus to those in their lives with weaker or compromised immune systems.



BASEBALL