

2021 NFL Youth Flag Football Coronavirus Guidelines

This document is meant to provide guidance for safely operating the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 2021 Youth Flag Football league. As the situation with COVID-19 is ever evolving, this is a living document meant to provide guidance for players, coaches, families, and staff on how to manage risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19 while participating in Flag Football. As the season progresses, it is possible that operations and procedures may change. Your League Commissioner will be in touch should anything change.

Before Arriving to the Field

- Players, Coaches, Staff, Officials, & Fans should take their temperature prior to arriving to practice and games each day.
- Players, Coaches, Staff, Officials, & Fans should not attend practice/games if they feel sick, have a fever, or have been coughing.
- Players, Coaches, Staff, Officials, & Fans should not attend practice/games if they have been in contact with someone who has had COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Players should not feel pressure to come to practice or games if they are sick.

Field Entry Procedures

- Players, Coaches, Staff, and Officials will wait to enter the field until the previous game or practice has left the field.
- All persons attending a game are subject to reading and confirming a self-screening assessment posted on the entry way of the facility.
- Players will wear masks upon entering the game or practice site.
- Players will sanitize hands before stepping on the field.
- If Players bring a bag/backpack with personal items, please store these items 10ft. apart from other bags. This includes water bottles.
- A coaching staff member (COVID Coach) will ask health screening questions prior to practice and games beginning. This should take place outside of the practice/game area while the previous practice/game is ending.

Player and Coach Check-In Procedures

- Attendance will be taken by coaching staff prior to each practice and game
- Coaches will ask each screening questions (insert link) prior to each practice and game.
- Parents are asked to be present during screening questions, if a player responds that they are sick, they should leave the field immediately.

If an athlete contracts COVID-19, please contact your coach immediately. Your coach will contact their league commissioner.

Facility Exit Procedures

- Players will pack up all items in their bags at conclusion of practice.
- Players and coaches must wear masks when exiting the game or practice site.

Football Activity Recommendations for Practices and Games

- All teams are required to have a designated COVID-Coach during practice and games. The COVID-Coach will enforce all COVID-19 related procedures.
- When possible during practices, coaches and players will keep a distance of 10 ft. apart for drills and other activities.
- When social distancing is not possible, including in the field of play, players are strongly encouraged to wear masks
- Coaches must wear masks during practices and games.
- Players must wear masks when not on the field of play.
- COVID-Coach is responsible for the sanitation of their footballs prior to and during practice and games. They are responsible for providing sanitation to any shared equipment and players.
- Players will maintain a 10 ft. distance while on the sideline and not playing.
- DPR is instituting a sanitization stoppage during each half of gameplay. This will be an opportunity to sanitize the football, and players hands.
- Face coverings are required for all adults. This includes Coaches, Staff, Officials, Volunteers, and Fans.
- Huddles are no longer permitted.
- In replacement of a post-game handshake, players will line-up and do a socially distant “good game” line
- No team meetings will be held in the vicinity of the field to allow the next team to enter the play area.

Spectators/Parents Procedures

- Fans must view games from the stadium seating and are not permitted on the field unless they are a registered coach.
- Fans must be limited to 2 per player. *Please see section 13 of [VA Governors Executive Order 72](#)*
- Spectators/Parents will wear masks while viewing practice/games.
- Parent exiting process will occur immediately following the game.

Individual Items to Bring to Practices and Games

- Bag/Backpack for individual equipment like flags and belts.
- Water Bottle(s) with Name. There will be no shared water coolers/bottles.
- Hand Sanitizer
- Hand Wipes

Other Considerations

- Please have your child use the bathroom prior to practices and games to reduce use of bathroom traffic at the fields. Bathrooms may be closed for the season at some locations.
- Wash your hands before and after you play; avoid touching your face. Follow CDC guidance regarding hand washing.
- If a player gets sick during practice/game, they will be removed from the practice/game area, parent will be called to pick them up, all equipment will be cleaned; out of an abundance of caution, practice/game will be cancelled. If people on your team are showing signs of COVID-19, we will cancel the remaining games to evaluate operations.
- Notify Coaching Staff with any medical updates.