



Flower Mound Youth Sports Association

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR SMALL GROUP PRACTICES

REMINDER: We are still operating under this Protocol through 5/30/2020

May 1, 2020 (Updated & Redistributed May 20, 2020)

To: **ALL FMYSA MEMBERS**

We are pleased to announce that a Path Forward for a SAFE RETURN TO PRACTICE has been authorized!

We can resume practices on Saturday May 2nd in SMALL GROUPS. This is pursuant to Governor Abbott's New Executive Order and with approval from the Town of Flower Mound. (*Small groups mean we will resume with supervised groups of 3 players practicing together with 1 coach {4 total} utilizing physical distancing; see details below.*)

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR SMALL GROUP PRACTICES:

1. Practices days & times will remain as scheduled from the Coaches Meeting.
2. The "early team" (group of 4) takes the First Base Dugout (ENTRY 1) and the "late team" will take the Third Base Dugout (ENTRY 2). This allows a buffer to have teams arrive and depart without any potential clustering. (*PLEASE SEE #7 on how to rotate the small groups in and out using the two entry/exit system.*)
3. Coaches are to follow normal cancellation policies by emailing "fields."
4. Coaches are to follow normal policies for requesting additional practice field opportunities by emailing "fields".
5. Each field will have two (2) designated ENTRY POINTS (First Base Dugout and Third Base Dugout). One for each SMALL GROUP to arrive and set up their equipment bags, etc. (SEE MAP PROVIDED.) (*Equipment bags are to be hung on the fence line or set down along the fence line at 10' spacing immediately outside the dugout area.*)
6. Each field will have two (2) temporary Hand Washing Stations (provided and maintained by FMYSA). These stations can be used by Players and Coaches and as directed by the Head Coach. We ask that players and coaches provide their own towels for drying. We encourage parents, players and coaches to practice good personal hygiene. We also encourage you to bring and use your own hand-sanitizer, disinfectants, etc. **UPDATED 5/20/2020: The temporary hand washing stations are being removed. The TOFM has reopened their restrooms (as of 5/18). Coaches, Players and Parents are encouraged to use the TOFM Restrooms for handwashing in addition to bringing and using their own hand-sanitizer, disinfectants, etc.**
7. Each practice field will have a max of four (4) persons at any given time. Typically, it will be one coach and three players. Coaches will be responsible to ensure physical distancing is maintained. There will be NO grouping of the team at any time during practices. Max of 4 people (1 coach + 3 players, or 2 coaches + two players) on the field at any given time.
8. Head Coaches will designate and communicate to the SMALL GROUPS in advance of the practice. This communication is absolutely essential. The Head Coach will also designate which entry point each small group shall use when arriving at the ball field for practice. The Head Coach will designate if it's one group of 3 players for 90 minutes, or 3 groups of 3 players every 30 minutes, etc. If three groups are coming in 30-minute intervals,

then group one will use Entry 1, group two will use Entry 2, and the third group would use Entry 1, etc. This ensures no clustering of players or parents. **Again, the Head Coach will provide detailed communication.**

9. **Players will NOT use the dugouts**, instead they will hang their bags on the fencing (field side) safely spaced out. This is where they should also keep their water, Gatorade, PowerAde, etc. There is no need to go inside the dugout during these Small Group Practices.
10. Parents will NOT be allowed in the dugouts, on the field, or to sit in the stands as normal. One parent should supervise and facilitate the arrival and departure of their player. If parents remain to watch the practice, they MUST practice physical distancing and remain 6 feet apart and spread out in the common area around the outside of the ballfield. Bleachers may be used as long physical distancing, minimum of 6' space is maintained.
11. Siblings should NOT be brought to the ballfields if it can be avoided. We realize we have single parent homes and that this is not possible for many. If you need to bring a sibling with you to drop off your player, please feel free to do so; just make sure they stay with you, under your control and ensure they practice the same physical distancing as recommended that we all follow. If staying at the ballfields, just ensure physical distancing is maintained.
12. Coaches and Parents are required to self-diagnose; if sick DO NOT EXPOSE yourself or your child to others, and DO NOT attend your teams SMALL GROUP practices. Follow CDC protocol if ill.
13. All Coaches and Parents are to follow the guidelines and protocols of the safe return to small group practices. This will help FMYSA build a case for a fuller reopening later this month.
14. Coaches are NOT required to remove the bases after practices. (TOFM is placing and removing bases for now.)
15. We are doing all we can to SAFELY PROVIDE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL to our membership because we believe that these activities are important for the children we serve. We also believe and trust that our coaches and parents will not attend if sick and will abide by the SMALL GROUP practice protocol and physical distancing requirements.
16. This safe and measured return to Small Group Practice is 100% VOLUNTARY. We hope many will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to safely return to the ballfields for baseball and softball practices.
17. FMYSA is working diligently with the TOFM, our Parks Department and TOFM Government, Denton County, and our State Representative Offices to do everything possible to provide a SAFE RETURN to both practices and eventually game play as we all work through this together!

ALL MEMBERS – Please see our Facebook Page for a training video how these Small Group practices will look; to see the Field Entry Points, and Hand Washing Stations, etc. (This video will be posted by Friday May 1st.)

COACHES – WE WILL HAVE A TRAINING VIDEO POSTED BY FRIDAY MAY 1st FOR YOUR REQUIRED VIEWING PRIOR TO HOLDING YOUR FIRST SMALL GROUP PRACTICE. YOU MUST ALSO READ AND ABIDE BY THESE SAFETY PROTOCOLS.

Best regards,

Tracy G. Black
General Manager, Flower Mound Youth Sports Association

Jeff Nelson
President, Flower Mound Youth Sports Association

Frequently Asked Question

Q. Can I have the rest of team warming up in the common area while they are waiting to get on the field?

A. No, only the next group of 3 players may be waiting just outside their designated Entry Point. They must be socially distanced. They may warm up and stretch in the immediate area outside their designated Entry Point, provided they are supervised and maintain proper distancing, but they may not throw. **The NEXT GROUP should not arrive to their designated entry any more than 5 minutes prior to their start time.**

Q. I am an assistant coach and I normally do the pitching for batting practice. Can I be on the field?

A. You may not be on the field if there are already 4 persons on the field. When it's time for batting practice the Head Coach may exit the field and you may enter the field to throw BP. We must always maintain a 4-person max on the ballfields.

Q. Can I use my field and also use a nearby Batting Cage?

A. Regarding Batting Cages 4A and 4B: Due to the constrained space, may only have 1 coach and 1 player/batter at any given time in each cage. *The "next player" due for a session in the batting cage shall wait with his parent just outside the Batting Cage Warm Up Area.* PLEASE NOTE: Batting Cages may only be used if they are CONFIRMED in advance as a practice selection. NO WALK UPS ALLOWED AT THIS TIME.

A. Regarding Batting Cages 7A, 7B, 9A, 9B, 10A & the Pitchers and Catchers Practice Venue: These larger Batting Cages and the Pitchers and Catchers Practice Venue are considered practice spaces, as such they may be used the same as a field (1 coach and 3 players). Coaches are responsible to ensure proper spacing of players and to ensure no clustering upon entry/exit. Cones have been placed as visual guidance on safe spacing. PLEASE NOTE: The Batting Cages and the Pitchers and Catchers Practice Venue may only be used if they are CONFIRMED in advance as a practice selection. NO WALK UPS ALLOWED AT THIS TIME.

Q. Can I use the soft toss stations, or common areas to warm up for practice.

A. No, the soft toss stations are off limits at this time. The common areas are reserved for the safe coming and going of parents, players and coaches, for this reason the soft toss stations and common areas are off limits for use for warmups.

A. Only the area just outside the Entry Points may be used for light stretching, etc. before entering the ballfields. And even then, social distancing must be observed and any stretches, warming up must be supervised. NO THROWING outside of the ballfields.

A. **By exception these three (3) Soft-Toss Stations may be used:** The one located adjacent to Batting Cage 7A. The one located adjacent to Batting Cage 9A. The one located adjacent to Batting Cage 10A. This does not mean a 4th player could be added, it simply means these three, given their close proximity to the batting cages can be used in the rotation of the three players. These three (3) Soft-Toss Stations are located in practice areas, are not considered part of the common area.

Q. What does a SMALL GROUP PRACTICE look like? And how do we manage the kids coming and going?

A. FMYSA has produced a short training video to further support our membership. It is **REQUIRED** for all coaches to review the video before their first practice and the training video will be available for all FMYSA members to view.

Additional FAQ's added 5/10/20:

Q. What about the use of the designated Warm-Up Areas? Can we use as a practice area and add another small group of three players and one coach?

A. No. Out of an abundance of caution most of those “Warm Up Areas” will remain restricted for now.

A. By exception the following two (2) “Warm Up Areas” may be used:

1). The one located at the softball Batting Cages, located directly behind fields 9 and 10. This area may have Small Group Practices, as assigned to each batting cage. The girls may throw and do individual station work outside of the batting cages as long as physical distancing is maintained. Again, this is restricted to 1 Coach, 3 Players, as assigned to the Batting Cage, and PARENTS should remain OUTSIDE of the designated Warm Up Area.

2). The one located between fields 7 and 8 containing the Batting Cages and the Pitchers and Catchers Practice venue. The boys may throw and do individual station work outside of the batting cages as long as physical distancing is maintained. Again, this is restricted to 1 Coach, 3 Players, as assigned to the Batting cage or Pitchers and Catchers Practice Venue, and PARENTS should remain OUTSIDE of the designated Warm Up Area.

PLEASE NOTE: This only applies to assigned Batting Cage Practices in 7A, 7B, 9A, 9B & 10A, or an assigned practice at the Pitchers and Catchers Practice Venue. This **DOES NOT MEAN** you can add another player and coach to BF1, or BF5 or BF11, etc. and use the soft toss stations there. This only applies to the two warm up areas (with assigned batting cages/pitchers & catchers practice venue) listed above as all other warm up and common areas remains off limits for now.

Q. May we use the soccer fields or the 5-acres for Small Group Practices? May we use those areas to have the next group waiting to join the Small Group Practices warm-up?

A. NO. Only assigned baseball and softball fields, assigned batting cages, or the assigned pitchers and catchers practice venue may be used for Small Group Practice. We are not allowed to use the soccer fields or the 5-acres.