

Frankfort Baseball Inc. COVID-19 Tournament 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 Frankfort Baseball Summer Sizzle Tournament. 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. It is absolutely vital that umpires and managers consult with every member of their team regarding the following conditions. **All Teams must track attendance for each game played and keep a record for 72 Hours upon completion of the Tournament.**

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.
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. Dugouts will be in use- teams to spread players out; expand the dugout area when room permits and only if player safety will not be compromised. Attempt to limit bench personnel to essential team personnel.
9. Teams required to clean their dugout or team designated area of all trash and other items after each game- dugouts will not be in use
10. 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.
11. HELMETS: Everyone will need to have their own personal helmet. There is to be no sharing at all.
12. Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. No Spitting: Spitting creates an aerosol, and COVID- 19 transmission is significantly enhanced via aerosol.
17. No spitting or eating seeds, gum, other similar products.
18. All players are prohibited from spitting on their hands and then rubbing down the game ball. Use clay or dirt.
19. 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
20. 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.
21. NO PLASTIC CUPS

22. 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 mandatory spectators are along the outfield foul lines and in the outfield physically distanced
23. 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
24. Scheduled games will be at least 1/2 hour in between games in an effort to limit the amount of player interaction entering/leaving the field.
25. Teams, Players, Coaches, and Spectators are expected to leave the playing area immediately following each game. This will allow time for the next team to enter safely and any sanitizing measures if needed.
26. Teams are expected to limit warmups to 45 minutes before each scheduled game. This is an adequate amount of time in the practice area and enough time to prep on the playing field. (for tournament purposes- teams need to be ready to play 1 hour in advance of a scheduled game)
27. Teams are not to exit the practice area until the previously scheduled game has completed and both teams have exited the playing area.
28. Spectators are expected to wait in their vehicles until 10 minutes before game time. This will allow time for the previously scheduled game attendees to exit the area and limit exposure.
29. The Bleachers and park picnic tables will not be in use for the duration of the tournament.
30. All participants are expected to stay out of the restricted areas (unless passing through) as it will reduce the risk of exposure.
31. All Tournament participants, including spectators are expected to practice social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the CDC, IDPH (Restore Illinois) If you cannot maintain the social distancing of 6’, you must wear a mask. This included entry into public restroom areas.
32. There will be Tournament Representatives at each Event location monitoring compliance
33. All teams are required to have hand sanitizer for their team and any other PPE required under phase 4 guidelines to play recreational sports.

34.POSITIVE TESTS/QUARANTINE: If and player or coach has received a positive test within 72 hours of the final Tournament game it is the obligation of the Team Manager to inform the Summer Sizzle Tournament Director.

Additional Guidelines

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 Tournament progresses.

All Teams must have all rostered players in Tourney machine in advance of their 1st game and all fees paid in full. 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 Tournament activities whatsoever.

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.

