

**Update to the City of Jacksonville Partner Athletic Associations
May 26, 2020**

Dear Associations:

Governor DeSantis held a COVID-19 update on Friday, May 22nd in Jacksonville at Ed Austin Regional Park.

During his press conference, he announced lifting the restriction on organized youth activities. With this comes great excitement for the many youth that have been patiently waiting to get back into the parks and back on the fields. This should also come with caution and proper planning.

Each association should have a plan in place to return to play in a safe way for both players and spectators.

The following are suggested recommended guidelines:

- Phase in play to begin with a practice or training period before returning to games – refer to your association’s bylaws for planning for a season
- Continue to limit the size of groups practicing and number of groups practicing at the same time
- Limit the number of players in dugouts; use bleachers or tents to expand player areas to be able to social distance
- Run drills and practices in keeping a minimum 6-foot distance between players as much as possible.
- Batting cages and soft toss nets to be used with a single pitcher and a batter
- Discourage huddling in a closed circle – use a spread huddle
- Provide a 30-minute break between practices or games to allow for limiting the size of groups at a field at any one time
- When returning to games, schedule in a way to reduce crowd sizes in your parks to allow for proper social distancing
- Restrict parent access to the field areas
- Promote spectators sitting in individual chairs set up along the fence lines
- Players should supply their own water bottles, sports drinks etc. Shared water coolers discouraged
- Shared equipment (balls, gloves, bats, pads, helmets, benches) should be disinfected after each practice or game
- Provide each team with hand sanitizer to be administered at regular intervals
- Bathrooms to be open with doors open to provide air flow and frequent cleaning
- Concession stands - refer to CDC guidelines on food handling, consider selling prepackaged goods only. All surfaces are to be disinfected regularly. All workers to wear masks and gloves.

Thank you all for your efforts over the last couple of months in slowing the spread, we look forward to you safely returning to play.