



2019 THE SPRING GAMES COACHES INFORMATION PACKET

GAME DAY POLICIES

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL:

Please print this page, the [Pre-Game Warm-Up Procedures](#) page, and the [Recommended Food Vendors](#) page for your travel package. If you have not already, download our App and select your team(s) from the Division tab to view your schedule.

Official Game Schedule

Please refer to the official THE Spring Games App to verify your game schedule (do not refer to other schools websites, our own Master Schedule online, or an old email for your schedule - the official schedule is LIVE on our App). If you have not already, be sure to download the new THE Spring Games App now. If there are any updates to the schedule, this App syncs directly with our scheduling program.

If you have any questions about your schedule, or find yourself delayed due to travel beyond your control, please notify Alison via text at 352-988-8162 (any time, day or night). She may not get back to you right away but she will address it by the appropriate time.

General Warm Up Information (all complexes)

The following rules are in place to protect the complexes that we use for THE Spring Games. At all times, please treat these complexes as if they were your own and as if you, personally, raised the money to build and maintain them. When in doubt, ask yourself if the action at issue is one you would allow at your home field by a visiting team.

1. Please park in the designated "TEAM PARKING" area at each complex.
2. Be sure to have your CREDENTIALS with you at all times. Credentials should be readily available and visible as the Coach and Athletic Trainers walk through the Team Entrance Gate. Players in uniform will not be issued credentials.
3. Be respectful of fans and facility staff when entering the Complex; plan on it taking ten (10) minutes to enter the Complex once you have parked.
4. Each team is allowed up to TWO coolers to be used for (i) water and electrolyte drinks and between-game snacks for the players and coaches (only!) and (ii) therapy ice. Coolers must have a cooler pass (issued with the coach's packet at check-in), must be

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brought into the park with the team, and must remain in the team dugout at all times. Parents or fans are not permitted to bring team coolers into the park.

5. NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS or other shelled seeds are permitted at any park unless sold at the Concession stand (sunflower seed shells cause damage the field playing surface).
6. Keep your bags and equipment organized outside the dugout or in your designated warm up area.
7. Keep buckets and bags off of concrete walkways.
8. DO NOT HANG ANY EQUIPMENT ON FACILITY NETTING. You may place your equipment and bags on chain-link fencing where available.
9. DO NOT HANG ANY INDIVIDUALS ON FACILITY NETTING. For example, do not allow your players to hold on to the netting while they stretch.
10. Wait to get onto the field until our field crew has prepared the playing surface for the game.
11. Warm up in designated warm up spaces ONLY. Do not warm up in an area with fans or spectators.
12. Assume every spectator or fan is your grandmother and govern yourself accordingly.
13. Do not warm up or throw standing on the foul lines. Please be sure each player or coach is at least six feet (6') off the foul line when warming up before the game and between innings.
14. No hitting (including, but not limited to, soft toss and outfield fly warm ups) on any portion of the grass areas of the playing field. Coaches may hit from six feet (6') off of the outfield foul line if they have flat shoes only (no spikes or turf shoes); otherwise, a protective surface is required to avoid tearing up the grass.
15. No pitching on any portion of the grass areas of the playing field.

Please print the [Warm-Up Policies](#) for specific timelines for offensive and defensive warm-up, on-field warm-up, and plate meetings. All teams are expected to be familiar and comply with the official [Warm-Up Policies](#) on game day.

TEAM CHECK IN

You should plan to check in your team the day prior to your first game or practice but no less than 2 hours prior to your first game. Keep in mind you will be given your team's credentials at check in so if you need to deliver those credentials to individuals who are not at the complex with you on game day, plan accordingly.

If you are checking in the day prior to your first game, your packet will be at the park where your first game is played. When you come to the gate, expect to show ID for admission to the complex and ask to speak with the Site Supervisor; she or he will provide you with your credentials for admission in the future.

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At check-in, Head Coaches will be provided with a 15% off coupon for team t-shirts. The team t-shirts must be purchased in one order at the merchandise tent at the complex.

PRE-GAME WARM UP

The pre-game warm up assignments will be posted to THE Spring Games website by February 20. Teams will be assigned designated offensive and defensive warm up spaces and times (based on home/away position). Coaches are asked to strictly adhere to the practice schedules for each game.

DUGOUTS

All teams are limited to 28 people in the dugout. A bat girl is allowed and must wear a helmet at all times. If you have not signed up for PFX's Bat Girl Program, please email THESpringGames@PFXAthletics.com for more information about the Bat Girl and Adopt-A-Team programs.

UNIFORMS

All eligible players shall be attired consistent with the governing Division's current rule book. The umpire shall be responsible for oversight and management of uniform issues; any known issues should be brought to the home plate umpire at the pre-game plate meeting.

BALLS

Each team will supply a minimum of two (2) balls to the plate umpire at the pre-game plate meeting. Game balls must meet the criteria as addressed in the governing Division rule book. It is each team's responsibility to make sure that foul balls are retrieved and put back into the game as quick as possible and to have back up game balls in case balls get cut or do not come back into the game in time.

WATER & ICE

Water coolers will be in each dugout at each complex unless the complex provides water fountains in the dugout. Teams must supply their own cups or bottles.

Injury ice will be located near the concession stand at each park. Check your coaches' packet at check-in for specific information about the complex(es) where you are playing. You will need to supply your own bags. We recommend you use your team cooler to pack therapy ice if your team requires it. If you need a second cooler for ice, notify THE Spring Games staff on or before February 1 so we can make the necessary arrangements.

OUTSIDE FOOD

Except for the team snack and drink coolers, there is no outside food permitted in the parks. All food brought into the park by teams must fit into the team's food and beverage cooler.

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Your team coolers will be tagged and must be brought into the park by an authorized representative consistent with our cooler policy. Team coolers are not for fans; food and drinks brought in with the team cooler should not be shared with individuals other than team players, coaches, trainers, and SIDs. Team coolers must remain in the team dugout at all times.

The cooler policy is in place to support your team so that you can save money on food for your team. Please do not bring nuts, of any kind, into the park (this includes peanut butter!). Fans and spectators are encouraged to support our non-profit partners by purchasing food and drinks at the ballfields (all of our parks provide concessions and the proceeds from those sales benefit local non-profits and charities). We ask that you not abuse this policy and that you encourage your parents to buy the food from the ballfield.

COOLERS

Teams are permitted to bring TWO (2) coolers into the park: one for food and drink and a second cooler for injury ice.

Coolers will be available for rent at check-in at the price of \$5.00 per cooler for the week. Coolers not returned (or returned damaged) will result in a \$50.00 charge to the team. Please refer to the "Outside Food" policy, above, for our food policy.

WEATHER ISSUES

Please download THE Spring Games official app. We will use that for game delay and game change information.

We will attempt to make up any game that is rained out or cancelled due to inclement weather based on field availability, team's schedules, and officials availability. There are no refunds for games cancelled due to inclement weather; however, we will make every effort to reschedule the games in the 48 hours following the rainout.

Email Information@THESpringGames.com for more information about our weather policies.

SHOWERS

Shower facilities are available at the National Training Center and the Clermont Arts and Recreation Center by reservation only. Showers must be reserved and paid for at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of your team's requested shower day/time; however, to ensure the space available for showers, we encourage you to book your showers prior to your arrival to THE Spring Games. There is a per-person fee for use of the shower facilities.

For more information and to schedule shower times, contact:

National Training Center, Clermont

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Kim Santiago

Kim.Santiago@OrlandoHealth.com

352-241-7122 x 4219

Cost: \$5/pp

Towels, soap, and shampoo provided

Clermont Performing Arts Center

Emily Deal

EDeal@ClermontFL.org

352-394-3500

Cost: TBD

Bring your own towels, soap, and shampoo

UMPIRES

Umpires are managed by PFX Athletics as an extension of its Umpire Academy Program. Our goal is to ensure that we provide you with the best umpires possible for your Division and player experience; accordingly, umpires are assigned to your team based on your team's experience and record as compared to the umpires' experience.

The vast majority of games will be assigned two umpires. Games that are full-production on live stream (i.e., three-camera crews) will also have three umpires.

If you have a compliment or a concern about an umpire, the appropriate thing to do is complete the [Umpire Evaluation Survey](#) (under the Coaches' tab on our website). Email Donna Howell (DHowell@PFXAthletics.com) for more information about our umpires.

IMPORTANT RULES TO REMEMBER:

Time management is an important piece of THE Spring Games day-to-day activities. In order to keep the event on track, we ask that you pay close attention to some rules specific to THE Spring Games. If you have any questions about these rules, please speak with our Umpire Coordinator, Donna Howell, or the Umpire Coordinator responsible for your complex.

Umpires at THE Spring Games are expected to be familiar with the rules governing the Division of the game they are umpiring. Remember that, like you, this might be our umpires' first time on dirt for a while. On a related note, here is a link to the [NCAA 2018-2019 Rule Changes](#).

For THE Spring Games, here are some of the common rule-based questions we hear:

Tie Breaker: Tie Breaker will be in the 8th.

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Time Limits: There are no time limits at THE Spring Games; these are regular-season games and will be played until there is a winner under the Divisional Regulations. The only exception to this policy is for Junior Varsity (Non-Varsity) If you have two (2) JV teams playing each other, the time limit is two (2) hours.

Media and Live Stream: There will be media boxes marked on the game fields. Only official team photographers are permitted to be on the fields (no spectators or parents). THE Spring Games are being live streamed through Flo Softball. Fans can get more information about the live stream on our website at www.THESpringGames.com. If a camera for the live streaming gets hit and needs to be adjusted, you will be notified by either the Site Supervisor, Umpire Coordinator, or personnel from Suffragette Softball. In that instance, please pause the game between innings for no more than three (3) minutes for the video crew to make adjustments to the camera.

Bat Checks: Bat testing is not mandatory for participation in THE Spring Games; however, the NCAA has a representative on site to do bat testing and we do encourage teams to make an appointment with the official bat tester for the NCAA to make sure their bats are compliant with the current rules and regulations. Whether the bats have been tested, it is your responsibility to make sure you check bats against the current [NCAA bat list](#) each game. Each team may use one bat list for the day. If the NCAA issues a new list during the event, teams playing the first two rounds of games may still use the previous list.

Media Format: We will be using the Media Format which was new for 2018 in the NCAA Rule Book. Teams will have 90 seconds (1 ½ minutes) between each half inning. Coaches will get seven (7) total conferences (defensive & offensive) per game. If a game goes into extra innings then each team is allowed one (1) conference per half inning and unused conferences cannot be carried over.

Game and Fan Management: There are many people at THE Spring Games on vacation; most are fans, some are umpires, none are teams or coaches. We ask that at all times that you conduct yourself in a professional manner. Keep in mind that the fan experience at THE Spring Games is unique since these Games are neutral sites. Also remember that fans are here from across the nation and that different regions have different customs and manners of communication. As the umpire, the field is yours to manage, which means that you are welcome to manage the fans as you see appropriate. If there is an issue with a fan that requires security, please notify the Umpire Coordinator or Site Supervisor and she or he will take appropriate action.

Protests: Protests will be managed consistent with the [NCAA Rules](#). THE Spring Games staff will not be involved or manage a game protest.

CREDENTIALS

Teams will be issued credentials for

- Coaches listed on the official team roster
- Athletic Trainers

The above individuals must have credentials to enter the park (even when in uniform or traveling with the team). This credential may be used at any time and is assigned to you, the individual. When you enter through the gate, please smile and show the gate personnel your credential. If you are entering in plain clothes, please be prepared to stop and show your ID to match your credential.

Head Coaches may also designate VIP credentials for the following individuals:

- Head coach's parents (up to 2 passes)
- Head coach's spouse/partner/caregiver (1 pass)
- Head coach's children (unlimited), and
- One (1) additional pass per assistant coach listed on the official roster.

We ask that you be honest with us with respect to the issue of these VIP passes; in the past, we have had some coaches attempt to abuse this process. Our intent is to take care of our coaches, not to create an opportunity for fans or player parents to enter the park at no charge; these fees support the quality improvements we continue to make for the event and at the complexes. Please make sure your VIPs understand that they may be required to show ID from time to time to verify that their name matches that on the pass.

Teams will be able to identify individuals for day passes as follows:

- SIDs
- Players
- Athletic Director
- Senior Women's Administrator
- Chancellor
- Provost

The above individuals will be required to show proof of ID for entry into the park and will not be issued a credential. Players identified on the official team roster will be able to enter the park on non-game days without paying the admission fee by showing their ID at the front gate. Only coaches and Athletic Trainers may enter through the team entrance gate. All other VIPs must enter through the main gate.

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The [VIP Survey](#) must be submitted NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15 (the sooner the better, please!). Individuals without proper credentials or ID will be required to purchase a ticket for entrance into the Event. Credentials will be provided to the head coach at team check in. Email Information@THESpringGames.com for more information about credentials.

MEDIA INFORMATION

Sports Information Directors (SIDs) and radio announcers will have limited internet at all complexes. SIDs and announcers will have a table, two chairs, and power at each field. We encourage SIDs to bring a surge protector to allow for plugging in multiple devices.

If wifi is necessary for your work, please bring an individual portable hotspot.

THE Spring Games will be streamed live exclusively by [FloSoftball](#). Because of this, live streaming of games by teams, parents, or fans is not permitted. We appreciate your support in this effort.

Scoreboard operation is the responsibility of the HOME team. The Home team may assign these scoreboard responsibilities to its players, staff, SIDs, or a trusted fan. Any damage to the scoreboard remote or tablet will be the responsibility of the Home team.

Email Information@THESpringGames.com for more information.

Be sure to join our Facebook Groups for up-to-date information on the Games:

[Coaches' Facebook Group](#) for coaches registered to participate in THE Spring Games

[Fan Facebook Group](#) for fans who love watching THE Spring Games

[SID Facebook Group](#) for Sports Information Directors looking for information about the event