

FMA-FLL PA-Act 153 Compliance

First, we want to thank you all for getting your FIRST YPP clearances. Now that you are settled into this season's project, we want to take a moment to make sure we are all prioritizing student safety.

In addition to the YPP process with *FIRST* headquarters, under Pennsylvania State law, all teams active within the state of Pennsylvania have an additional obligation to meet the PA Act 153 standards for protecting minors. FIRST Mid-Atlantic (FMA) is further required to ensure that all mentors, coaches, and those 18+ interacting with youth are required to comply with PA Act 153. This applies to residents of any state (PA, NJ, DE, etc) if you intend to be coaching or volunteering with an FLL team, in any capacity, in Pennsylvania. Any coach not in compliance will not be allowed to be with their teams at any FMA-FLL events in Pennsylvania.

For most, the clearance process will take only a few moments to complete and will be good for 3 years. Many school teachers and other youth oriented organizations are already compliant. Protect yourself and your team's students to take a moment today to make sure you are compliant:

- [More information on PA Act 153 requirements](#)
- [Information regarding PA-FLL clearance collection](#)

To ensure compliance, FMA has prepared a **signNow** document that must be signed by a representative indicating that your team, or all the teams under your organization, comply with PA Act 153. FMA-FLL is preparing to send the **signNow** document to your team's representative.

To make this process smoother we have created an [FMA-FLL Team Org. Grouping Form](#) that will be used by your organization to indicate all the FLL Challenge and FLL Explore teams under your organization. This form will ask for a group representative and a comma-separated list of team numbers. Receipt of this form will tell FMA to send the **signNOW** document to that representative. Once the representative receives the **signNOW** document, they can read it, fill it out as requested, and finally sign it to complete it. FMA will get the results and all teams under it are considered by FMA as in compliance.

In mid-November, any individual teams that are not covered under an organization will be sent the **signNow** document so they can show they are compliant.

If you have any questions please contact Frank Larkin immediately at flarkin@midatlanticrobotics.org or call **215-823-9593**.