

# FMA-FLL PA-Act 153 Compliance

First, 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 Pennsylvania have an additional obligation to meet the PA Act 153 standards for protecting minors. FIRST Mid-Atlantic (FMA) is further required to ensure all event volunteers, team mentors, coaches, and those 18+ interacting with youth comply with PA Act 153. This applies to residents of any state if you intend to coach or volunteer with an FLL team in Pennsylvania in any capacity. 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 usable for several 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 Volunteering in PA](#) (updated in 2024)
- [Information regarding PA-FLL clearances and their collection](#)  
(Scroll down to Clearances)

## **For Event Volunteers:**

If you volunteer at an event, once you have clearances, you will contact the event's volunteer coordinator. They will direct you where to send your clearances so you can volunteer at the event. Once you volunteer at one event, your clearances will carry over to all events.

## **For Coaches and Mentors of Teams:**

To ensure compliance, FMA has prepared a **signNow** document that must be signed by a representative indicating that your team's coaches, or all the teams; coaches 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. The grouping form](#) that your organization will use will 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, including the teams covered by the response. FMA will then consider all teams under it as complying.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Larkin immediately at [flarkin@midatlanticrobotics.org](mailto:flarkin@midatlanticrobotics.org) or call **215-823-9593**.