



## **Summerside and Area Baseball Association (SABA) Covid-19 Return-to-Play Guidelines**

**\*Please note, these Guidelines are subject to change to any time, due to order by the Chief Public Health Office of Prince Edward Island and/or the Government of Prince Edward Island**

### **Foundational**

- All requirements in place for outdoor team sports, as dictated by the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) of Prince Edward Island, in regard to the maximum number of people permitted in outdoor gatherings, physical distancing and other protective rules, shall be observed by Baseball PEI and its membership.
- Anyone taking part in baseball in Summerside shall observe proper hygienic practices while participating in any Baseball PEI-sanctioned activity.
- Anyone displaying ANY illness symptoms WILL NOT be allowed to participate.
- Anyone who has been in contact with someone who is sick or not feeling well should also consider not participating.
- These activities shall not be permitted:
  - No sharing of water bottles or food of any kind.
  - No spitting, chewing gum or sunflower seeds.
  - No sharing of personal helmets.
  - No sharing of catcher's gear unless disinfected between personal uses.
  - No sharing of any other equipment unless disinfected between personal uses.
- Ridesharing should be discouraged whenever possible.
- All participants shall disinfect their equipment and all uniforms or clothing shall be washed after each event.
- All participants should bathe/shower at the first opportunity after each event.
- No sharing of personal items like phones, wallets, et cetera.

- Fundraising will be limited to only selling Baseball PEI Blue Jays Raffle Tickets this year.
- All commonly touched surfaces at the ballfield – benches, hooks on the back of the dugout, gates that are touched– shall be disinfected at the end of each game/practice by the team or hired SABA staff. SABA will assist facility management with the procurement of disinfectants such as hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. SABA will provide each team with an allotment of such items and will re-fill items when needed.
- For any baseball facilities that have bathrooms and/or canteens, both areas shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before each evening in use. If these areas are being used for an entire day, these areas also will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day as well.
- Physical distancing must take place in and outside the dugout, including players and coaches. Therefore, there can only be as many people in a dugout at one time as is permitted by physical distancing.
- For example, if a dugout is twenty feet long, there could be no more than four people in the dugout at once, and each person must stay at least six feet away from other people.
- If possible, hand sanitizer should be available to all players and coaches to use throughout the game/practice.
- All gear should be sanitized after each game/practice.
- All team meetings before, during or after the game/practice for coaching or teaching purposes shall respect physical distancing requirements.
- At any facility with more than one baseball field, each player, coach, official or person involved at a field must stay at the field their game/practice is taking place. They cannot go over to the other field(s) and watch as they may contribute to the breaking of the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering. Each field is considered one outdoor gathering, so long as people do not cross over into other fields. A maximum of two (2) people are permitted in the Press Box Clubhouses at the QEP. SABA will assist facility management with the purchase of signage to remind members of the new rules and procedures.
  - For fields at the Queen Elizabeth Park there will be separate entrances for each field.
  - If using Legends Field, players and coaches must enter through the Green Street entrance only.
  - If using VIV Field, players and coaches must enter through the Beattie Street entrance only and proceed to the right after the gate and around the walking track onto the VIV Field
  - If using Gordie Arsenault Field, players and coaches must enter through the Summer Street entrance only (SIS/Parkside parking lot)
  - If using Hospital Field, players and coaches must enter through the Beattie Street entrance only and proceed to the field after the gate to enter the Hospital Field
  - Signage will be posted to help facilitate this rule and to remind users to social distance.
  - Bathroom facilities will not be available at QEP for the month of June. Once the next phase is implemented by CPHO. Once this happens SABA will ensure that signage is posted, and members are made aware of the procedures for Public Washrooms.
  - The canteen will remain closed for the 2020 season unless restrictions surrounding Covid-19 are eased.

## **Practice and Tryouts**

- All foundational requirements to be met as outlined above.
  - Maximum people allowed at the field is 20, this includes coaches and players.
- All drills to be created and implemented ensuring physical distancing requirements are met. Practice equipment, including the batting cage, must be reserved ahead of time and disinfected before and after use.
  - Tryout Committee members will be in press boxes and will be practicing social distancing during tryout period.

## **Games and Tournaments**

- All foundational requirements to be met as outlined above. Play will be stopped if too many people are gathered at the field and resume once people have dissipated.
- For each game at the 11U “AA” category and above, once the game has reached the two-hour mark from the time of the first pitch, the inning the game is in will be finished and no new innings will be started.
- For 11U “A,” once the game has reached the one hour, forty-five-minute mark from the time of the first pitch, the inning the game is in will be finished and no new innings will be started. For 9U, once the game has reached the one hour, thirty-minute mark from the time of the first pitch, the inning the game is in will be finished and no new innings will be started.
- There will be no plate meetings pre-game for lineup exchanges. Lineups should be exchanged with opposing teams and umpires before the game, in a safe way that respects physical distancing as much as possible.
- The umpire calling balls and strikes will be positioned six feet behind the pitcher and call balls and strikes from that position.
- No mound visits by catcher or coach. If the coach wishes to change a pitcher or other position, he/she may call time, walk out to the foul line closest to their dugout, and make changes from that position.
- No postgame handshakes. Players and coaches should refrain from handshakes, high-fives, fist-bumps, et cetera. All people should avoid physical contact as much as possible.
- Coaches cannot come onto the field to argue an umpire’s call; this will automatically result in an ejection. If a coach or player break physical distancing rules while arguing an umpire’s call, on top of an automatic ejection, they will be suspended indefinitely, pending an electronic hearing with Baseball PEI.
- On a tag play, once the defensive player applies the tag, they must vacate the area around the opposing player immediately. Failure to do this may result in a yellow card for the offending player,

upon the umpire's discretion. See baseball PEI updated rules concerning the new "Yellow Card" rules. Found in their Discipline Guideline Policy

- While not mandatory, where possible, a "softball-style" safety bag should be used at first base.
- Each team will have two new baseballs and two used baseballs for every game and only use their own baseballs during defensive innings. Players and coaches for each team will retrieve their respective if a ball is fouled out of field.
- The catcher shall crouch two feet farther back from the batter than normal.
- The SABA Series of Tournaments is cancelled. No tournaments will be played in Summerside. No off-Island tournaments will be permitted. Provincial Tournaments are TBD upon CPHO approval

## **Parents**

- Due to rules on the maximum number of people permitted in a public gathering, for children in 11U and younger – if necessary – it is permitted that one parent per player may watch the game/practice, provided that parent follows physical distancing guidelines (parents/fans are welcome to watch the game/practice from their automobile). If the parent is coaching that counts as the one parent. For divisions older than 11U, when dropping off their child at the field for a game/practice, parents should either leave the area or stay in their car for the game/practice. This rule is subject to change by CPHO if we show our due diligence in implementing these new rules. SABA understands the impacts this has on families and urges parents to be patient with this rule.
- If the game is not the first game of the day/evening played at a field, players/coaches shall not arrive at the field more than thirty minutes before their game, and after the game, they must be gone within ten minutes after the final play of the game (any post-game talks a coach may wish to give could be done via Zoom or another electronic measure). If multiple games are scheduled at a field/location in a day, a three-hour minimum should be scheduled for each game (this time can be less for divisions where the games are shorter, i.e. 9U or 11U "A"). Players/coaches arriving for a game cannot go to the field until the coaches/players/umpires from the previous game have left the field.
- Spectators may watch games from their vehicles at fields where it would allow to do so. All spectators must abide by facility rules and city bylaws. This includes but not limited to, No Parking signs, proper entrance and exit signs, social and physical distancing, et cetera
- Starting on Friday, 26 June, Phase #4 of the Renew PEI Together plan will come into effect. That will mean that the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering for organized sporting events will increase from twenty (20) to fifty (50) people, and as such, typical games involving all of the players of two teams, their coaches and team staff, and umpires will be able to take place. Also, according to the Chief Public Health Office of Prince Edward Island, any parents/guardians/fans watching the game from bleachers or along the fence at a field will also be included in the number of fifty (50).
- Baseball PEI will permit the following people at the field:
  - The players of each team participating in the game.
  - The coaches of each team participating in the game (a maximum of five [5] coaches per team).
  - One scorekeeper and one pitch counter for each team (please note that each of these positions must be filled by a parent/guardian of a player participating on that team).

- The umpires officiating the game.
- One parent/guardian per umpire, if the umpire is under the age of 16-years-old.
- **One parent/guardian per player of the away team.**
  - o Please note that if a coach of a team is a parent/guardian, that coach will be considered the one (1) parent/guardian permitted for that player, and no other parent/guardian is permitted to be at the field watching that player. As well, the scorekeeper and pitch counter for each team will be considered the one (1) parent/guardian permitted for that player, and no other parent/guardian is permitted to be at the field watching that player.
  - This means that parents/guardians of players on the home team during games – unless they are coaches/scorekeepers/pitch counters/umpires – will still have to either drop off their child at the game and either pick them up at the end of the game or watch the game from their vehicle (this also applies to the other family members/guardians of players on the away team who aren't the one [1] parent/guardian who is permitted to watch the game at the field). For Baseball PEI and its minor baseball associations to follow the rules laid out by the CPHO, we cannot allow parents from both teams to watch the game at the field and still stay within maximum gathering limits. In order for this to work, parents/guardians of players on the home team must respect and observe these rules. **Failure to do this may result in games breaking the maximum number of people permitted at the field for a game and potentially lead to warnings/sanctions from the CPHO, and/or Baseball PEI reconsidering this directive.** All parents/guardians must follow these rules so Baseball PEI, its minor baseball associations and teams do not have to worry about breaking CPHO rules and the potential consequences of these actions.

- Baseball PEI and SABA are subject to shutdown and/or fines from the CPHO if the maximum outdoor-gathering limit is exceeded at a baseball field on PEI. We ask all parents to help do their part so that this will not happen.
- Parents are asked to remind players of the importance of physical distancing, no spitting, no face touching, no contact between the athletes.