



CURRENT PHASE AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

BASEBALL IS CURRENTLY IN PHASE 2 - STAGE 1

Baseball BC would like to take this opportunity to remind all member organizations that baseball is currently in Phase 2 - Stage 1 of the Return to Play (RTP) Guidelines as outlined in both the viaSport and Baseball BC Guidelines.

The following activities are currently permitted;

- Team training / development (practice)

The following activities are not permitted;

- Modified Game Play / Games / Tournaments
- Programming for athletes over the age of 22

Baseball specific guidelines in place at this time;

- Participants must maintain a physical distance of three metres from one another.
- Activities should be low risk of transmitting the virus (e.g. individual activities, group training that maintains physical distance).
- Spectators are not permitted at any baseball activities. (Defined as games, competitions, tournaments, training, or practice).
- Masks are required in all indoor public settings. (As defined by the current public order)
- Strength training and dryland training are not permitted, unless there is a COVID 19 Safety Plan in place for this type of activity that is strictly followed (see Regional Health Authority for your local requirements).
- Verbal symptom screening and attendance tracking must be performed daily.
- Stay home if you're sick.



2021 SPRING 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 British Columbia.

- All requirements in place for outdoor team sports, as dictated by the Chief Public Health Office of BC in regards to the maximum number of people permitted in outdoor gatherings, physical distancing and other protective rules, shall be observed by NMBA and its membership.
- Anyone taking part in baseball with NMBA shall observe proper hygienic practices while participating in any NMBA-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.
 - Ride-sharing 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.
 - 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 using that area.
 - 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 should be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day as well.
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- 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.

Practice

- All foundational requirements to be met as outlined above.
- All drills to be created and implemented ensuring physical distancing requirements are met.

Game

- All foundational requirements to be met as outlined above.
- 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.
- For 13U and above, there will be no lead-offs; a baserunner cannot leave their base until the ball has left the pitcher’s hand (11U baseball already has specific rules in regards to no lead-offs and when runners can leave the base).
- If a runner leaves early, they have to return to their base. However, in the situation a runner leaves early and the batter hits the ball, the umpire will have final judgment as to whether the offending runner would have normally advanced to a base and has the power to move a runner back, leave the runner at the base they ended up at, or declare the runner out (if they judge that the runner would have been out at the base had they not left early).
- A runner on third base cannot steal home or score on a passed ball or wild pitch.

- 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 post game 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 NMBA.
 - 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.
 - While not mandatory, where possible, a "softball-style" safety bag should be used at first base.
 - All baseballs used shall be disinfected/sanitized after every two innings of play.
 - The batter's box will be modified so that it extends as far as the back tip of home plate (not the usual approximately two-and-a-half feet past the back tip of home plate). The catcher will, therefore, crouch six feet from the back tip of home plate.

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). 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.
- 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.
- NMBA are subject to shutdown and/or fines from the CPHO if the maximum outdoor-gathering limit is exceeded at a baseball field with NMBA. 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.



City of Nanaimo Phase 3 Field Covid-19 Operating Plan Checklist:

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____
2. CONTACT PERSON: _____
3. ASSESS THE RISK:
 - a. Physical Distancing
 - b. Hygiene
 - c. Masks
 - d. Screening and Tracing
 - e. Cleaning of equipment
4. DEVELOP POLICIES:
 - a. Illness
 - b. Showing signs of illness
5. DEVELOP COMMUNICATION PLANS AND TRAINING:
 - a. How to keep yourself safe
 - b. Monitor staff and players
 - c. Post signage
6. MONITOR AND UPDATE PLAN AS NECESSARY:
 - a. Post/email updated plans
7. ASSESS AND ADDRESS RISKS FROM RESUMING OPERATIONS:
 - a. Method of notification
8. COHORT MANAGEMENT