

6/15/2021

Baseball PEI

Covid-19

Return-to-Play/Operational
Guide



***Please note, these Guidelines are subject to change at 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 of Prince Edward Island, in regards 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 on PEI 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, sunflower seeds or putting fingers/hands on/around a mouth or face.
 - 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.
- Physical distancing, when possible, should take place inside and outside the dugout.
- Either each player/coach should have their own hand sanitizer or the team should have hand sanitizer available to all players/coaches to use throughout the game/practice.
- Players are encouraged to wear batting gloves when swinging a bat during a 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.
- Each team shall keep a log of all players, coaches, parents, fans and any other people connected with their team at the field for every game/practice/function they have during the season. This information shall be kept for at least one (1) month for purposes of contact tracing.
- For any baseball facilities that have bathrooms and/or canteens, guidelines and rules set by the CPHO and/or the Environmental Health division of the Department of Health and Wellness shall be observed and followed.
- 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.
- For any facility with more than one baseball field, the local municipality, in conjunction with the minor baseball association using that facility, must have an Operational Plan submitted and approved by the Environmental Health division of the Department of Health and Wellness.



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.**
- During games, all coaches and players are asked to wear a face mask/covering while in the dugout. A mask is not necessary while on the field.
- Anytime a player's hand goes toward the mouth or face (whether to lick their fingers, blow into the hands, et cetera), time shall be called and the player must go wash/sanitize their hands before the resumption of the game.
- 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.
- If the umpires and coaches elect to do so, pre-game meetings may take place; however, physical distancing must be observed during these meetings. Lineups should be exchanged with opposing teams and umpires before the game, in a safe way that respects physical distancing as much as possible.
- Mound visits will be permitted by the coach or the catcher. However, only either a coach or a catcher can go to the mound at one time – not both the coach and the catcher at the same time – and the pitcher must stay on the pitching rubber or beside it during the mound visit while the coach/catcher must be at least six feet away from them at all times.
 - If there is a chalked/lined circle around the pitching rubber, the coach/catcher shall stay outside of the circle while the pitcher is on pitching rubber or beside it. If the field has a grass infield, the coach/catcher must stay on the grass and not enter the clay/dirt mound. If there is no circle, the coach/catcher must stay at least six feet away from the pitcher.
- 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 question/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.
 - Coaches, from the bench, can ask for the umpire to come towards the dugout and ask them a question, and the umpire has the discretion whether or not to grant their request. The coach may not enter the playing surface at any time.
 - If a coach is already on the field in a base-coaching capacity, they must remain in their coaching boxes and can ask the umpire a question. If a coach runs towards an umpire to question and/or challenge a call, without prior permission from the umpire, they will be ejected.
- 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 defensive players should wash/sanitize their hands upon coming off the field after each inning.
- Each team shall supply four baseballs for each game (two of which must be new). Only those baseballs will be used when that team is pitching/on defence.



- The other baseballs being used in that game will be in a bucket/container inside the gate of the dugout, and when a foul ball goes out of play, the defensive team will throw a game ball from that bucket/container to their pitcher.
- When a baseball field/group of fields does not have a Covid Operational Plan permitting more than one (1) cohort of fifty (50) people at a game (either playing, coaching, umpiring or watching), the following people are permitted at the field for a game:
 - Players.
 - Coaches (up to five coaches per team).
 - One scorekeeper and one pitch counter per team.
 - Each scorekeeper and pitch counter must be the parent of a player on a team.
 - The scorekeeper and pitch counter on a team cannot both be parents/guardians of the same player.
 - Umpires.
 - One parent/guardian per umpire, if the umpire is younger than 16-years-old.
 - One parent/guardian per player on the away team.
 - All parents/guardians of players on the home team must either drop off their child or watch from their vehicle unless they are a coach, scorekeeper, pitch counter or umpire.
 - If a coach, scorekeeper, pitch counter, or umpire is the parent/guardian of a player on the away team, that person will count as the one parent/guardian permitted at the field. No other parents/guardians are permitted at the field.
- If a municipality or group/organization operating a baseball field has a Covid Operational Plan approved by the CPHO that permits them to have more than one (1) fifty (50) person cohort at a field for a game, that field is permitted to have as many cohorts present as the plan permits. It is up to the group operating the field to communicate with the home teams using the field, which in turn will communicate with all visiting teams, as to how many parents/fans per player are permitted to attend a game and any other necessary procedures.
 - The specific Covid Operational Plan should be posted at the field, as well as any special procedures necessary for players/coaches/managers/fans to observe.

Parents

- Due to rules on the maximum number of people permitted in a public gathering, for any division 9U and above at a baseball field that is permitted only one (1) cohort of fifty (50) people, when dropping off their child at the field for a game, parents/guardians of players on the home team should either leave the area or stay in their vehicle for the game. For parents/guardians of players on the away team, one parent/guardian per player is permitted to watch the game at the field (either standing by the fence or sitting on a bleacher).
 - It should be noted that the count of spectators does not apply to people in vehicles or individuals who are transporting players and sitting or standing outside their vehicles, provided they do not mix with others.
- For 8U programming being offered by associations, the number of players permitted at a session should be low enough that one parent can also accompany the child to the field and not exceed the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering (despite living in the same household, according to the CPHO, one player and one parent will be considered two people in regards to the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering).
- 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").



Baseball PEI

Players/coaches arriving for a game cannot go to the field until the coaches/players/umpires from the previous game have left the field.

- Baseball PEI and the minor baseball associations 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, face-touching and contact between the athletes.

