

Baseball Ontario Return to Baseball Covid-19 Guidelines - June 11, 2020

Highlights for NCBL Return to Play

Numbers

At no point will a baseball event exceed the number of attendees noted as the maximum number by the Province of Ontario or any relevant municipality or public health authority (currently only 10 but hopefully 50 very soon).

Each team must track attendance by attendees and submit to the league within 24 hours. This can be done through the NCBL portal listing all game participants, although the deadline for submitting now needs to be 24 hours rather than 10 days. Any fans associated with the team also need to be kept track of (use the scorecard to record those fans as non participants and this information must be retained).

Screening/Diagnosed with Covid-19/Return from Covid-19

Self screening is required by all who attend any game, practice, meeting or other in-person team activity. Any individual shall not attend if they fail the screening protocol. Baseball Ontario Self Assessment tool can be found at :

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/travel>

Alternatively, the NCBL self assessment questionnaire posted on the NCBL website can be used.

Anyone who has been in contact with any person having Covid-19 must notify their local public health authority.

Anyone diagnosed with Covid-19 must be cleared by appropriate medical authorities prior to attending any in-person baseball activity. Evidence of the clearance needs to be provided to the NCBL registrar.

Cleaning/Sanitization

Teams must have 70% alcohol based hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes readily available at all times.

Teams must clean/disinfect common spaces and high touch areas before and after each activity.

Home teams are responsible for placing hand sanitizer at the entrances of the facility for an event.

Implementation of Safe Physical Distance

All attendees at baseball activities must maintain minimum distancing of 2 metres whenever possible. As much space as necessary outside the dugouts can be used to maintain adequate physical distancing while teams are at bat.

Venues/Time Limits

Scheduling of diamonds must allow a minimum of 45 minutes between the conclusion of the prior event and the start of the subsequent event to enable teams entering and exiting the facility to maintain adequate physical distancing during the cross-over.

For this year, our "no new inning after" time limits are adjusted to 1 hour and 50 minutes and for time slots which don't end at 11:00 pm will have a 2 hour drop dead time. Infield practices will be suspended to allow the maximum time available for our games.

Equipment

Participants should have their own equipment which should not be shared. Where equipment needs to be shared, it must be cleaned/sanitized before being used by a different player.

Participants

Participants will abide the following:

- No spitting, including tobacco and other products.
- No sunflower seeds or chewing gum.
- No sharing of drink bottles or food.
- No shared water jugs or drink dispensers.
- No handshakes, fist or chest bumps, high fives, hugs etc.

Competition

No infield or batting practice is allowed to maximize the time available for games.

Home plate meeting is limited to 1 coach per team and 1 umpire. Line-up cards must be prepared but will not be physically shared. The card must be made available to show the umpire when requested.

The defensive team will maintain control of the game balls used while they are on defense including chasing all foul balls. Members of the offensive team are not to touch the baseballs of the defensive team.

If a batter is not able to retrieve his own bat, a team representative shall do the retrieval but apply hand sanitizer before and after the retrieval. No bat boys/girls are allowed.

No sharing of catcher's masks in warming up pitchers or in the bullpen.

Balls and strikes are to be called by an umpire standing at least 2 metres behind the pitcher. Umpires will not hold game balls.

Sharing of paper score cards should be avoided so only one person should be designated as the scorer.

All players must be 18 years of age or older for all adult Senior Division leagues, including the NCBL.

If a coach must approach an umpire, at least 2 metres distancing must be maintained with failure to do so subject to possible ejection.

Any discussions between base coaches and players must maintain at least 2 metres distancing.

Member organizations not following these protocols may result in discipline for the member organization from Baseball Ontario.