

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL

RE-OPENING GUIDELINES

Updated: July 2, 2020

The guidelines below are meant to provide a basic outline for baseball and softball clubs that rent municipal diamonds to follow in crafting their own protocols. Baseball clubs must log in to <https://ondeck.baseballontario.com/> to access Baseball Ontario's Return to Baseball document. Softball Ontario has not yet released guidelines (as of June 24th, 2020), but clubs are urged to visit <https://softballontario.ca/> regularly for updates. The Ontario Amateur Softball Association has provided guidelines for discussion at <https://oasa.ca/documents/policies/OASA-ReturntoPlayGuidelinesasat20200610.pdf>.

1. Physical / social distancing

- a. Players, staff, volunteers, coaches, and spectators must be 2 metres apart at all times, including while waiting for diamond time, during play, and celebrations (e.g., no high fives or hand shakes);
- b. Where possible, one gate or area should be used to enter and another to exit the diamond (or wait in cars until previous group has left the diamond);
- c. Adhere to provincial gathering limits at all times (e.g., Phase 2 of Reopening Ontario allows for groups of 10, providing 2m physical distance is maintained);
 - i. Groups will be allowed to have a maximum of two groups of 10 regulation sized diamonds. "Regulation" meaning at least 300' down left/right field, and 350' at centre field.
 - ii. 2 different groups, of not more than 10 each, can participate in separate practices on the same field
 - iii. Everyone must stay in their own group and there can be no players, coaches or other persons participating in both events
- d. Diamonds are only to be used for training purposes (e.g., no games or tournaments);
- e. Remove all tables and chairs from common areas to discourage congregating.

2. Access

- a. Athletes, volunteers, and coaches, spectators must not visit the diamond if they are exhibiting any symptoms as indicated in the following:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-06-04/passive-screening-sign.pdf>
- b. If an individual has symptoms of COVID-19, they should be told to self-isolate at home, encouraged to complete Ontario's self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> and to call their primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or Public Health Services (905-974-9848) for an assessment; and
- c. Public Health will provide advice regarding any other measures that the association or setting may need to take to reduce the risk of transmission.

3. Cleanliness and Hygiene

- a. Have a plan for sanitizing all high touch surface areas (e.g., gates, benches) upon arrival at the diamond;
- b. Make readily available hand sanitizer to encourage hand hygiene; and
- c. Forbid sharing of personal items (e.g., chairs, towels, etc.), except amongst household members.

4. Communication

- a. All members must be contacted before re-opening re: guidelines and if any new guidelines are introduced.

5. Record Keeping

- a. A record of ALL visitors (including players, staff, volunteers, coaches, and spectators) must be kept (preferably using an online tool) to assist Public Health in the investigation of a positive case of COVID-19.

Additional resources:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-guide-physical-distancing.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-hand-hygiene.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-how-to-wear-mask.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-non-medical-masks.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/risk-informed-decision-making-workplaces-businesses-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/workplace-and-public-places-settings>