

Questions and Answers

1. What is Baseball Regina doing to ensure member safety during the pandemic and return to play?

Baseball Regina is following the Baseball Saskatchewan Guidelines released June 9, 2020 in conjunction with the Province's Re-Open Saskatchewan plan updated for Phase 4.1 beginning June 22, 2020. Baseball Regina has also established a Safety Committee to provide oversight to the organization and support for its membership and working with teams to ensure that each team has a safety officer. Waivers must Signage with safety protocol reminders will be posted at each park. These documents can be located at the following links:

- <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/118959/Re-Open%252BSaskatchewan%252B-%252BJune%252B18.pdf>
- <https://www.baseballsask.ca/about/return-to-train-and-play-covid-19>
- Link for Baseball Regina Return to Play Guidelines:
[Baseball Regina safety committee doc - kk revisions.pdf](#)

2. Who is responsible for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for teams?

Teams are responsible to have hand sanitizer and other required PPE for the team. Ideally, each child will have their own bottle of sanitizing spray in order to minimize sharing and contact.

- A suggested team safety kit is:
 - Kleenex
 - Sanitizing spray/gel
 - Paper towels

The Baseball Parks will be responsible for ensure that there is sanitizer available for each common area and the washroom facilities in addition to cleaning requirements based on established guidelines.

Individuals are not required to wear masks, however, they are encouraged.

If teams/families are having difficulty locating hand sanitizer Ken Ansell, has Health Canada licenced hand sanitizer (NPN 80100811) available for Baseball Regina families and teams. It is a liquid that you can add to your favorite spray bottle and is made with USP food/medical grade 80% alcohol manufactured right here in Saskatchewan. Liquid spray tends last much longer and is very easy to manage in the dugout compared to gels. Pricing is: \$9.99 for 1 litre OR \$59.99 for 10 litre bulk for teams.

3. Why do we need a Safety Office for each team?

Safety Officers on each team will be responsible for liaising with the Baseball Regina Safety Committee, collecting contact tracing information at practices and games, and ensuring teams are up to date on Baseball Regina safety protocol.

4. Why do we have to complete contact tracing at every game and practice?

It is important to complete contact tracing at each game and practice to ensure that if a player, coach, or family member contracts COVID-19, that the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will be able to trace back as many individuals as possible that this person has been in contact with. If there is a positive case, SHA has protocol for tracing and contacting those who may have been exposed. At times, different coaches, players (AP players), spectators, etc may show up to practices and games, so it is important that just a standard listing is not followed, but properly documented at each team event as sanctioned by Baseball Regina and Baseball Sask.

Participants, spectators and volunteers should use the Government of Saskatchewan's online self-assessment tool to help determine if the illness may be COVID-19. The information on symptoms and the self-assessment tool can be located at the following link:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment>

5. Will game play change?

Baseball Regina is keeping game play as close to normal as possible for all divisions. Brief intermittent contact as per Baseball Saskatchewan return to play guidelines is an acceptable risk. The umping association has come out with their protocols and the major change that they are making is the balls and strikes will be called from behind the pitcher rather than from behind the catcher.

Rally Cap has 4 dedicated diamonds in two parks (Lions and Pacer) in the city and leverages use of the Mosquito diamonds at Columbus when required, as well as the use of Theresa Stevenson Park diamond with support from a volunteer coach.

Teams in SR and JR Rally Cap have been reduced in number in order to accommodate social distancing protocol.

SR Rally Cap format will remain the same with sanitization and safety protocols invoked and playing on Mondays and Wednesdays. JR Rally Cap will see a slight modification and will move from a three team structure (20 minutes at bat; 20 minutes in the field; 20 minutes practice) to a two team structure, reducing the number of children on the field (40 minutes of play; 20 minutes of practice) with sanitization and safety protocols invoked and playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

6. Will there be a year-end Fun Day tournament or other tournaments in the Baseball Regina League?

There will be no league tournaments this year as per direction from the Provincial guidelines.

There will not be a tournament weekend this year as per direction from the Provincial guidelines. However, we have plans to have a virtual option for the year, so kids can end the season on a fun note as they normally would. Information will be shared with coaches when we have finalized the event.

7. What are some of the Safety Protocols that will be included in Play?

All Teams

- All families participating in the season must sign waivers as provided by Baseball Sask.
- If a player is unwell – they should remain at home and not participate
 - If a player becomes unwell during an practice or game, they should go home immediately
- Hand hygiene should be performed prior to play and contacting shared equipment through the duration of the activity, when possible (i.e. intermissions, breaks), as well as at the end of the activity
- Brief intermittent contact is allowed (i.e base run)
- Players cannot share personal equipment or water bottles
- Players cannot pass each other equipment
- Players and coaches must be socially distanced in the dugout out and on the field
 - Max of 4 people in the dugout. One coach and 3 players
 - Social distancing – 6 foot increments
 - Increased parental assistance on the fence line base lines – direct the kids to ensure proper social distancing
- Team equipment must be sanitized between shared use (i.e bats)
- Bases and dugouts (hooks, benches, helmet shelf, posts and any other common area) must be sanitized after each game
- No sunflower seeds or spitting
- No team huddles or line ups to “high five” or “shake hands”
- All equipment and uniforms must be washed/sanitized at the end of every game
- Each player should have a parent/guardian on site in the event a medical assistance/emergency as “households” are required to treat within.
- Hand hygiene should be performed prior to play and contacting shared equipment through the duration of the activity, when possible (i.e. intermissions, breaks), as well as at the end of the activity.
 - All players to sanitize their hands when returning to the dugout from the field, after each at bat and as required.
- Pylons provided to the team should be utilized to assist with social distancing

Distinctions between JR and SR Rally Cap

- **JR Rally Cap**
 - Each team must utilize their own tee when at bat. Tees and balls should be sanitized between a team’s turn at bat.
 - No back catching equipment will be provided to the team
 - No tags allowed
 - Kids must bring chairs to sit on for designated spots for social distancing. Their equipment will also be left with their chair and their designated spot to discourage others from Touching/sharing each other’s equipment
- **SR Rally Camp**
 - Blue flames and balls should be sanitized between a team’s turn at pitching (i.e any time a new coach operates the blue flame)
 - Two sets of back catcher equipment will be provided to the team

- This will allow coaches to assign two children per game to this position. Equipment must not be shared between players, unless sanitized in between use.
- Kids must bring chairs to sit on for designated spots for social distancing. Their equipment will also be left with their chair and their designated spot to discourage others from Touching/sharing each other's equipment

8. Who can come watch the kids practice and play games?

Anyone can come to see the kids play, however, the group size/team gatherings must adhere to the maximum gathering limits per the public health order. At this time, teams are encouraged to train, practice and play/scrimmage within the team until the official schedule for games is rolled out. We ask that if you are feeling unwell, that you do not attend team events. If you become ill during an event we ask that you go home and discontinue participation.

Areas where people naturally gather (e.g. bleachers) will be set up and used in a way that follows physical distancing requirements (i.e. only allow every other row in bleachers). Signage will be posted. Spectators must be mindful that:

- Chewing tobacco, sunflower seeds, spitting, sharing beverage containers and other similar behaviours increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission and are not permitted.
- Congratulatory gestures, such as high fives and handshakes, are not permitted.
- Try to minimize cheering and whistling as much as possible to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The number of people allowed at each diamond are as follows: 30 players, coaches and umpires are allowed within the playing surface, 30 spectators on the home team side outside the playing surface and 30 Spectators on the visiting team side outside the playing surface. This means each diamond is allowed 90 people but social distancing protocol remains in place. Households that come together do not need to social distance, however, it is expected that these households social distance from others appropriately.

9. What if my coaches are not following safety and social distancing protocols?

Coaches are responsible for ensuring proper safety protocol is being followed. Any instances during games and practices related to the below will be met with a suspension for the remainder of the year:

- No team huddles before, during or after the practice/game for coaching or teaching purposes
- All drills to be created and implemented ensuring social distancing requirements are met.
- Only 1 team to practice at a time. No joint practices.
- No plate meetings pre-game for lineup exchanges.
- Mound visits are permitted between the coach, pitcher, and catcher. 2 meters physical distancing must be adhered to between all three individuals.
- No arguing with other coaches within social distancing minimum requirements.
- No postgame handshakes.

10. Will Evaluation Days Continue for Rally Cap?

Yes, Evaluation Days will continue, however in a slightly different format in order to ensure we are compliant with social distancing guidelines. Instead of having one specific day at one ball park, we will likely have one day set amongst several parks. We will communicate with coaches when this plan is finalized.

11. Will there still be a Picture Day organized for the Rally Cap teams?

Yes, pictures will still be organized for the teams. Baseball Regina is working with Piper Sports Photography to ensure pictures can be taken within safety and social distancing protocols. There will be options for team pictures that will not require the kids to break social distancing protocols. More information will be shared to coaches once this plan is finalized and will be tied to the 1st Evaluation Day where possible with pick up to be determined. In prior years, the pick-up days was at the fun day tournament. This year, pick up may be at the second evaluation day date.

12. What kind of support can coaches expect from Rally Cap Division Directors in relation to the 2020 Baseball Season?

Division Directors will ensure coaches meetings and regular training/support is provided. Training and support materials will be provided in addition to the regular coach's package and support materials. Given the timing of the season, and the fluidity of the teams your team snap roster will be set up on your behalf with Kim Krywulak set up as a "Manager" until rosters and schedules are finalized in order to assist with the short timeframes. Stay tuned as we may have training and support via video and Zoom Meetings.

13. If I have questions or want to advise the organization of unsafe practices, who do I reach out to?

For organizational concerns, please direct concerns to our Baseball Administration Office at admin@baseballregina.com ,

or the Safety Committee

Dwayne Biduyk dwayne.bidyk@dudleyllp.ca

Kimberly Marshall kim.marshall22@gmail.com

Kim Krywulak kkrywulak@sasktel.net

Kyle Brooks kyleb@accesscomm.ca

or through your team's Safety Officer.

For concerns specific to Rally Cap practice and play, please reach out to Kim Krywulak (kkrywulak@sasktel.net or 306-539-4156) and Troy Casper (troycasper@ymail.com or 306-529-8686).