

LETHBRIDGE MINOR SOFTBALL

Lethbridge Minor Softball - Return-to-Play Strategy

Our Guiding Principles

- **Employ precautions to protect health and safety of our players, coaches and volunteers.**
- **Gatherings of no more than 50 people and limited number of players per practice group.**
- **Controlled practices and skill development only at this time.**
- **Physical distancing in place wherever possible.**
- **Minimal shared use of equipment.**
- **When shared use of equipment cannot be avoided, sanitary measures are in place.**
- **Plans in place to record and report community transmissions of the virus.**

Policies and Procedures Specific to July and August 2020

- When arriving at Miners Field players will exit their vehicles and line up against the North West fence using the spray-painted marks on the grass as locations to stand and wait until the Sanitation Volunteer is ready to proceed with registering and screening of symptoms.
- When arriving at Miners field if there is another group on the field please have everyone stay in the vehicle until that group leaves at which time disinfecting will take place and then the sanitation volunteer will instruct players to proceed to attendance and screening area.
- The Sanitation Volunteer will register and screen the coaches first and then proceed with the players. The registration will just be a record of their name and screening will consist of a series of questions (see below for pre-screening questions).
- Once registration and screening has taken place and it is determined that the player can enter the field, they will sanitize their hands and proceed to the marked area where they will place their equipment bags in accordance to the markings along the inside of the fence. We will not be using the dugouts during this time.
- Any player or parent who is not compliant to the direction of the coach or sanitation volunteers will be removed from the playing field and sent home.
- Please note that we ask that all participants use their HOME washroom facilities BEFORE they arrive at the field as washroom use will only be for emergencies and is "Use at your own risk".
- Hand sanitizer will be used after every drill or no less than every 15 minutes and more often when possible.

Expectations of Players

- A distance of 2 meters needs to be kept at all times during training.
- Participants must come to the field dressed and ready to take part.
- Each participant is required to have with them, their own water bottle, equipment bag, including their glove, batting glove, batting helmet, bat(if applicable), shoes and catcher's gear(if applicable). There will be NO SHARING of ANY equipment or clothing so please ensure that you have everything you need to participate. This includes extra water, sunscreen, bug spray, extra clothing and hand sanitizer.
- Sunflower seeds, gum, candy or spitting of any kind is not allowed. Sneezing or coughing must be in the crook of the elbow. Participants should refrain from touching their eyes, nose, mouth and face while participating.
- When there is a break; players must return to their designated equipment bag location. Players must have their own hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol content) and every participant attending practice must sanitize their hands when indicated by the coaches or sanitation volunteers.
- No food is to eaten during practice.

Expectation of Parents

- Please make sure you go over these details with your player to ensure they understand the process and the importance to adhering to these health practices.
- We know it can be a little un-nerving for players as this may be the first time they are experiencing this but it is all for the health and wellbeing of all members participating.
- They may be seeing their friends for the first time in a long time and they may be excited to see them and interact but we ask that no hugging or close contact is made and 2 meters is adhered to at this time.
- Spectators must stay outside of the field and are advised to maintain physical distancing from other families. You may stay in your vehicle or you may view the practice by sitting around the outfield fencing. A maximum of 50 people can gather including players and coaches; so please keep this in mind
- Once practice is over players will exit the facility one at a time and move directly to their vehicle. Parents must be present to pick up their child at end of practice and carpooling is not recommended.
- It is best to do pre-screening at home before you attend any activities and any player who is not feeling well must stay home.
- If your child has a critical health condition that would make them or someone in their immediate family more at risk for COVID-19 we highly suggest not participating at this time.

Expectation of Coaches and Assistant Coaches

- Will adhere to all procedures indicated.
- Practices will need to be modified to maintain 2 meters distance at all times. No contact is permitted.
- When athletes take a break, they must return to their designated position for a water break and rest.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring there are enough balls to rotate through planned drills, or to stop and sanitize the ones being used for continuing practice.
- Base running drills will be done while maintaining physical distancing, in all cases, by both coaches and athletes.
- For hitting drills off of a tee, have the player place the ball onto the tee themselves and once they have completed the drill the balls will be sanitized and the next batter may complete the drill.
- If bats are shared the batter will hand the bat to the sanitation volunteer, holding it by the grip, the volunteer will take it holding the bat by the barrel and proceed to sanitize the bat before the next batter takes it.
- All drills involving a sanitation volunteer should be communicated to them before the practice starts so that they know where they need to be and what to do.
- Pitcher and catcher drills will be done between a single catcher and pitcher only. They will have a supply of balls that those two are touching and once they have finished each athlete will sanitized their hands and the balls will be sanitized.
- It is recommended that before practice starts that coaches remind players to maintain physical distancing and adhere to safety protocols. All pre and post practice meetings must still maintain the physical distancing measures.
- Once practice is complete players will sanitize their hands one more time and will then exit the facility one at a time.
- Must have at least once sanitation volunteer and first aid attendant (or parents) present to be able to hold a practice.

Expectations of Sanitation Volunteers (2 per group needed)

- Complete attendance and pre-screening before activity starts.
- You will record the first and last names of all participants including coaches and keep the pre-screening information with the attendance record in case of contact tracing.
- Monitor physical distancing and numbers and ensure participants are adhering to protocols.
- Responsible for upkeep of sanitation supplies.
- Submits pre-screening and attendance sheets to Softball Alberta after every activity.
- You will sanitize the ball as often as possible during the practice and at a minimum after every drill using a disinfectant spray for this.
- Must be present at all times during the practice.
- Clean all equipment before and after use.

Expectation of First Aid Attendant (1-2 per group needed)

- This will be your only role.
- Responsible for upkeep of first aid kit and attends to any injuries or first aid needs of the team.
- For any injuries that occur put on mask and gloves as well as hand over a mask to the injured player. It is recommended that if a parent is available that only one parent be present when giving first aid to the player.
- Is to be present at all times throughout the practice.
- **IF THIS ROLE CAN NOT BE FILLED; ONE PARENT FROM EVERY PLAYER WILL NEED TO BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND TO THEIR CHILD IN THE CASE OF AN INJURY.**

Pre-Activity Screening

- Sanitation volunteers will ask every participant attending a sanctioned softball activity the following questions:
- 1. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms which are new or have worsened if associated with allergies, chronic pain, or pre-existing conditions in the last 14 days?
Fever / Cough Chills / Painful swallowing Unexplained loss of appetite
Shortness of Breath Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion Loss of sense of taste or smell
Difficulty Breathing Feeling unwell / Fatigued Muscle/ Joint aches
Sore throat Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea Headache / Conjunctivitis
- 2. Has the person attending the activity/facility travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?
- 3. Have you or your child attending the activity had close unprotected contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres/6 feet) with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill?
- 4. Have you or your child attending the activity had close unprotected contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres/6 feet) in the last 14 days with someone who is ill?
- Have you/your child or anyone in your household been in close unprotected contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19? (Participants in homes where people are waiting for asymptomatic test results will not be excluded from activity.)
- **If the participant answers yes to any of the above questions they will not be allowed to take part in the team activities. This person will be encouraged to visit a medical facility and will be required to leave the area.**
- These attendance and pre-screening records will be kept up to date for 2 weeks to facilitate contact tracing should the need arise. These records will be stored in a safe, secure location for at least 2 weeks and then disposed of to maintain the confidentiality of participants. All participants are encouraged to download the ABTraceTogether contact tracing app.

Rapid Response Plan

- Facilities & organizers are required to have a rapid response plan in place to manage symptomatic participants, spectators and staff.
- A rapid response plan sets out a fast-action plan for operators when an attendee shows symptoms of COVID-19.
- **During Pre-assessment by the sanitization volunteer, if a participant answers YES to any of the questions:**
 1. Team sanitization volunteer puts on PPE and gives PPE to the symptomatic participant.
 2. Team sanitization volunteer isolates symptomatic participant
 3. Team sanitization volunteer contacts parent/guardian to remove participant, ensuring no public transit. In the event that the participant drove themselves and is a minor, the volunteer or coach will contact parent/guardian regarding the situation.
 4. Team sanitization volunteer or Coaching staff will advise the participant to pursue testing and report back to the designated team sanitization volunteer regarding testing and any clearance for activity.
 5. Team sanitation volunteer will then contact the President to inform that the RRP was enacted.
 6. Clean and disinfect of all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic participant.
 7. Performance of hand hygiene by remaining participants.
 8. **Return to Play Committee member will contact Softball Alberta immediately if there is reason DURING a practice or game to enact the RRP. For symptomatic individuals the above plan would be used, however, an immediate suspension/cancellation of the event will take place.**