



Safety Plan

**PENTICTON MINOR FASTBALL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATIONS
RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS**

March 2, 2021

INTRODUCTION

PMFSA's Return to Play Guidelines are based on an overriding principle of encouraging the maximum participation of members of the organization while ensuring the safety of members and the public with regards to the COVID-19 virus. The Executive Members of PMFSA have voted to approve Softball BC's Back to Bases Return to Play plan as the PMFSA Safety Plan with enhancements to meet PMFSA's unique needs.

PMFSA will follow these guidelines as well as all guidelines and protocols used by the following government and sport sector requirements:

- BC guidelines from WorkSafeBC and BC Health Authority
- Municipal requirements (<https://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/covidguideli>)
- viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines for BC
- Softball BC's Back to Bases Return to Play Guidelines and Protocols

These best practices do not supersede any protocols, guidelines, or restrictions outlined by Regional, Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities. All Softball BC participants are expected to continue to follow the guidelines outlined by Regional, Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities.

Due to the uncertain aspects in returning to play, these guidelines are expected to change based on new/updated safety procedures outlined by Provincial and/or Local Health Authorities or feedback to Softball BC Directors.

The PMFSA executive will revisit these guidelines as new requirements are announced by the respective Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities.

COVID-19 AND TRANSMISSION

COVID-19 is transmitted via liquid droplets when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes, but also may transmit when they are talking in close proximity to another person. The virus in these droplets can then enter the body of another person when that person breathes in the droplets, or when droplets get into the eyes, nose or throat of that person.

Transmission requires you to be in close contact – less than the physical distancing of three to six feet. This is referred to as ‘droplet’ transmission and is believed to be the primary way COVID-19 is transmitted.

COVID-19 can also be transmitted through droplets in the environment if someone touches a contaminated area and then touches their face without cleaning their hands. The virus does not enter the body through skin--it enters through the eyes, nose or mouth when the person touches their face or through droplet transmission.

Unfortunately, human beings touch their faces quite often throughout the day, much more than they realize. This is why regular handwashing and cleaning of high-touch surfaces is so important.

For COVID-19 there are some emerging indications that there are people who can spread COVID-19 virus 24 to 48 hours prior to symptom onset, but at present it is not known whether this is a significant risk factor for transmission.

Droplet transmission is much more likely when in close contact in an indoor setting. Transmission is less likely to occur in an outdoor setting where there is more space for people to keep physically distanced. However, in the context of sports, even outdoors there can be risks from high-touch surfaces because many sports involve objects that are normally shared among players, coaches or volunteers (balls, equipment, etc.).

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses, including the flu and the common cold. These symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite.

People infected with COVID-19 may experience little or no symptoms, with illness ranging from mild to severe. Some people are more vulnerable to developing severe illness or complications from COVID-19, including older people and those with chronic health conditions.

DEFINITIONS

In this document, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Attendance Coordinator: a person assigned by PMFSA to collect and store attendance records from each Attendance Tracker (below) at every softball activity.

Attendance Tracker: a person assigned by a team or group to record the name and phone number of all participants and others attending any softball activity.

District: the geographical area which has been defined by Softball BC (page 9 of the 2020 Handbook of the Constitution and Special Operating Rules) as a community for the purpose of organizing softball activity and competition.

Distancing Monitor: a person assigned by each team to monitor the physical distancing of their team's players, coaches, and spectators on and off the field.

Facility: any given location where softball activity takes place, and without limiting the generality of this term, a location shall be considered one facility regardless of the number of softball diamonds it contains.

In Charge Person (Injury Attendant): a person (could be a coach, manager or parent) who is in attendance at a game and is the person that is designated to go onto the field if an injury occurs - wherever possible this should be a person with first aid training.

In Club: In club sport activities are those which take place within the home sport community or clubs where participants are members. This means avoiding cross-regional, inter-provincial or cross-country travel for sport.

League: the community of Men's & Women's teams registered with Softball BC for the purpose of in-community softball activities and organized competition. Leagues may be made up of teams from different districts, but with common rules and playing schedule.

LSO: local sports associations, and in the context of this document includes any local-level organization that is a member of Softball BC.

Sanitizing Champion: a person assigned by a team to be responsible for sanitation of the Facility and equipment during a given softball activity. It will be their job to monitor and report sanitation needs to PMFSA. They should report these needs by email to president.pmfsa@gmail.com

Screeener: a person assigned by an LSO to ask the designated screening questions of all participants and others attending any softball activity – this person may be the same person as the Attendance Tracker at the discretion of the LSO.

FIRST AID

Each team will be required to appoint an adult as the “person in charge”. That person will be the person who will go onto the field in the event of an injury. The person in charge is responsible for reading and following:

A guide for employers and Occupational First Aid Attendants: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

First aid protocols for an unresponsive person during COVID-19:

<https://www.redcross.ca/training-andcertification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-for-an-unresponsive-personduring-covid-19>

OUTBREAK PLAN

Early detection of symptoms will facilitate the immediate implementation of effective control measures. In addition, the early detection and immediate implementation of enhanced cleaning measures are two of the most important factors in limiting the size and length of an outbreak. An “outbreak” is two or more cases; a “case” is a single case of COVID-19.

- PMFSA has identified the roles and responsibilities of staff or volunteers if a case or outbreak is reported. PMFSA executive members, the head coach or the assistant coach of a PMFSA team has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel activities. The volunteer attendance trackers/health screener will be instructed to report any concerns to the head coach or assistant coach on the field.
- If anyone associated with a PMFSA activity reports they suspect or are confirmed to have COVID-19 and have been at a softball related activity, PMFSA will implement enhanced cleaning measures to reduce risk of transmission. If we are not the facility operator, we will notify the facility immediately.
- PMFSA has developed an illness policy and will require all members to read and sign a participant agreement.
- Only those deemed by Interior Health as close contacts are required to self-isolate. All others should monitor to see if they develop symptoms but are not required to stay away from team softball activities. For example, one athlete could test positive, and all members of that team could be advised of a potential exposure, but most members would not be deemed close contacts. We will follow the direction of Interior Health.
- PMFSA will implement their illness policy and advise individuals to:
 1. Self-isolate
 2. Monitor their symptoms daily, report respiratory illness and not to return to activity for at least 14 days following the onset of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite.
 3. Use the COVID-19 self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> to help determine if further assessment or testing for COVID-19 is needed.
 4. Individuals can contact 8-1-1 if further health advice is required and 9-1-1 in an emergency.
 5. Individuals can learn more about how to manage their illness here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/healthinfo/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/if-youare-sick>
- In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, PMFSA will immediately report and discuss the suspected outbreak with the Medical Health Officer (or delegate) at your local health authority. PMFSA will implement our Illness Policy and enhanced cleaning measures.
- If PMFSA is contacted by a Medical Health Officer during contact tracing, our association will cooperate fully with all local health authorities.
- Each team will delegate a Sanitizing Champion.

GRADUATED RETURN TO SOFTBALL

PMFSA will follow all guidelines associated with the Stages (Innings) as outlined in the Softball BC Return to play plan.

The focus for Softball BC is to allow players to return to softball activities while respecting all Provincial health guidelines. This means that in the immediate term, those activities will be restricted to practice and skill development sessions. Softball BC understands that games and competition are a huge part of softball and is committed to allowing a return to game play for teams in U10 and above once Provincial Health Authorities and Softball BC determine that it is safe to do so. This phasing plan does not include dates for return to game play since we do not yet know when that will be.

It goes without saying that throughout all the phases, anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should not attend any Softball activities. PMFSA has put in place an Illness Policy and a participant agreement that outlines our policies and procedures. It includes reporting of a positive test result to our executive, and in such a case, the PMFSA Board would cease softball activities for anyone that may have encounter this person. The head coaches and assistant coaches also have the authority to cease softball activities if they have any concerns regarding COVID-19.

As with any unruly or abusive behavior, in the event that participants or other attendees at softball activities refuse to comply with Softball BC's Return to Play plan and the rules and regulations put in place by PMFSA, all members of the executive or volunteers will be advised to call 911 and to allow authorities to deal with such situations.

STAGES/INNINGS

Inning 1: Controlled Practice & Skill Development

Inning 2: Community Focused Games

Inning 3: Competition within cohorts

Inning 4: Competitive Games, Tournaments, Provincials and Inter-Provincials

INNING ONE – Controlled Practice and Skill Development

PMFSA and participants are to follow the Facility and diamond protocols, plus:

No more than fifty (50) people per diamond or as per the guidelines for attendance as outlined by the respective Municipality.

- Indoor and/or outdoor facility protocols in this document are to be followed as appropriate.
- Preferably teams will practice in their own community facilities. If a team has exhausted all options for a suitable facility and are only able find a facility in another community, then they are permitted to practice as a team unit and are permitted to travel to another community to go to facility for practice.
- Volunteer screeners, attendance trackers, sanitizing and distancing champions are required for every softball activity.
- The Screener will be responsible for pre-screening of all participants and spectators attending a Facility (this does not include other users of the Facility, only those who are attending the softball activities). Before any individual can enter the Facility in relation to the softball activities, they must be screened to determine if they are permitted entry. These questions must be answered by everyone and if they give a positive answer to any of the following questions, that person must be instructed to either return home, or to seek medical attention, but they are not allowed to attend the scheduled softball activities.
- Screening questions are:
 - Are you exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, chest or respiratory pain?)
 - Has any member of your household exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
 - Have you or any other member of your household arrived from outside Canada in the past 14 days?
- All participants will be required to hand sanitize upon arrival and sanitizing stations will be set up at various locations through all venues. Wherever possible washing will be scheduled into practices.
- Face masks are strongly recommended for all participants. Coaches/Evaluators must have face masks easily accessible to them and must wear them anytime they cannot maintain physical distancing from other participants.
- Participants will be encouraged to bring their own bats, helmets, gloves, face masks and catchers gear. Any team gear that is used will be sanitized regularly by a Sanitation Champion. All participants will be reminded to maintain physical distancing procedures by a Team Distance Monitor. Where personal equipment must be shared, the equipment must be thoroughly sanitized between each use. When players are sharing a bat, it should be picked up by the barrel and sanitized by the Sanitizing Champion before being used by the next player.
- A minimum amount of people should be responsible for set up and take down of equipment for a session.
- Practice plans should consider a minimal number of participants handling the same ball. For example, when possible, catching and throwing drills should be done in pairs only and the balls sanitized by the Sanitizing Champion after each drill.
- Coach must have a current EAP (emergency action plan) outlining, in the event of a minor or major injury, what the medical treatment process will be. The safety of all participants is top priority, but whenever possible, must be done with the requirements of COVID-19 transmission being minimized.
- Each team must appoint an 'In Charge Person' (Injury Attendant), and if an injury occurs to a player only the coach and In Charge Person, both wearing protective gloves and face coverings, may go the injured player. Everyone else must maintain physical distancing.
- Bleachers will be closed during this phase.
- Under no circumstances will there be games or scrimmages.
- No person should pick-up or handle anyone else's helmet/face covering.

Timbits U6/U8

- Groups of no more than 10 participants and one household member for each player are permitted in each designated practice area.
- Every participant must be accompanied by a responsible person over the age of 16 who is prepared to practice with the participant throughout the session and ensure physical distance is maintained.
- All coaches will maintain physical distancing with the participants and oversee the skill development session(s)
- No shared use of equipment - each participant to supply or be supplied with their own session equipment.
- PMFSA equipment loaned to participants should be sanitized before putting away.

INNING Two: Community Focused Games

PMFSA and participants are to follow the Facility and diamond protocols as well as inning one protocols, (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning Two protocols apply): plus:

- Games may be introduced slowly and gradually beginning with scrimmages and games within the home club. Once PMFSA and Softball BC allow, games may be slowly introduced within our community as defined by Softball BC.
- Teams may only use players on their approved roster. As well, pick-ups are allowed from within your cohort only.
- No more than 50 per diamond or as per the guidelines for attendance as outlined by the respective Municipality.
- Bleachers should be closed or used only in a way where physical distancing is maintained.
- Teams may only use players on their approved roster and no pickups are allowed. Teams may play with as few as 8 players without being penalized.
- Line up cards must be prepared but will not be physically shared – photos may be taken by scorekeepers, etc. and the lineup card must be made available to show the umpire when requested.
- Pregame meetings will take place at home plate while respecting distancing of at least 2 meters. Only one coach per team and umpire (s) are to attend the meeting.
- Schedules are recommended to be drawn up to allow for time to prepare the venue before a game and clean it after the game has ended.
- All participants are to leave the playing field immediately after the game has ended.
- There may be post-practice or post-game meetings as long as all participants wear face masks and that current PHO recommendations for physical distancing are observed. Area for post-practice or post-game meetings is to be determined by PMFSA. Nonparticipants are to stay off the field of play and away from the post-practice or post-game meeting until participants are dismissed.
- No handshake with the opposing team/officials after the game.
- Each team must appoint a Distancing Monitor who will observe their own team & spectators and encourage them to maintain physical distancing.
- Face masks for all participants are strongly recommended while off the field of play and required when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings for virus contagion are mandatory for the plate umpire, provided that should they be unable to wear a face covering due to an underlying health issue or breathing/overheating concerns, the home plate umpire has the option of calling the game from behind the pitcher's circle as an alternative to wearing a face covering.
- Should a player need to leave the field during play due to breathing concerns associated with wearing a face covering, any player on the bench may replace the removed player and not be counted as a substitution leaving or re-entering the game.
- The umpire is not to handle any equipment other than their own during a game including game balls.
- Defensive team will sanitize the ball for their team during the game. Balls should be routinely rotated and sanitized. The pitcher/catcher will call time and the ball will be given to the Sanitizing Champion to be sanitized, The Sanitizing Champion will throw in a sanitized ball in exchange.

- Offensive coaches are to remain a minimum of two meters away from 1st and 3rd base at all times, regardless of where it may locate them on the diamond (as long as it doesn't increase the danger to a coach's personal safety).
- Between pitches, the umpire is to move 2 meters away from the catcher, and the batter is to move 2 meters away from the catcher. Once the play is ready to resume, umpire and batter move back into position, and umpire signals play ball.
- Coach to umpire, player to umpire and umpire to umpire conferences will be done with a two (2) metre distance at all times, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance.
- Coach, pitcher and catcher may have a defensive conference at the pitching circle, with a two metre distance being observed by all participants, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance.
- Offensive team conference may be held with a two metre distance being observed by all participants, unless all participants to the conference are wearing face coverings in which case the conference may be done at normal distance.
- Teams are to maintain physical distancing while off the field of play, with players in designated spots as appropriate in the ballpark. Spectators will maintain physical distancing, along the sides of the diamond, behind the backstop or in the outfield as appropriate to the layout of the ballpark.
- No player may lick their fingers during softball activities. Pitchers may use pitching rosin and/or gorilla rags at all levels. If a player does lick their fingers while on the field, the player must leave the game and may only return to the game after they have sanitized or washed their hands with soap and water. Any player on the bench may replace the removed player and not be counted as a substitution leaving/re-entering the game.
- At the conclusion of a play at a base or bases, the batter/runner and defensive player should separate and establish appropriate distancing again as soon as possible. Umpire may assist in this by verbal reminder.
- On deck batter may only have one bat for warm-up.
- When an at-bat has finished, if the batter struck out or was put out prior to reaching first base, the batter will pick up their own bat and carry it back to the dugout, where they either hand it to a Sanitizing Champion or return it to their personal equipment bag. If the batter reaches base, their bat will be picked up by the barrel by the on-deck batter and handed to a Sanitizing Champion for either sanitizing or return to the original batter's equipment space.
- All players must sanitize their hands when returning to their dugout at the end of each half-inning.
- Participants and spectators are to leave the playing field and park immediately at the conclusion of the game.
- Next team to play on that diamond will not step onto the diamond until all members of the previous game's team have left the area.

INNING Three: Competition within Cohorts

PMFSA and participants are to follow the Facility and Diamond protocols, as well as those included in the previous innings (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning three protocols apply), plus

- Home team to set up the diamond and communicate entry and exit points to visitors, as well as any other protocols being observed at that park.
- Players and coaches are permitted to be in close proximity while on the field of play. The dugout is considered inside the field of play, so team members may use the dugout during games/practices but are expected to follow physical distancing when off the field of play.
- Visiting team will be directed to spectator and participant areas which have been adequately marked off and identified for spectator seating or participant equipment storage.
- Where possible, a minimum of two umpires should be used for games to assist in physical distancing.
- Establishing cohorts will limit the number of people that each individual will come in contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities if an outbreak occurs.
- Cohorts should be made up of teams of similar age and competitive skill level.
- When members of the cohort gather together for games or activities, gatherings may not exceed 50 people per facility (ball diamond), less in an indoor facility, depending on the size.
- Cohorts should remain together for an extended period of time, however, if looking to change or join a cohort (for either team or an individual) a 14-day break from all softball activities is required.
- League play and competitive activities may only occur within the cohort.

Cohort Groups

Minor Teams:

- Cohorts may be formed, based on the guidelines provided through viaSport, and updated as necessary, within appropriate age and classification.
- PMFSA has designated individuals to provide to their Minor Coordinator the appropriate information for each team intending to take part in a cohort for softball activities.
- The Minor Coordinator, in consultation with PMFSA, will determine options for cohorts with other communities. The Coordinator, or their designate, will meet with all District Coordinators to set the cohorts involving teams from their District. This provincial meeting will be facilitated and chaired by the Minor Director.
- Cohorts will be formed with a priority to creating a competitive balance by age and ability and within geographical areas which comply with Softball BC and ViaSport guidelines.
- A and B classification teams will also try, as much as possible, to recognize team balance by birth year and the need for meaningful competition by teams throughout the province.
- Once the Minor Coordinator group has determined the make-up of a cohort and approved that group, this information will be shared with the PSO office and our association.

- In the case of an appeal by an LSO of the placement or absence/deletion of one of their teams in a cohort, the request for consideration will be sent from the LSO President to the Minor Director who will have the final decision.
- Athletes may be picked up within their respective cohorts only. No participation by anyone from outside a cohort, or by someone who is not duly registered with PMFSA.
- Participants are directed to participate in as few cohorts as possible. Those who have more than one role within Softball BC (player/coach, player/umpire etc.) may take part in up to three cohorts maximum, but only when they have a unique role in each cohort.
- Participants and teams who wish to change cohorts or wish to join a cohort as a new member, must quarantine from all softball activities, if an individual, from all organized softball activity and if a team, from softball activity outside of their registered team for a period of at least fourteen (14) days. If during that quarantine period, an individual develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or comes in contact with someone who has tested positive, they are required to self-isolate and contact their health authority for direction.
- When a team leaves their current cohort and are going through quarantine protocol, the registered members of that team may continue to practice together during the quarantine period. In the event two or more teams are leaving the same cohort and area all moving to the same new cohort, those teams quarantining may continue to engage in competitive games among themselves. If during that quarantine period, an individual develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or comes in contact with someone who has tested positive, they are required to self-isolate and contact their health authority for direction.

INNING Four: Competitive Games, Tournaments, Provincials and Inter-Provincial

PMFSA and participants are to follow the Facility and Diamonds Protocols as well as those included in the previous Innings (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning Four protocols apply), plus:

- Games times are to be staggered to ensure there is an unencumbered pathway to enter and exit the facility.
- Medals/prizes are not to be handed out individually, but a closed box handed to a team representative.
- For regular and exhibition games the home team will set up the diamond and communicate entry/exit points to visitors, as well as any other protocols being observed at that park. If it is a tournament, then the hosting club will have diamonds set up under the park/venue and diamond preparation, and it will be the responsibility of the host to communicate with visiting teams about the protocols to be followed at each specific park or Facility.
- Visiting team, or in the case of a tournament, all away teams attending the tournament will be directed to spectator and participant areas which have been adequately marked off and identified for spectator seating, or participant equipment storage.
- Where possible, a minimum of two umpires should be used for games to assist in physical distancing.
- Tryouts can proceed during inning four.

Tryouts

PMFSA and participants are to follow the Facility and Diamonds Protocols as well as those included in the previous Innings (except to the extent that they conflict, in which case these Inning Four protocols apply), plus:

- Tryouts/ID camps will take into account minimizing shared use of equipment and maintain physical distancing wherever possible. Equipment to be sanitized after each activity.
- No drop-ins allowed – Participants **MUST** pre-register,
- PMFSA will provide screening and attendance tracking for all participants, including players, coaches, and evaluators.
- The facility is to be sanitized prior to the tryouts, and again after the tryout has concluded,
- Player identification resources should be either single use (such as disposable name tags), or able to be sanitized after each use (numbered bibs),
- Evaluators and the PMFSA representatives will be provided their own personal evaluation materials.
- Evaluations should be completed digitally or sent electronically to the appropriate contact.
- Frequent hand sanitizing or washing must occur at a minimum in between each drill or activity and water breaks.

INDOOR FACILITY PROTOCOL

Following are the steps that will be taken by PMFSA in relation to any indoor softball activity:

- In order to maintain a limit on gatherings of no more than 50 people, teams will be allocated a time that they have access to a specific indoor Facility which also provides enough time for preparation and cleanup of the space. Activities open to individual participants should be managed through pre-registration; no drop-in activities will be held. Teams and groups are to be instructed to arrive and depart at a specific time. All participants should leave the playing area promptly at the end of their session.
- In order to allow for proper physical distancing, indoor groups may need to be limited to groups of less than 50. The recommendation at the time this plan is released is that each person in an indoor space has at least 5 m squared of unencumbered space.
- Before any individual can enter the Facility in relation to the softball activities, they must be screened to determine if they are permitted entry. Screening questions are listed in inning one.
- Entrances and exits to the Facility and areas shall be clearly indicated.
- Prior to indoor activities, teams/groups must assign a Sanitizing Champion who is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing high touch areas and the equipment used by their team or group during the softball activity.
- Individuals are to be instructed to arrive and depart at a specific time. All participants should leave the playing area promptly at the end of their session.
- Face masks must be worn by ALL participants when inside a Facility, except where current exemptions to face masks apply.
- PMFSA will post signage to educate and communicate the need for physical distancing, hand washing and sanitization locations, personal steps to minimize the transmission of the virus.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to all PMFSA participants.

Please note that these Guidelines are current and in accordance with the Provincial Health Guidelines and Orders in place at date of their issuance but may be updated should circumstances change or should relevant Guidelines and Orders be revised.

Park or Venue Preparation

- Before any individual can enter the Facility in relation to the softball activities, they must be screened to determine if they are permitted entry. Screening questions are listed in inning one.
- PMFSA will post signage to educate and communicate the need for physical distancing, hand washing and sanitization locations, personal steps to minimize the transmission of the virus.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to all PMFSA participants.
- PMFSA will set up the diamond with clear entry and exit points designated to all participants, as well as all local protocols clearly posted.
- PMFSA will allow 15 minutes of time between all scheduled activities.
- PMFSA will remind all participants and spectators to follow the recommended physical distancing rules.
- PMFSA will require all participants to wear a face mask where physical distancing is not possible.
- PMFSA is responsible for the cleaning of any porta potty used at a PMFSA game or practice. PMFSA will ensure each porta potty has a hand sanitizing station. All participants will be required to hand sanitize before resuming any softball activity.
- Maximum of fifty (50) people at one diamond at any one time.
- No drop-ins allowed – Participants MUST pre-register.
- PMFSA will provide screening and attendance tracking for all participants, including players, coaches, and if applicable, umpires.
- Frequent hand sanitizing or washing must occur at a minimum in between each drill or activity and water breaks.
- Water bottles and food items are not to be shared.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds or gum allowed.
- Where possible, each player should have their own personal equipment, including batting helmets, bats, catchers gear, etc.
- Where personal equipment must be shared, the equipment must be thoroughly sanitized between each use. When players are sharing a bat, it should be picked up by the barrel and sanitized by the Sanitizing Champion before being used by the next player.
- Limited amount of people are to set up, take down and sanitize all equipment.
- Head Coach/Evaluator must have a current EAP (Emergency Action Plan) outlining, in the event of a minor or major injury, what the medical treatment process will be. The safety of all participants is top priority, but whenever possible, must be done with the requirements of COVID-19 transmission being minimized.
- Each team will appoint an Injury Attendant and if an injury occurs to a player only the Coach/Evaluator and Injury Attendant (both wearing protective gloves and face masks) may go to the injured player. Everyone else must maintain physical distancing.
- No person should pick-up or handle anyone else's helmet or face covering.
- The umpire is not to handle any equipment other than their own during a game including game balls.
- PMFSA will designate spectator areas which will maintain the physical distancing guidelines for each household. These areas will be identified with signage and markings. The areas for participants and spectators will be dependent on the Facility in use and may include sanitized dugouts if appropriate.
- Prior to activities on the sport field, teams/groups must assign a Sanitizing Champion who is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing equipment used by their team or group during the softball activity. It is also recommended that teams clean and sanitize dugouts (if they will be used), bases, and if fenced, the gates and latches leading into and out of the playing area prior to beginning the softball activity.
- Extreme Weather Warning – In the event of severe weather, where either the activity has to be stopped temporarily, or it delays the start of the activity, all participants and spectators are to return to their vehicles and wait for an all-clear signal or cancellation. If someone does not have a vehicle, they may shelter in a safe location, while maintaining a minimum distance of two (2) meters from others.

PMFSA VENUES IN USE

Columbia Field

1551 Hatfield Avenue
Penticton, BC

Lions Park

198 Warren Avenue West
Penticton, BC

Mullins Park

225 Kinney Avenue
Penticton, BC

Parkway Elementary School Field

225 Kinney Avenue
Penticton, BC

Wiltse Elementary School Field

640 Wiltse Boulevard
Penticton, BC

All fields mentioned above are operated by the City of Penticton

Phone: 250 276 2165

Email: Carly.Lewis@penticton.ca

Spectator areas: Spaced appropriately along 1st and 3rd baseline (signs will indicate all spectator areas).

Cousins Field

4450 6th Street
Peachland, BC

Operated by the City of Peachland

Phone: 250 767 2133

Email: cwise@peachland.ca

Spectator areas: Spaced appropriately along 1st and 3rd baseline (signs will indicate all spectator areas).

PMFSA will conduct a site Safety Risk Management assessment for each field. The full document can be found at the following site: <https://softball.bc.ca/softball-bc-return-to-play-guidelines-and-appendixes/>

KNOW YOUR ROLE

PMFSA will provide information regarding policies and procedures to their Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and necessary volunteers through a scheduled training session. The training session will take place before any team can take the field. All physical distancing procedures will be followed during this meeting.

All coaches will be provided a hard copy of all PMFSA policies and procedures as well as the Softball BC Back to Bases Plan. All policies, including the PMFSA Safety Plan and the Softball BC Back Bases Plan will be posted on the PMFSA Web page and emailed to PMFSA Members. All members and participants will be informed of their roles.

The following describes all roles within PMFSA:

PMFSA EXECUTIVES' ROLE

- Conduct a risk assessment of all PMFSA Facilities to determine if you can follow all necessary guidelines from Softball BC and the facility owner.
- Review Softball BC Return to Play Guidelines and, as a board, bring forward a motion at a board meeting to approve the guidelines for your club.
- Provide a copy to your facility owners in order to be given park permits.
- Confirm your agreement with Softball BC to follow the guidelines through the compliance agreement.
- Register your members with Softball BC.
- Clearly mark entrance and exit points, areas for participants and spectators to go to, and if they are being provided by the LSO, where the sanitation stations will be set up as well as signage for the above. Place lidded garbage cans by dugouts for disposal of masks, tissues, wipes.
- Mark appropriate distancing indicators for washrooms and concession if necessary.
- Delegate an attendance coordinator and communicate with members the process for submitting attendance reports.
- Delegate a scheduler to assign start and end times for all activities. If you have multiple diamonds, determine if they meet the criteria for gatherings of 50 people on each diamond and schedule, accordingly, using staggered start times if more than one diamond.
- Ensure field equipment volunteers or contractors have PPE and sanitizer equipment and are following protocols for COVID-19 cleaning as per WorkSafeBC.
- Attendance Tracker and Screener are to be stationed at the entrance to the facility.
- If necessary, delegate a Sanitizing Champion to clean high touch areas and ensure cleanliness at the venue or venues.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate with your members and the public.

UMPIRE ROLE

- Confirm your exact start and end time for your game.
- Make sure your personal equipment is clean and sanitized before going to the park.
- Arrive at the ballpark fully dressed.
- Remember to bring two face covering masks with you.
- Have your own clearly marked water bottle and snack.
- Check in with the Attendance Tracker and Screener.
- Go immediately to your designated area.
- Do not handle any equipment other than your personal gear.
- No spitting, gum, sunflower seeds, etc.
- Maintain physical distance protocol when meeting with coach or your partner.
- Sanitize your hands at after every half inning by washing at least 20 seconds with soap and water or using an approved hand sanitizer.
- After the game is over, leave the park promptly.

COACH ROLE

- Confirm your exact scheduled time and location for all softball activities. Communicate these times with your players/parents.
- Delegate role of Attendance Tracker, Distance Monitor, In-Charge Attendant, Sanitizing Champion and Screener from among team.
- Remember to bring a mask with you to all activities in case it is needed.
- Check that the first aid kit is stocked and includes disposable gloves.
- Ensure area to be used has been sanitized and hand cleaning supplies are available for everyone to use before beginning activity.
- Direct team members to your assigned area for practice or games.
- Maintain minimum of two metres distance whenever possible.
- Fill out line-up card for games but do not share copies. Have them take a photo of your line-up if needed.
- Be sure your area has been cleaned, sanitized, all garbage and refuse has been cleaned up before leaving the dugout area.
- No post game meetings. Leave the park promptly as soon as cleanup is complete.
- Attend the PMFSA coaches training meeting.
- Follow all policies and procedures developed by PMFSA.

PLAYER ROLE

- Make sure your personal equipment is clean and sanitized before going to the park and keep it together in your bag.
- Remember to bring two face covering masks with you as well as a small bottle of hand sanitizer.
- Bring a foldout or camping chair.
- Have your own clearly marked water bottle and snack.
- Arrive at the ballpark fully dressed for softball activity.
- Check in with the Attendance Tracker and Screener.
- Go right to your designated area and wait for direction from your coach.
- No spitting, gum, sunflower seeds, etc.
- We recommend you don't share equipment, but if you must, be sure it has been sanitized before and after you use it.
- Do your cheers but avoid getting close.
- No high fives, handshakes, hugs – wave and thank the coaches/umpires and your teammates/opponents after a practice/game.
- Sanitize your hands frequently, suggest after every half inning, or between drills by washing at least 20 seconds with soap and water or using an approved hand sanitizer.
- After the game or practice is over, leave the park promptly with no meetings or visiting.

PARENT/SPECTATOR ROLE

- Bring a foldout or camping chair. Do not sit in bleachers.
- If there are other groups still on your team's designated practice/game space, wait at your vehicle or a safe distance away until the space has been vacated and your team coach indicates it is ok to come into the area.
- Check in on arrival with the Attendance Tracker and Screener.
- Go to the designated spectator area while maintaining proper physical distancing.
- No spitting, gum, sunflower seeds, etc.
- In the event of extreme weather which causes either a delay or postponement to the activity, return to your vehicle to wait for resumption of play, or to a sheltered area while maintaining minimum 2 metres from anyone other than those in their own households.
- After the game or practice is over, leave the park promptly with no meetings or visiting.
- Ensure your child comes prepared with all required gear, hand sanitizer and protective face mask.

MONITORING AND UPDATING OUR PLANS AS NECESSARY

PMFSA receives all updates regarding changes to the Return to Play Plan from Softball BC. We will make changes to any of our documents or policy and procedures at any time if necessary, to meet the Return to Play Requirements.

We will do regular check-ins via email with coaches and volunteers to access our plan and to monitor risks. We will make changes to our policies and procedures if necessary.

Any changes to our plan will be sent by email to The City of Penticton and The City of Peachland to ensure we continue to meet their rental agreements.