



## Suspension of Softball Activities

Here is a summary of the details in place related to the suspension of softball activities announced Monday, March 16, 2020.

The decision by the board of Softball BC to suspend all sanctioned softball activities was triggered yesterday by the following announcements

- Government of Canada partial closing of our borders,
- Government of BC issuing a new directive to limit gatherings of people to no more than 50
- Softball Canada issuing a suspension of activities until April 14th

The Softball BC Board of Directors approved the contingency plan to suspend sanctioned softball activities until **May 1st** with a further understanding that the provincial organization will continue to closely monitor provincial, federal and global health authority directives which would impact our membership, as well as sport governing bodies, including Softball Canada for further directives and recommendations. We will update the membership and make appropriate adjustments to the period of suspended activities, based on these expert authorities.

## UPDATES

Softball BC will provide direction to our members no later than **April 21st** on next steps and timing for either the start of the season, or a further suspension of activities. The board has recommended we implement plans for season start dates later than May 1st, to allow for a meaningful regular season and post season play. We will continue to update the membership as these timelines approach.

## DEFINITION OF SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES

For clarity, suspension of softball activities means Softball BC does not sanction any organized activities, including meetings, events, practices, fundraisers, games or tournaments. Events would include softball clinics and camps, such as coaching or umpire clinics, player development or spring break camps. By removing sanctions, we will not cover any of these activities under our liability or personal injury policies until such time as we resume organized softball. This applies to all members, clubs and leagues.

## TEAM REGISTRATIONS

For team registration purposes, minor "A" teams will be given a fifteen (15) day extension until May 15th to complete upload of their team registration to the Softball BC database. Minor "B" and "C" teams will still have their team roster registrations due to Softball BC by June 1st. Minor Coordinators will be asked to complete approval of those rosters by June 1st for "A" teams and June 15th for "B" and "C" teams as well as all U10 and younger.

Men's and Women's team registration dates will remain as is, with June 15th the timeline for all team rosters to be completed and June 30th for Men's and Women's coordinators to complete approvals.

## LETTER OF INTENT

Letters of Intent for all teams wishing to participate in post season championships will be extended to May 15th for minor teams and remain as June 1st for Men's and Women's teams. This timeline is when the completed letter of intent with all applicable bonds in the form of cheques will be due at the Softball BC office.



### **COACHING CLINICS**

Coaching clinics are suspended temporarily. Should a coach not have the necessary training to be certified to coach at a Provincial Championship due to clinics being suspended, they may apply for an exemption. In order to be considered for an exemption, they must have a minimum of FOCS Part 1 for Community or "C" classification coaches and FOCS Part 1 and Part 2 for coaches in the competitive stream or "A/B" classification. Coaches with Competition Introduction weekend one and MED would be considered to have attained minimum certification.

### **UMPIRE CLINICS**

While face to face umpire clinics have been suspended, we are working out a training/refreshers on-line module which umpires can sign on for and receive their training at Level One for new umpires and Level 1/2 and Senior level refresher modules for returning umpires. Materials for new umpires would be distributed through their district or their instructor at a later date.

### **PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

At this time the date and location for all Provincial and Regional Championships is not changing, we encourage hosts and teams to continue to plan as appropriate for these championships.

### **CANADIAN AND WESTERN CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Canadian and Western Canadian Championship dates and locations are still in place; again, we encourage all teams to continue as they feel appropriate to plan for these post season championships.

### **BC SUMMER GAMES AND CANADA SUMMER GAMES**

BC Summer Games and Team BC for Canada Summer Games activities for softball have been suspended until May 1st at this point. BC Summer Games have not announced any change to the plans for this multi-sport event.

### **SOFTBALL BC OFFICE**

The Softball BC office will remain open as long as the Walnut Grove Community Centre continues to offer day camps and child care. Should the community centre close we will update the membership on our next steps. For now though Softball BC Staff are available during regular hours (Monday-Friday 830-430) and via phone and email.

**We want to reinforce that Softball BC has announced a suspension of activities, not a cancellation. We want leagues, clubs and members to continue to plan for, perhaps a shortened season for many, but to continue to be optimistic that the measures being put in place by our health authorities and governments will result in a flattening of the curve of infections and illnesses. We all want to be able to resume the activities which bring so much joy and healthy participation to our membership throughout the province.**

Yours truly,  
Rick Benson, Executive Director  
Softball BC