

SOFTBALL BC RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

BC'S RESTART PLAN



June 15, 2021

Introduction

Softball BC Return to Play Guidelines are based on an overriding principle of encouraging the maximum participation of members of the organization while respecting the safety of members and the public from the COVID-19 virus. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction for return to play under the provincial government's Restart Plan, announced May 25th, 2021.

The following guidelines reflect Step Two of the Restart Plan effective June 15, 2021

These guidelines are to be used along with the following government and sport sector requirements.

- Guidelines from [WorkSafeBC](#) and [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- Municipal requirements (<https://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/COVIDGuideline>)
- [viaSport Return to Sport Guidelines for BC](#)
- [BC Restart Sport 2.0](#)
- [BC Mask Mandate](#)

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 their local government or facility owner and Regional, Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities.

Please adjust your organization's safety plan accordingly to align with this updated version of Softball BC Return to Play Guidelines and the BC Restart Sport 2.0

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|--|--|--|
| 2 JUNE 15 <small>(Earliest date)</small> | BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed | High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people |
|--|--|--|

STEP TWO –effective June 15th

OUTDOOR PROTOCOLS MINORS AND ADULTS

Competition and tournaments may be scheduled by the local club or league for youth and adults with a revised COVID safety plan in place

Travel for competition and tournaments is expanded to include travel within the province

When off the field of play, minimum physical distancing of two (2) metres is to be maintained. Field of play is defined as the softball diamond, including dugouts and foul territory as defined by the facility.

Spectators are permitted, to a maximum of 50 per facility (softball diamond) or as per the guidelines for attendance as outlined by the respective Municipality

Number of participants, including players, coaches and officials on a softball diamond are restricted to a maximum of 50, for youth and adult teams, OR as per the guidelines for attendance as outlined by the respective Municipality.

INDOOR PROTOCOLS MINORS AND ADULTS

Indoor games and practices are permitted with a maximum of 50 participants (players, coaches, officials)

Physical distancing is not required while on the field of play, or engaged in softball activities

Masks are required indoors while off the field of play, with exemptions as per [Ministerial Order M012](#)

No spectators

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS AND ADULTS

Coach must have current EAP (Emergency Action Plan) outlining, in the event of a major or minor 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

Screening and attendance tracking is still required for all softball activities, and a current COVID-19 safety plan in place. (see [Worksafe BC](#))

Clinics and face to face meetings may resume, following the current [Gathering and Events Order](#) including a current COVID-19 safety plan

Umpires and game officials are requested to check in with the home team for attendance tracking and screening prior to the game start.

Equipment may be shared, including balls and bats, without having to sanitize between use – umpires can manage in play balls for games

Members of a Softball BC registered team may travel through the province to attend team activities

Hand sanitation supplies are to be readily available



STEP THREE –no earlier than July 1st and depending on data for case counts, hospitalization and # of people with 1 dose

OUTDOOR PROTOCOLS MINORS AND ADULTS

Travel for competition and tournaments is permitted throughout the country

Spectator attendance to be expanded or as per the guidelines for attendance as outlined by the respective Municipality

INDOOR PROTOCOLS MINORS AND ADULTS

Limited spectators allowed

Indoor games and practices are permitted to the usual capacity of the facility

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS AND ADULTS

Coach must have current EAP (Emergency Action Plan) outlining, in the event of a major or minor 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

Screening and attendance tracking is required for all softball activities

Clinics and face to face meetings may resume with an expanded capacity and a current COVID-19 safety plan



STEP FOUR –no earlier than Sept. 7th and depending on data for case counts, hospitalization and # of people with 1 dose

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS AND ADULTS

Return to normal sport competitions with updated COVID 19 Safety plan in place

Expanded spectator size

APPENDIX A

VIASPORT'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND OUTBREAK PLAN

FIRST AID

In the event that first aid is required to be administered during an activity, all persons attending to the injured individual(s) must first put on a face mask and gloves.

A guide for employers and Occupations First Aid Attendants: [CLICK HERE](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en) or visit <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

First aid protocols for an ill or injured person during COVID-19: [CLICK HERE](#) or visit <https://www.redcross.ca/training-and-certification/first-aid-tips-and-resources/first-aid-tips/first-aid-protocols-and-considerations-for-an-ill-or-injured-person-during-covid-19>

CASE OR 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. A 'case' is a single case of COVID-19; an 'outbreak' is two or more cases of COVID-19.

- a) Identify the roles and responsibilities of staff or volunteers if a case or outbreak is reported. Determine who within the organization has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone, or cancel activities.
- b) If staff (including volunteers) or a participant reports they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, and have been at the workplace/activity place, implement enhanced cleaning measures to reduce risk of transmission.
- c) Only those deemed **by the health authority** as close contacts are required to self isolate. All others should self 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.
- d) Implement your Illness Policy and advise individuals who have been in close contact of someone that tested positive for COVID-19 to:
 - i. Monitor their symptoms daily, report respirator illness and not to return to activity for at least 14 days following the onset of fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, painful swallowing, stuff or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, loss of sense of taste, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
 - ii. 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. Individuals can contact 811 if further health advice is required and 911 if it is an emergency. Individuals can learn more about how to manage their illness at <https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/if-you-are-sick>
 - iii. In the event of a suspected case or outbreak of influenza-like-illness, immediately report and discuss the suspected outbreak with the Medical Health Officer (or delegate) at your local health authority. Implement your Illness Policy and your enhanced measures.
 - iv. If your organization is contacted by a Medical Health Office (or delegate) during contact tracing, co-operate with the local health authorities.

For more information on cleaning and disinfecting please visit:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

For more information on Regional Health Authorities please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities>

APPENDIX B

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Are you exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat and/or painful swallowing
 - Stuff or runny nose
 - Loss of sense of smell
 - Loss of sense of taste
 - Headache, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
2. Has any member of your household exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
3. Have you had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19 **and** have you been told by public health that you may have been exposed and need to quarantine (self-isolate)?
4. Have you arrived from outside Canada in the past 14 days?

ATTENDANCE TRACKING

Each LSO must ensure that an Attendance Tracker tracks attendance at each softball activity, and the LSO must maintain that information in a secure location for a period of no less than ninety (90) days. This information will only be provided to an authorized health authority or local government representative who has the legal right to obtain such information, or to Softball BC staff for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. All records are to be destroyed after ninety (90) days. The Attendance Tracker is expected to be on duty throughout the duration of the activity.

SANITIZING

Frequent sanitizing of hands during softball activities is strongly recommended. Refrain from shaking hands and “high fives”

APPENDIX C

| STEP | Criteria | PHO Guidance | Personal Gatherings | Organized Gatherings | Travel | Sports & Activities | Businesses | Offices & Workplaces |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 MAY 25 | C: stable H: stable D1: 60% | Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested | Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household | Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people | Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted | Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators | Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place | Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place |
| 2 JUNE 15 (Earliest date) | C: declining H: declining D1: 65% | Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested | Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates | Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings | BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed | High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people | Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions | Continue return to work Small in-person meetings |
| 3 JULY 1 (Earliest date) | C: low H: declining D1: 70% | Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested | Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers | Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan | Canada recreational travel | All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports | Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans | Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans |
| 4 SEPT 7 (Earliest date) | C: low H: low D1: 70%+ | Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested | Normal social contact | Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts) | Canada recreational travel | Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans | Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans | Fully re-opened offices and workplaces |

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER

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In the event of any conflict in language between any printed version of the Return to Bases Guidelines and the online version found on the Softball BC website, the online version shall prevail.

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

Softball BC members are advised to revisit these guidelines as new requirements are announced by the respective Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities.

Softball BC thanks all clubs, leagues, volunteers and members for your continued support and patience as we navigate through these steps. We are excited to be engaged in competition again, and moving to a gradual full opening of softball. We are very appreciative of our member's respectful and responsible approach to following the guidelines provided for the sport sector. Any member club or league found to not be following the recommendations and guidelines provided here may be subject to disciplinary action by Softball BC.