



Softball Nova Scotia

Phase 1: Return to Training

Association Guidelines

On June 20th, associations and teams can begin on field activities, including tryouts, training, and practices.

As a Softball community, we must be grateful for the opportunity to get on the field this summer. It is everyone's responsibility to adhere to core public health guidelines. The rules and guidelines presented in this document must be adopted by all groups in order to operate. Reasonable attempts to follow these rules must be made. All guidelines including signing of the waiver must be followed. Failure to do so could result in loss of membership, negative impact to insurance, facility usage, and negatively impact the possibility of the sport progressing in the Return to Play plan. Most importantly, we need to ensure the safety of all participants.

Association Considerations

1. SNS guidelines are the minimum standard. Associations may implement any other precautionary measures they feel necessary to ensure the safety of participants.
2. Phase 1 may be adjusted as public group sizes are permitted to increase.
3. Approval of going into Phase 1 does not guarantee we will get to Phase 2 in a timely manner. Please communicate to people registering that we still have no definite timeline on a Return to Competition.
4. Softball Nova Scotia recognizes conducting traditional tryouts with groups of 10 is not feasible. While a great opportunity for training and skill development, SNS will make every reasonable attempt to provide ample notice prior to the start of competition.
5. While not a mandatory guideline, association must decide the feasibility of running younger programs (LTP program) while gathering sizes are still 10 people. The increased coach to athlete ratio necessary may be difficult to attain with such small permissible group sizes until such time the gathering sizes is increased.
6. SNS will be reducing minor membership fees for this current 2020 season only from \$15 to \$10 per member.

7. Should the summer be interrupted due to COVID-19, SNS will not be issuing membership refunds. It is highly recommended associations develop their own refund policy.
8. All participants will be required to sign a **Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity** acknowledging the inherent risk in participation, and the release of liability towards Softball Nova Scotia and the association. SNS will provide the waiver. Associations must have the signed waiver prior to allowing any stakeholder on the field. SNS will be auditing associations to ensure they have collected the signed waiver.
9. The association should communicate all guidelines to its members. The association should communicate the guidelines to its members or their parents/guardians.
10. Associations will work with facility owners to adopt Softball NS Return to Play plan. Associations will be also be beholden to any additional health precautions put in place by facility owners.
11. Should a potential COVID-19 case become present, SNS reserves the right to inform associations to cease operations immediately. Associations must abide by this until it is deemed safe to resume.
12. The association will work with SNS in investigating any concerns or issues brought forward regarding adherence to the guidelines (on a case by case basis)

Environment

1. Indoor training is permissible (assuming groups follow provincial public health measures)
2. Dugouts are off limits to athletes (coaches/organizers can utilize, assuming physical distancing is possible)
3. Field bookings should be done with 15-minute grace times between to allow for limited interaction between groups using the field
4. Athletes are encouraged to not arrive at the field more than 5 minutes prior to their practice time. If they do, they are encouraged to stay in their vehicle or stay away from the field until the previous group has vacated the field.
5. It is encouraged that spectators be limited to one family member, or no more than one acquaintance of the athlete. All spectators will be expected to maintain physical distancing
6. Ride sharing to be discouraged whenever possible

Equipment

1. No sharing of personal helmets, gloves, hats, or training devices.
2. No sharing of bats (unless cleaned with a certified disinfectant after every use)
3. No sharing of any other equipment unless disinfected between personal uses

4. No sharing of catcher's gear. Catchers gear can only be used if the following conditions are met:
 - ❖ Personal gear is used
 - ❖ 'Association gear' is used by one person per day, and disinfected after each session
5. The following precautions are recommended to minimize the risks of multiple people handling the same Softballs:
 - ❖ Balls should be sanitized after use or not used for four days to reduce likely hood of transmission
 - ❖ Two different training groups should not be using the same Softballs (unless sanitized between use).
 - ❖ Athletes should be provided with the opportunity to sanitize their hands between drills/activities.
 - ❖ Severe Injury (SNS process is to call 911)
 - ❖ Minor injury (such as ice pack can be done by the athlete or assisted by the team designated person).

Personal Protective Equipment

1. Associations should communicate personal hygiene recommendations to all athletes and their guardians. SNS to provide Participant Guideline document for communication.
2. All First Aid kits are to be updated to include PPE (as deemed appropriate by public health) should physical contact may be necessary due to injury
3. One designated person to handle injury situations to avoid physical contact between the injured person and multiple people
4. Teams should have a communal hand sanitizer available, but athletes will be responsible to bring a personal bottle for use.

Tracking and Reporting

1. Softball will provide Associations with registration forms association should have a participant registry or the ability to trace names, dates, time, and contact info for training activities. Should a COVID-19 case be reported, this will assist in tracing.
2. Associations must report potential cases of COVID-19 direct to Softball Nova Scotia office immediately via email. Further activities must be suspended until confirmation of a negative test is provided.

Softball Training, Practices, and Tryouts

1. Drills, practices, and activities must adhere to the guidelines in this document.
2. Activities must ensure physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).

3. Activities must not involve the sharing of equipment.
4. Gathering limits of no more than 10 must be adhered to (includes coaches on the field)

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