

Softball Nova Scotia

Phase 3-4: Return to Game Play Guidelines.

Associations, clubs, leagues, and teams will be permitted to begin the gameplay.

It is absolutely everyone's responsibility to adhere to core public health guidelines. The rules and guidelines presented in this document must be adopted by all Softball groups in Nova Scotia to operate.

Associations, clubs, leagues, and teams are permitted to begin gameplay as of June 30th. Softball gameplay will be permitted within the province of Nova Scotia. As part of Phase 3, competition can occur with up to 25 participants indoors, and up to 50 participants outdoors, **as part of the regular competitive schedule**

Phase 4 - begins July 14, associations/leagues clubs and groups or individuals if they run/are affiliated with a Provincial Sport Organization will be permitted tournaments and competition outside of the regular competitive schedule. Associations, clubs' leagues, and teams must adhere to gatherings and events limited per the Nova Scotia Public Health guidelines.

Association Considerations

1. It is expected that all associations will familiarize themselves and remain up to date with the relevant Public Health Guidelines issued by the province.
2. Phases may be adjusted as public group sizes are permitted to increase.
3. 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.
4. 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 a form of waiver to its associations. Associations must have the signed waiver prior to allowing any athlete on the field. SNS reserves the right to audit associations to ensure they have collected the signed waiver.
5. Each Association/league and group must communicate all guidelines to its members. Association/leagues and groups collect contact information for every member, so every association/league or team is mandated to communicate these guidelines and any changes to them to its members and/or their parents/guardians.

6. Should a potential COVID-19 case within or connected to an association or member thereof become known, SNS reserves the right to require softball Association/leagues, clubs, and teams to cease operations immediately. Softball Association/leagues and groups must abide by any order to cease operations until it is deemed safe to resume.

7. All Association/leagues, clubs, and teams will cooperate and work with SNS in investigating any concerns or issues brought forward regarding adherence to these guidelines (on a case-by-case basis).

Environment

1. Indoor training is permitted per the Provincial Public Health measures in place at the relevant time.

2. Dugouts may be utilized by coaches, and teams.

- ❖ Given Softball is an outdoor sport SNS believes physical distancing will not be an issue.
- ❖ 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).

Association/league or teams **Must** provide the Softball NS office via email with this information immediately. Softball NS must be notified in writing once the an individual has received a negative test before resuming Softball activities.

2. All First Aid kits are to be updated to include PPE (as deemed appropriate by public health physical contact should be necessary due to injury).

3. One designated person shall be present at any association event to address injuries to avoid physical contact between the injured person and multiple people.

Tracking and Reporting

1. Softball Association/leagues and groups must keep a participant registry or have the ability to trace names, dates, time, and contact info for training activities and other events. Should a COVID-19 case be reported, this will assist in tracing.
2. Associations must report potential cases of contact between their membership and COVID-19-positive individuals to Softball Nova Scotia immediately. Further activities must be suspended until confirmation of a negative test is provided.
3. Softball NS has the authority to randomly request to see all tracking documentation at the field.

Equipment

1. **It is recommended equipment not be shared**

Softball Game Play

1. Games and all other Softball rules are in effect per Softball Canada Rule Book.
2. Officials will start the season calling balls and strikes from behind the catcher at home plate.

SOFTBALL NOVA SCOTIA
COVID-19 Participant Screening Questionnaire

To protect the health and safety of all participants, their families and our volunteers, all participants (together with their parents/ guardians, as appropriate) must self-assess prior to participating in any association event. It is the responsibility of the association to ensure that participants answer the following questions prior to attending any association event.

1. Travel -Please follow the travel guidelines set out Nova Scotia Public Health
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/travel/>

2. Have you been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days? If yes, a participant is not permitted to any association events for 14 days from the date the participant last had contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.

3. Are you currently experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms?

- A fever (or chills/sweats)
- New cough (or one that is getting worse)
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Hoarse voice
- Diarrhea
- Unusual fatigue
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Red, purple or blueish lesions, on the feet, toes or fingers without a clear cause

If yes, the participant is not permitted to attend association events until symptoms have disappeared or a negative COVID-19 test is provided.