

Softball Saskatchewan

Return to Play Protocols

and Guidelines

Updated August 31st, 2021

Please note, the information contained in this document is subject to change at any time based on new or updated information provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan.

**OUTDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES**

* Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell.
* Participants may wear a mask if they are more comfortable with that layer of protection.
* Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice and play, using the [self-assessment tool](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/about-covid-19/covid-19-self-assessment) at [saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus).
* Teams can continue to have normal outdoor practices involving all players and coaches.
* Games and Tournaments are permitted.
* Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.
* Commonly touched equipment used for game play (e.g. game ball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
* Umpires may take their normal positioning for games.
* Physical distancing in and around dugouts is encouraged.
* Spectators must remain in designated areas. Masks are not required to be worn, but they may be worn if spectators are more comfortable with that layer of protection.
* Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN) or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
* Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.
* Contact information of the coaches, umpires and players should be recorded by the teams for games and maintained in order to assist with contact tracing for 30 days in the case of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Teams are encouraged to still designate one or more Sanitation Champions on each team to be responsible for contact tracing of players, coaches and umpires if necessary. (See Appendix #1)

**INDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES**

* Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell.
* Participants may wear a mask if they are more comfortable with that layer of protection
* Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice, train and play, using the [self-assessment tool](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/about-covid-19/covid-19-self-assessment) at [saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus).
* Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.
* Commonly touched equipment used for practice (e.g. softball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
* Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN) or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
* Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.
* Contact information of the coaches, umpires and players should be recorded by the teams for games and maintained in order to assist with contact tracing for 30 days in the case of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Teams are encouraged to still designate one or more Sanitation Champions on each team to be responsible for contact tracing of players, coaches and umpires if necessary. (See Appendix #1)

**RETURN TO PLAY AUTHORITIES**

This section identifies the assumptions considered in the drafting of these protocols and guidelines as they relate to the current Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines and Softball Saskatchewan Operating Rules and Policies.

* **All member Associations/Leagues, Teams and umpires must be in compliance with these guidelines. (Violations of these guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension).**
* Only sanctioned activities are covered under our Softball Saskatchewan Insurance Program.
* It is assumed that compliance policing will be performed by local and provincial health authorities, local association/league personal, athletes and parents, along with all relevant stakeholders.

**MASKING**

As of July 11, the public health order requiring masking in indoor spaces ended, but masking will continue to be an option for all who wish to do so. It is important that we create an environment that respects the choices of others.

If you enter an indoor or outdoor facility that requires a mask, patrons must respect the decision of the business or organizations and either comply or choose not to visit the facility. It is the choice of an individual business or facility to implement their own masking policy.

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people should still consider masking.

**APPENDIX #1**

**Sanitation Champion Duties**:

* Each Association/League/Team, etc should designate one or more person(s) to be a Sanitation and Health/Safety champion for each planned activity.
* Take attendance and complete the Health & Safety Sign in Sheet at start of EVERY activity (e.g. practice, game, etc.)
* Monitor activities to ensure all participants are following protocols.
* Responsible for cleaning and sanitizing commonly touched equipment including balls and any shared equipment such as bats and helmets.
* If necessary, provide required cleaning and sanitation supplies (including masks and hand sanitizer)

**CONCLUSION**

We want to thank all our member Associations/Leagues, players, parents and umpires for their cooperation and patience over the past year and half. This unprecedented pandemic has certainly tested us all and we cannot be prouder of each and every one of you. To the many volunteers who play such an important role in our sport we thank you for the devotion, energy and commitment to keep local Associations/Leagues and teams active during the 2021 softball season.