

Provincial Women's Softball Association



Mandatory Return to Play Protocol

May 24, 2021

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Return to Play Guidelines

*The purpose of this document is to outline plans, guidelines and procedures in contemplation of a Return to Play, addressing **FIVE (5)** major areas of concern with respect to physical distancing and to provide a certain level of comfort to participants by outlining steps to be taken to help maximize their safety and well-being and allows for any enhanced P.W.S.A./Event protocols that we might develop or that the Province or Municipalities may require to rent the space.*

This document has been developed in accordance with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the organization of sporting events with the input from the WBSC Medical Commission.

**We extend our immense gratitude to all essential and Frontline workers.
Be Safe.**

The items listed in this document are suggestions of recommended safeguards for restarting Softball Activity in Ontario. Provincial/Territorial Associations, Leagues, Tournament Hosts, Staff, Players, Coaches, Parents, and Spectators must continue to follow Federal, Provincial and Local Governmental guidelines. Feel free to make your guidelines more stringent if you deem necessary. Remember that information and recommendations during the pandemic are very fluid and are subject to change.

These protocols will be the responsibility of the Association, Home Team, Coach, Tournament Hosts, City/Municipality in which the event is held.

Disclaimer

While the advice given in these guidelines has been developed using the best information available, it is intended purely as guidance to be used at the user's own risk. No responsibility is accepted by P.W.S.A. or by any person, firm, corporation or organization who or which has been in any way concerned with the furnishing of information or data, the compilation, publication or any translation, supply or sale of this Guidance for the accuracy of any information or advice given herein or for any omission here from or from any consequences whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from compliance with or adoption of guidance contained therein, even if caused by a failure to exercise reasonable care.

ENTRY

All persons entering the park (diamond area) must agree to wear a mask and be screened, if not, no admission (this screening may require a certified individual with private assurance protection).

Declaration waiver from all participants regarding Covid 19 exposure must be validated with roster/contract.

Signage must be well displayed in the entry area with regards to the spreading of the virus, proper hygiene, information on physical distancing and what to do if you have any symptoms.

Wellness testing inclusive of the Declaration (included in Javelin App) and Temperature taking (within range, above range, retesting/readmittance [heat factor/weather or other], monitoring) each time the athlete, coach, parent, etc. attends a game, practice, tournament. If a person is denied entry, then a procedure/handout should be in place to encourage that person to visit a testing facility immediately and ensure you collect that individual's complete contact information. This is in addition to the collection of contact information for each person admitted to the venue.

During this process, individuals may also be asked if they are experiencing any other symptoms (new or existing cough, fever, sore throat, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing, have they been in contact with anyone who had Covid 19 and have they travelled outside the country in the past 14 days) to make a determination to help ensure the safety of all individuals involved.

- Questions that frontline workers ask before entering/taking care of patients to identify potential Covid 19. (included in App)
- Have app available to teams/coaches for participants to take before they leave their residence.
- Have coaches re-assess at the field before each game.
- Limit entrances to 1 or 2. Extra staff would be required (City – extra cost, Host) to ensure security.
- Any player, parent, coach, umpire, etc. showing symptoms should not show up at the park but if they fail the screening, then they would not be permitted for the weekend and the team/coach would be responsible to ensure the person showing symptoms is isolated from all others and also isolate those who were in contact before discovery.
- Individuals that show signs of a fever based on their temperature reading will be turned away before they enter the park (diamond) or facility. **There is also the expectation that any individual experiencing symptoms should take the initiative and stay home.**

Entry ways to field/diamond area(s)

- Considerations in this area will be dependent on the type/location of the complex or playing fields.
- Emphasis should be placed on providing safe travel areas to reduce contact between individuals entering and exiting the park (diamond) /complex.
- Must monitor for mass gathering numbers in the park (diamond) for all teams, leagues, for tournament play this would be the responsibility of the Tournament Director(s) or the Association whose facilities are in use.
- Should not use indoor facilities, and plan for safe use of pathways/trails. Controlling crowds, pathway split into 2 so specific directions, as in retail stores.

- The use of caution tape may be recommended to safely mark off areas that should not be accessed, as well as helping to provide marked areas for travel to and from diamonds, etc.
- Volunteers will all need PPE, mask, gloves, again may need multiple tables to meet the distancing rules, work area to be taped off.
- PPE defined as mask, gloves, goggles, sanitizer.

Team and Player-Sign In

- Should be avoided as much as possible. Strongly recommended use of electronic registration.
- Team registration – validation of the team contract could be completed by team(s) ahead of tournament, exhibition games, practices, etc., and submitted electronically prior to tournament, exhibition games, practices, etc.
- Registration, announcer's, scorekeeping tables - equipment must be disinfected after each use and personnel change.
- Scorekeepers, announcers, spotters all need 9-foot distancing. May need separate tables.
- Medical team and each team's medic will need to be fully equipped with PPE to be able to be in close contact with the athletes. This includes team trainers, etc.
- P.W.S.A. or tournament personnel will deal with members (on certificate) of the team only. Parents, spectators, fans, etc. are not permitted in the officials' tent/area. It is the responsibility of the coach to communicate this to their team.
- P.W.S.A. or tournament personnel will wear a mask while in the venue (on or near the diamond and in the officials' tent at any time they are dealing with teams/coaches) and shall not share phones, tablets, etc.

Entry to concessions, washrooms, food areas

- Entry ways should be properly addressed to ensure 9-foot rule can be followed, or temporary closure of concession/washroom facilities may be required.
- Washrooms: Maintain no line ups, clean every 2 hours, must have hand sanitizer in each, possible more porta potties, to prevent line ups as per city regulation(s).

Hand Sanitization

- The establishment of hand sanitization stations may be applicable for some complexes/facilities, but at a minimum must be on the bench and equipment area of every team for all training, practices, games, and tournament play.
- Hygiene: Hand sanitizer on each bench, park (diamond) entrance, washrooms, at all concessions, souvenir areas.
- Hand sanitizer may be distributed to teams/players upon entry. Teams must be advised of being required to bring their own supply of hand sanitizer to be able to participate.
- Frequent hand sanitization will be stressed for players in all league/tournament play and will be enforced as mandatory.

OFF-FIELD

Concession areas/Washroom facilities

- Concessions: May only be allowed to open if they can provide pre-packaged/take-out options, as well as the ability to provide consistent sanitization and abide by physical distancing guidelines.
- Concessions: Would be difficult but workers with appropriate PPE, and line ups at **9-foot** intervals as in stores. All payments by debit/credit.
- Food areas: Indoor dining room/ outside seating areas are to remain closed to prevent gathering of individuals. If open, eating surfaces will require consistent sanitization.
- Washrooms: Will require consistent attention and sanitization. Leagues may opt to keep washroom facilities closed during play to reduce possible contamination. Must be cleaned/fully sanitized at least once per every 2 hours.
- Team snacks, picnics, shared lunches, BBQ's not allowed.
- All garbage cans are recommended to have closed lids for the disposal of sanitizing materials, tissues, and other refuse.

Medic

- Will have their own training, own first-aid kit and may be able to provide suggestions on further safety considerations and must have their own PPE.

Playground areas

- Guidelines for these areas should be consistent with local guidelines/regulations. Suggestion for tournaments to leave closed, but if open as part of the city property then the numbers in the playground could be included in the mass gathering numbers for your facility.

Vendors

- All vendors will be asked to follow outlined guidelines and regulations set out by the event organizer(s) and the Province of Ontario.
- Souvenirs: All payments by debit/credit card, no cash accepted, clothing cannot be tried on prior to purchase, limit amount of people in sales area, line up to be retail store style.

Hotels

- Hotels will have their own procedures and guidelines in place to ensure the safety of their guests.
- Hotels may not allow previously accepted practices (such as sharing of rooms for X# of individuals).
- Hotel rooms: Each room should be for a family unit only, no player only/team rooms. Hotels will be open, what are the hotel regulations for gatherings for teams.
- Alterations to the length or structure of events may be required if hotel accommodations remain unavailable.

Vehicles

- For shared vehicles (i.e. golf carts), frequent sanitization will be required. Provision of disinfectant wipes for each vehicle will be required.
- Carpooling should be avoided. Only family members.

Headquarters/Registration

- These locations should remain restricted to use by League/Tournament personnel only, roped off. Guidelines should be considered to keep players/coaches away from these locations as much as possible. Score reporting/complaints may need to be done electronically.
- Draw board will be viewed only at 12-feet.

Banquets/Ceremonies

- Banquets, fireworks, opening ceremonies - not allowed.

Designated Smoking Areas

- Must be in an area away from the playing field and proper disposable cigarette cannisters/ashtrays are required. No smoking or throwing away butts on the ground must be enforced.

ON-FIELD

- Covid 19 signage should be in the park (diamond) on fencing (verify with city when they will install).
- There will possibly be a limit on the number of diamonds in use, depending on the size of the complex/park, the proximity to each other, and the mass gathering numbers.

Hand Sanitization

- Should be done consistently throughout the game.

Coin Toss/Rules and Exchange of Lineup Cards

- Ground rules procedure - one representative from each team should be allowed at home plate with **9-foot** distance maintained by all parties.
- Coin flip: Either virtual or with physical distancing, lineup cards filled out, disinfected, and placed on backstop for all to view, no exchange.
- Only one coach per team.

Bats

- No bat sharing.
- Each player must have their own: bat, helmet and/or facemask which should be cleaned after each use.

- Only the offensive team will remove a bat from the field, i.e. the batter if unsuccessful at bat or a designated team person with appropriate PPE.
- No bat persons allowed.
- Picking up the hitter's bat will be the responsibility of the bench coach. Must be cleaned after each use.
- In the event there is a bat near home plate that poses a danger for the players, the umpire will kick it out of the way.

Player's Equipment

- No gloves on fence, no bringing out gloves except to play, batting gloves, distancing of player's bags - **9-feet**.
- Players should be reminded to not share equipment and keep each individual's equipment isolated – **9-foot** distance and reduce coming into contact with the equipment of other players.
- Recommend no batting gloves. Handwashing/sanitizing is more efficient. (if using batting gloves, must use hand sanitizer on the gloves).
- Catcher's equipment - each catcher must have their own and should be disinfected after each game.
- Sharing of water bottles is not allowed.
- Label all water bottles and personal equipment so there is no confusion.
- Make it a priority to provide your team with essentials to stay healthy – hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, etc. Also, make it mandatory for players to disinfect everything that was used during participation.
- AT ALL TIMES disinfect and sanitize your own personal equipment.

Protective Face Masks/Helmets

- There should be no sharing of protective face masks or helmets at any time.

Masks (non-protective)

- Face masks for the purpose of reducing potential virus transmission will be a required stipulation for all persons entering the park/complex/facility. All coaches and players and umpires must wear a face mask at all times during the warmups, practices and games.

Balls

- Defensive team will supply their own balls while in the field to reduce contact with individuals on the opposing team. No one on the offensive team to retrieve or touch ball.
- Consideration should be made for safe ball retrieval (homeruns, foul balls) defensive team only.
- Balls may require consistent sanitization (by team every half inning) - consider how often for practices (every half hour).
- Put more balls into play and have a designated person on each bench "sanitize" the ball. This would require clean water and soap.
- Foul ball(s) must be retrieved by the defensive team only.

- Each team will have a bucket, soap and water, cloth and towel. Will also be provided their own game balls; each team is responsible for cleaning their softballs between innings and will be the supplier of the same while on defense. Umpires will not handle the balls.
- Clean water/water source must be provided by the Association, Home Team, Tournament Host or City/Municipality in which the event is held.
- Ball handlers must wear protective gloves and apply hand sanitizer every half inning.

Catcher and Batter

- Will need to maintain **9-foot** distance, when possible.
- Both must wear a face mask.

Catcher and Umpire

- Will need to maintain **9-foot** distance, when possible. May need different conditions dependant on the size of the field/backstop.

Batter

- On the bench: responsible bench person/manager only – batter, then on deck, then in the hole outside dugout, then the batting order would have to be spread out at **9-foot** intervals behind the dugout (will vary depending on park, (diamond area). **Responsible Bench** person/manager to disinfect the dugout after each player.
- Sanitizer on benches to allow for frequent handwashing ... in between innings/after at bats. Cordon off the dugouts. Have the “bench” along the baseline/outfield fence, perhaps mark off “boxes” painted on the grass in **9-foot** squares to ensure physical distancing.
- No contact with coaches at 1st, 3rd, after home run, etc.
- Should attempt to reduce any unnecessary contact with other players. Should also avoid using their hands to contact the ball at any time.

On-Deck Batter

- Consideration should be made as to whether having an on-deck batter reduces the ability of the batter/umpire/catcher to remain **9-feet** apart. If so, on-deck batter may need to be removed.

General Protocols

- No handshakes, team huddles, high fives, etc. - NOT allowed. Suggest a new show of respect for the opposition at safe distance.
- Medals/banners: Give direct to coaches in original packaging, no handshakes, presentations (individual).
- Protest to be held at a safe distance. Any coach/umpire getting heated and yelling will be removed from the venue.
- Conferences at pitcher’s circle limited to one person who must remain outside the circle.
- Mound visits with catcher/coach - both must remain outside circle; catcher must have glove in front of face.
- No bat persons permitted.

- Only one team on the diamond at a time for warm-up.
- Players must not lick their fingers.
- Bases shall be cleaned every half inning.
- Coaches must always stay within their box.
- Each team must sanitize the dugout before and after each game/practice/use.

No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting

- General spitting will be banned for all participants, both on and off the field. Difficult to enforce.
- Sunflower seeds/chewing tobacco/gum will be handled with a zero-tolerance policy, that will become enforceable through ejection from the game and/or removal from events.

Final Game Sheet/Line-up cards

- If line-up cards are required to be submitted following the completion of the game, these cards should be submitted electronically by sending a picture of the card to the appropriate party or dropped into a designated container.

Pre-Game/Post-Game Huddles/ Handshakes

- Should not be conducted at any time.
- Will not be allowed or required following games at any level.
- Give yourself space from your fellow teammates and coaches. (no tight team huddles/ touching).
- Allow larger circled team huddles and beginning of game cheers. Allow distance when giving advice one on one, prioritize being engaged during conversations while giving yourself space.
- Do not share skin on skin contact. (no high fives, handshakes, elbows, etc.)
- Create a method to show support without having to high five – a practiced in sync clap/ collectively as a team, touch the dirt/ a cheer/ synchronically a hand gesture.
- Air fives, cheers for certain situations and accomplishments, hand gestures and a group cheer thanking your opponent for participating.

Capacity of Players on bench / dugout

- Will need to be consistent with government guidelines relating to number of individuals allowed to gather in each area. Recommend one (1) at each end with a responsible bench person/manager/coach - total of three (3) max.
- Players may be required to sit behind the bench/dugout to help maintain safe distances between them.
- AT ALL TIMES disinfect and sanitize shared equipment after practice/ games.
- Make it a priority to provide your team with essentials to stay healthy – hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, etc. Also, make it mandatory for players to disinfect everything that was used during participation.
- AT ALL TIMES disinfect and sanitize your own personal equipment.
- Keep a hand sanitizing station in your personal team dugout.

- This will allow players and coaches to have the option to feel like they have the resources they need quickly and safely without having to leave the diamond.
- Prioritize not putting your hands or equipment accessible to everyone near your face Please stress to your players that this is a MUST. (exception: your own safety helmet and mask).
- Do not eat in the dugout. (spitz, snacks, etc.)
- Respect other's space.
- Touching of any areas in the dugout must be kept to a minimum to reduce the amount of sanitization required after each player has left the dugout.

Exit from playing field during game

- During the game, players entering and exiting the playing field should do so in an orderly fashion that allows a **9-foot** distance to be maintained between players as much as possible.
- Any player not required to be on the field should not enter the playing surface (e.g. homerun celebrations).

First and Third Base Coaches distance, hand taps

- If the coaches are on the playing field, they should remain a minimum of **9-feet** away from the base they are coaching to prevent contact with the defensive player. Also, coaches should not engage an offensive player with high-fives or other physical contact.
- Field dependent: Coaches may be asked to coach from outside of the playing field if a safe distance is unable to be maintained.

Injured Player

- If medical personnel are on hand, injured players should be dealt with primarily by these individuals, unless further assistance is requested.
- The number of individuals attending to an injured player should be limited to the number necessary based on the severity of the injury. Sufficient first-aid kits should be provided that include latex gloves and facemasks to help increase the safety of their interaction with the injured player.
- Players injured during the game must be positioned in a safe area or at the other end of the dugout. Younger ages - the parent will need to remove the child from the field and place them in a safe place respecting the physical distancing rules. (Recommend the bleachers since they will be off limits to any spectators).

Pitching Conferences/On-Field Conferences

- Will need to be reduced to coach-pitcher conferences only, if not entirely removed.

Scorekeepers

- Scores should be reported electronically to reduce congestion at headquarter locations and scoresheets dropped in designated container.

Call Challenges/Protests

- Challenges/Protests may be made as long as the challenge is made by a recognized coach in a controlled and orderly fashion, and the coach/umpire are able to remain at a safe distance in which neither is put at risk.

Bat Testing/Checks

- Bat testing prior to the start of games/tournaments (when applicable) will be done using a visual check completed by the umpire crew to ensure all bats have the appropriate thumbprint and do not show any visible signs of damage.
- Bat testing/stickering done by leagues/tournament organizers may be postponed for the season to prevent unnecessary contact with equipment.

Post-Game Bench/Dugout Cleaning

- Emphasis will be placed on mandatory cleaning and sanitization of the bench area following the completion of the game. Access to extra garbage/recycling containers may be a request made to specific parks/municipalities. Responsibility of host or home team association if practice or exhibition play.

SPECTATORS (if applicable)

****PLEASE NOTE: The allowance of spectators will be dependent on the guidelines set out by the Ontario government and local health officials. For U12 and below, we will only permit competition/practice if we can adhere to the mass gathering allowances.***

- At no point will a softball event exceed the number of attendees (including players, coaches, umpires, association officials, volunteers, parents, and other family members) noted as the maximum number by the Province of Ontario, or any relevant municipality or public health authority.
- The number of participants involved should be reviewed and kept down to the absolute Essential. (e.g. Team members, Officials, Umpires, Event staff, Volunteers, etc.) Limit the number of non-participants attending. (limit siblings, parents, extended family, friends, etc.).
- If the maximum number of persons permitted to gather by the Province of Ontario and the relevant municipality and public health authority is less than or equal to 100, the maximum number of participants and non-participants attending any event is limited to the following:
32 persons per team which will include players, all coaching staff, safety officer, trainer, parents and all other spectators.
- If the Province of Ontario and/or municipalities or public health authorities establish different maximum numbers of people who are permitted to gather in different areas of the province,

the maximum number established for the municipality where the team is located (i.e. home diamond) applies to that team. Travel by a team to another area of the province does not mean that the team can rely on the maximum gathering size of that other area.

Seating

- Spectators will not be allowed to watch the game from inside the infield baselines. It will be required that any spectators (if allowed) will need to bring their own chairs or blankets and sit down the foul line, beyond 1st and 3rd or outside of the outfield fence. Seating areas including bleachers and picnic areas will be considered off limits to prevent congregation of groups of spectators. Players who are not required to be present for a game should be considered spectators and will be required to follow spectator guidelines. (ex. injured players attending to support team).

Hand Sanitization

- Established hand sanitization guidelines will need to be followed by all spectators. Personal supply of hand sanitizer is required.

No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting

- As is consistent with guidelines for participants, spectators will not be allowed any seeds, gum, or chewing tobacco and will be asked to remove it from the area.

Restaurant/Bar/Concession/Playground Area

- Spectator use of these areas will be dependent on the operational guidelines of these areas/facilities outlined by facility management.

Pets/Minor Children

- Spectators/participants will be asked to leave small children/pets at home if possible, to reduce the number of individuals present at a game or event. If they are present, they must always be supervised by a parent/guardian.

Crowds

- Crowding will not be tolerated. Individuals will always be asked to respect the **9-foot** rule when possible and gatherings of individuals will be asked to separate when necessary.

UMPIRES

Catcher and Home Plate Umpire

- Umpires change area - may need multiple tents or limit to number inside tent at any given time. Umpire clothing is not to be hung in park, etc. but must go into their own vehicle.

- To ensure a maintenance of safe distance, umpires will be required to utilize an exaggerated inside/outside slot position if the umpire can perform their duties as the home plate umpire from these positions.
- In situations where appropriate distance cannot be accommodated (due to field size for example), umpires may be required to wear masks. Home plate umpire will be required to wear a non medical mask.

Player Equipment (removal of bat, handing to on-deck batter)

- Will not be considered the responsibility of the umpire. Specifically, the removal of bats from the field will be the responsibility of the offensive team based on guidelines outlined previously in the 'On-Field' section.

Base Umpire/ Other Field Umpires

- Must be able to position themselves in a position at least **9-feet** away from any defensive player.

Umpire Conferences

- Umpire conferences may be allowed to take place, if they are conducted in a safe manner such that the umpires can be away from any players and can maintain a 6-foot distance between one another.

Call Challenges/Protests

- As mentioned, challenges/protests can be made by a coach in a safe and controlled manner. The umpire will have the authority to eject said coach if they feel their safe distance is being encroached upon and the coach has not respected any request to remain at distance.

Water Bottles

- No sharing of water bottles between umpires, and refillable water bottles will be strongly recommended.

Hand Sanitization

- Umpires will be subject to any hand sanitization guidelines provided by the league/tournament organizer.
- Umpires will be asked to supply their own personal hand sanitizer.

Responsibility

- Umpires responsible for enforcing guidelines on-field/inside the dugout during the game.

Lightning/Inclement weather

- All persons must return to the vehicle in which they arrived at the park. No congregating under tents, shelters, etc.

Other Considerations

- Restaurants: Are there enough locally, given physical distancing to feed teams, etc.
- Sunscreen: There is conflicting recommendations and will be used only at the discretion of the player/parent and not shared with any other person/persons.
- Need to have at least an hour between game end/game start to minimize/maintain maximum participant numbers in the space. This allows one set of teams/participants to leave the premises, before the next set of teams need to come in and warm-up appropriately.
- Bring your own personal snacks and/or food and be sure to consume away from others or during participation of your practice/ games.
- If we are limited by participation numbers, run grand prix style P.W.S.A. events to crown Regional/Provincial champions/ double knockout, or series of Grand Championships not all in one location.
- Play a couple of series in your regional over the course of a few weekends. You earn points based on placement. At the conclusion of the grand prix series, top teams come out and play a larger grand prix style event or best 2 of 3 series to crown provincial champion.
- If the season is short, run a series of festivals regionally.

The number of participants involved should be reviewed and kept down to the absolute essential (e.g. Team delegations, Tournament Officials, Event staff, Volunteers, etc.)

Less than 30 Participants Mass Gathering limitations

- 2 teams – no spectators.
- 1 – 2 umpires.
- 1 - 2 P.W.S.A. representatives.
- Volunteers – depends on park, entrances, numbers, etc. but est. 4 – 10+.

30 - 50 Participants

- 2 teams @ Maximum roster sizes with coaches would have to 14 to 20 (assuming no spectators). The number of coaches present is going to have to be limited so that there is only the permitted number of participants at the venue.
- 1-2 umpires/game.
- 1-2 P.W.S.A. representatives.
- Volunteers – depends on park, entrances, numbers, etc. but est 4 – 10+.

50-75 Participants

- Maximum roster size 20 - puts 2 to 3 teams with some spectators at the higher end of the threshold.
- Maximum 2 umpires/game.
- Maximum 2 P.W.S.A. reps.

- Volunteers - depends on park, entrances, numbers, etc. but est 4 – 10+.

75-100 Participants

- Maximum roster size 20 - puts 3 to 5 teams depending on spectator numbers to be considered.
- Maximum 2 umpires/game.
- Maximum 2 P.W.S.A. reps.
- Volunteers - depends on park, entrances, numbers, etc. but est. 4 – 10+.

Reporting of COVID 19 suspected case/cases

- Refer suspected cases for COVID 19 testing.
- Predetermine emergency contacts and exact protocols with local authorities.
- Establish isolation area - on-site medical treatment clinics/facilities where an individual can be initially assessed.
- The isolation area should be equipped with the necessary supplies determined by the local authorities.
- The medic/personnel attending symptomatic persons should wear FFP2 masks, rubber/disposable gloves, and glasses or visors, which shall be disposed of immediately after use and the staff shall cleanse thoroughly afterwards.
- The symptomatic patient should be given a surgical mask before carrying out a careful evaluation.
- In the case of a symptomatic patient (Temperature 37.5, sore throat, runny nose, breathing difficulties and flu-like symptoms) based on clinical data, the case should be reported to local health authorities following the pre-established organizational channels, recommending when possible to perform a COVID 19 test.
- Medic/staff must proceed, immediately after evaluation, with personal and area cleaning protocol as established by the local authorities; Safe Return to Baseball/Softball – Covid 19 Prevention Guidelines.
- If the subject does not fall within the definition of “case” or “suspect case”, they shall be sent home with the indication to contact his/her own physician.
- If a medic/personnel member falls within the definition of “case” or “suspect case”, it shall be reported immediately to local health authorities following the pre-established organizational channels.

Participants who become ill with signs and symptoms of COVID 19 while playing/on-site

- Activate Emergency Action Plan (EAP) COVID 19 Medical and Public Health Response Procedure for the specific venue.
- Participants (personnel, players, coaches, managers, spectators, etc.) who become ill at the field will be isolated and removed from the activity/event.
- P.W.S.A. will designate area at each field for isolation purposes.
- The activity/event will be shut down while:
 - 1) Equipment (dugouts/bases) are cleaned and sanitized.
 - 2) Participants sanitize their hands.

- The Activity Leader (coach, captain, P.W.S.A. personnel, host) will advise the unwell participant to don a face covering or mask (if available) on their exit from the field.
- The Activity Leader (coach, captain, P.W.S.A. personnel, host) will advise the unwell participant to go home immediately (in a private vehicle if at all possible) and self-isolate, and contact Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-9000), their health care provider or visit their **Local Health Department website** to determine if further care is needed and learn about **assessment centres**.
- If leaving the field can not be done immediately (waiting for a private vehicle, or a parent/guardian), the participant will remain in the designated isolation area.
- The Coach/Manager/team Medic will advise P.W.S.A., so that the PSO can follow up with the unwell participant, and aid public health authorities with potential contact tracing in the event the unwell participant tests positive for Covid 19.
- If a P.W.S.A. member at any P.W.S.A. activity/event tests positive for Covid 19, their local public health unit will follow up with close contacts, who may include other P.W.S.A. members. Other Team members who came in close contact with the infected participant may be required to self-isolate.
- P.W.S.A. will maintain an attendance listing record and advise participants if they have been in contact with a member who has tested positive for Covid 19 and to contact Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-9000), their health care provider or visit their **Local Health Department Website** to determine if further care is needed and learn about **assessment centres**.

COVID 19 positive cases, can only return to play/practice/participation after:

- 1) A doctor's note is provided and received by P.W.S.A. leadership.
- 2) Or the local public health authority/unit has advised that the individual is considered recovered per Ontario/Local Public health guidelines and cleared to return to play/work.

Note: The privacy of P.W.S.A members will be maintained; participants who may have been in close contact with a positive COVID 19 case will **only** be advised that someone at the training session/game/tournament has tested positive.

**We extend our immense gratitude to all essential and Frontline workers.
Be Safe.**

Return to Play Activity Leader Checklist

Prior to Departing for the Field

- Complete your wellness screening/checklist (Javelin App/Paper Form).
- Sanitize equipment that you will be using at the field.
- Ensure you have hand sanitizer in your bag for your athletes and to sanitize equipment at the field.
- Ensure you have your own water bottle and it is appropriately labelled with your name.
- Check the attendance listing (remember only Provincial Mandated # of participants including yourself) and that those who are attending have done their pre-departure wellness screening.

At the Field – On Arrival/At Check-in Location

- Arrive and set up at the identified Check-in location.
- Complete your on-field wellness check (checkmark = good to stay 😊).
- Have the Javelin App open to your event to be able to view your teammates/athletes on-field wellness checks/screenings or to perform them.
- Do a wellness check/screening of your athletes – the app will take you through the questions to ask your teammates/athletes ... you can have your teammates/athletes do the check on their phone ☹ key point here is they are symptom-free (green check-mark) and sign the declaration ... you should see 2 green checkmarks ... if they have a green check-mark, direct them to the sideline area where they can put their belongings (remind them to keep **9-feet** of spacing between their belongings and others' belongings)
 - If a teammate/athlete does not “pass” the screening, advise them to go home, and recommend that they call telehealth/their medical health provider or go to an assessment centre.
- Direct teammates/athletes to sanitize hands on their way to the designated sideline area
- Complete/review on-field screenings for all participants, then send from the Javelin App, the wellness check report to P.W.S.A./or your association (the email should already be populated to the correct P.W.S.A./association email).

During the Session

- Maintain **9-foot** distancing within the training session – Friendly reminders may be necessary at first
 - No high-fives.
 - No team huddles.
 - Avoid touching your own face as much as possible.
- Group participants into smaller groups to minimize points of contacts.
- Schedule breaks to hydrate and in that water break, sanitize equipment and wash/sanitize hands
- If someone shows any symptoms (aside from things like coughing after swallowing a bug, sneezing due to allergies, etc.) during the session, remove them from the group, advise them to call telehealth/their medical professions or to visit an assessment centre.

After the Session

- Encourage all participants to sanitize their equipment and hands.
- Sanitize any bats and other equipment (ex. helmets) before putting them back in your bag.
- Ensure all participants put any garbage/waste (water bottles) they may have into the garbage/waste bin at the venue, or to take it with them and dispose of it at their home.

- Ensure all participants leave the field and the venue in a timely manner (no congregating after in the parking lot).

How to Handwash?

WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED! OTHERWISE, USE HANDRUB

 **Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 seconds**



Wet hands with water;



Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces;



Rub hands palm to palm;



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



Rinse hands with water;



Dry hands thoroughly with a single use towel;



Use towel to turn off faucet;



Your hands are now safe.



World Health
Organization

Patient Safety

A World Alliance for Safer Health Care

SAVE LIVES

Clean Your Hands

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HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epi-win](https://www.who.int/epi-win)

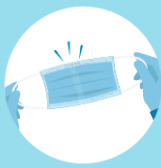
Do's →



Wash your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored-side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

Don'ts →



Do not Use a ripped or damp mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not re-use the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

EPI·win



Appendix 3 – Pre-Tournament Questionnaire/ Health Declaration Form

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)		
Full Name as shown in the passport and other ID	First Name:	Last Name:
Passport <input type="checkbox"/> other ID <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Number:	
Permanent address		
Address during the event, (if it's hotel, provide name and room number)		
Telephone number		
E-mail address		
Countries that you visited or stayed in past 14 days		

History of exposure			YES	NO	
Within the last 14 days, have you had contact with any person who has been tested positive for an infection with the COVID-19?					
Have you ever been admitted to or visited a hospital in the past month?					
If yes, please specify the reason for the admission or visit:					
Have you experienced any of the following symptoms during the past 14 days?					
Symptoms	YES	NO	Symptoms	YES	NO
* Fever			*Vomiting/Nausea		
*Cough			*Diarrhea		
Dyspnea			Skin hemorrhage		
Sore throat			Rash		
Chest Pain			Fatigue/Tiredness		
Conjunctivitis			Headache		
Myalgia			Loss of taste		
Chills			Loss of smell		
If you answered YES to any and are being treated already, please list which vaccines and/or biologicals are being used:					

Please be aware that if you have answered YES to any of the above questions, you should stay at home, inform your Team Manager immediately and follow local public health guidelines.

TRYOUTS

All tryouts will be limited to a maximum of 50 participants per venue

All participants must pre-register for each tryout they attend

Spectators will be limited to a total of 50 persons which will include coaches, officials, umpires, parents, fans etc.

All persons present must wear a face mask for the entire tryout and practice physical distancing

All associations must provide PWSA with the registration list (name and phone number) for contact tracing purposes with 24 hours of the tryout. info@pwsaontario.com