

# Softball New/Nouveau Brunswick Return to Play Guidelines



**SOFTBALL**  
NEW-NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK



# INTRODUCTION

The return to play information in this document is designed for Softball New Brunswick's membership - which includes players, coaches, managers, officials, and volunteers. With respect to not only local public health guidelines, but provincial/territorial and federal guidelines as well to return to the diamond.

These best practices do not supersede any protocols, guidelines, or restrictions outlined by Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities. All Softball NB stakeholders must continue to follow those guidelines outlined by Provincial and/or Federal Health Authorities.

As areas begin to open and return to play resumes, we strongly urge any Softball NB stakeholder to share with us details of any and all challenges that may arise and which may not be addressed in this document. Once an issue is identified, those assigned by the President and Executive Director will work on how to address the issue and then share that information with all involved within Softball NB.



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# DISCLAIMER

*The items listed in this document are suggestions of recommended safeguards for restarting Softball activities in New Brunswick. Should there be any discrepancies between this protocol and the outlined restrictions / requirements of the Federal, Provincial and Local Governmental guidelines, the governmental restrictions / requirements shall take precedence.*

*Softball NB reserves the right to suspend sanctioned activities further, should we feel the safety of our members is not being exercised.*



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# DISCLAIMER

*The proposed phases below are guidelines for our membership, and Softball NB reserves the rights to alter the phases based on the ever changing nature of COVID-19.*

*The memberships ability to follow the protocols outlined in each phase, and ever changing COVID-19 conditions within the province, will determine if/when Softball NB is prepared to move to the next phase.*



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# UPDATED PHASES

JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>

## PHASE 2:

Modified Scrimmages  
within your own team to  
acclimate to modified  
rules.



## PHASE 3:

Modified Games With  
Other Teams/Clubs  
Within Your Region.

JULY 6<sup>th</sup>

## PHASE 4:

Regular Game Play Within The  
Province of New Brunswick Only  
(COVID Procedures Still Apply).

Out of province  
players/coaches/managers/teams/  
officials/facilitators will not be  
permitted to participate in New  
Brunswick  
(practices/games/clinics) for the  
remainder of 2020.

\*Tournament Play Is Not Yet  
Permissible\*

# Softball New/Nouveau Brunswick Return to Play Guidelines





# INDIVIDUAL/TEAM REGISTRATION

- ❑ All minor athletes, coaches, and managers must register with Softball NB through [SportsEngine](#) to activate membership and benefits.
- ❑ Youth Teams/leagues are to ensure that every player, coach, and managers has signed the Softball NB COVID-19 declaration. This is completed during with their individual registration with Softball NB.
- ❑ All adult teams must register with Softball New Brunswick through this [SportsEngine](#) link to activate membership and benefits.
- ❑ All Youth and Adult Teams/leagues are to ensure all [additional assigned team personnel contact information](#) is sent to Softball New Brunswick Executive Director, [Hillary Pineau](#), in a timely fashion.

*Please note that the Softball New Brunswick general liability insurance policy has a COVID-19 exclusion*



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# SANITIZATION CHECKLIST

## *Recommended sanitization supplies:*

- ☐ Lysol (or equivalent product) Sanitation Wipes/Spray.
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer.
- ☐ Non Medical Face Masks (PPE) are recommended when not able to physical distance.
- ☐ Players/Coaches/Managers are recommended to provide their own sanitization supplies for their personal equipment, and use before/during/after all softball activities.
- ☐ Club and/or Teams are recommended to provide sanitization supplies for all team equipment, and use before/during/after all softball activities.
- ☐ Players/Coaches/Managers MUST wash/sanitize hands before/during/after the softball activity.





# SANITIZATION CHECKLIST CONTINUED

## *Recommended Additional Team Personnel:*

- ☐ 1-2 persons designated as 'Sanitation Champions' who are responsible for the sanitization of dugouts, bases, bats, balls, catching gear, and other team equipment throughout softball activity.
- ☐ 1 person designated to tracking attendance of players/coaches/officials.
  - *See Attendance Tracking Details on Slide #10 and #13*
- To ensure field times are maximized, it is recommended that the coaches and assigned additional team personnel arrive to the field early to facilitate the teams operational plans appropriately.
- When arriving to the facility early, coaches and assigned team personnel must respect groups using the facility prior to your time slot by physical distancing.



# SANITIZATION CHECKLIST CONTINUED

## *Recommended Sanitation Procedures*

- ☐ All coaches and assigned team personnel should arrive at the facility prior to athlete arrival time to physically check the area to ensure it is safe, free of obstacles and dangerous obstructions. They ensure the bases are sanitized, dugouts are clean, and no items have been left behind. Once that has been completed, sanitize the field/team equipment and self sanitize.



# SANITIZATION CHECKLIST CONTINUED

- ☐ Athletes/Coaches/Managers MUST wash/sanitize hands before/during/after the softball activity.
- ☐ All athletes MUST have their own helmets. Ages U16 and below are also required to have their own helmet with a face mask.
- ☐ All athletes MUST have their own batting gloves, water bottle, and hand sanitizer (60% alcohol) etc.
- ☐ Catching gear is not to be shared .
- ☐ No spitting, licking fingers, etc.
- ☐ Sunflower seeds, bubble gum, chewing tobacco, or other food products are **prohibited** in dugouts, on the field of play, and within the remainder of the facility.



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# PRE ACTIVITY SCREENING

- Pre Screening is no longer required to happen at the softball field, but is expected to occur at home prior to arriving at the facility. If an athlete or coach experiences 1 or more symptoms, they must refrain from attending until symptoms are gone.
- For programs starting after July 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is recommended that the team goes over the pre screening questions together once to establish expectations.

## GNB SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE FACILITY WITHOUT ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

**1.**

Do you have any of following symptoms: fever/feverish, cough, sore throat, headache, runny nose, a new cough or worsening chronic cough, new onset of fatigue, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell; in children, purple markings on the fingers and toes?

If you answered YES, and have only one symptom, then stay home and do not return until you are fully recovered.

If you answered YES, and have 2 or more of the symptoms, then self-isolate at home, and call 811.

**2.**

If you answer YES to any of the following below, then you must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

- a. Have you had close contact within the last 14 days with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- b. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- c. Have you returned from travel outside of New Brunswick within the last 14 days?
- d. Have you been told by public health that you may have been exposed to COVID-19?

Follow public health advice if you are waiting for testing results for COVID-19.

If you develop symptoms, please refer to the self-assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.

VEUILLEZ NE PAS ENTRER DANS L'ÉTABLISSEMENT SANS D'ABORD RÉPONDRE AUX QUESTIONS CI-DESSOUS :

**1.**

Présentez-vous l'un des symptômes suivants : fièvre ou sentiment de fièvre, toux, mal de gorge, mal de tête, écoulement nasal, nouvelle toux ou toux chronique qui s'aggrave, fatigue nouvellement apparue, nouvelles douleurs musculaires, diarrhée, perte du goût ou de l'odorat; chez les enfants, taches mauves sur les doigts ou les orteils?

Si vous avez répondu OUI et que vous n'avez qu'un seul symptôme, vous devez rester chez vous et ne revenir que lorsque vous serez complètement rétabli.

Si vous avez répondu OUI et que vous présentez au moins deux de ces symptômes, isolez-vous à la maison et appelez le 811.

**2.**

Si vous avez répondu OUI à l'une des questions suivantes, vous devez rester chez vous et vous isoler pendant 14 jours.

- a. Avez-vous eu des contacts étroits avec un cas confirmé de COVID-19 dans les derniers 14 jours?
- b. Avez-vous reçu un diagnostic de la COVID-19?
- c. Êtes-vous revenu d'un voyage à l'extérieur du Nouveau-Brunswick dans les 14 derniers jours?
- d. Le personnel de Santé publique vous a-t-il informé que vous avez peut-être été exposé à la COVID-19?

Si vous attendez des résultats d'un test de dépistage de la COVID-19, suivez les recommandations de la Santé publique.

Si vous présentez des symptômes, veuillez vous reporter au lien d'auto-évaluation sur la page Web du gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick.

# PRE ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- ❑ The assigned team personnel are present to guide the players to designated area (dugout, behind the dugout, or along the fence) where they will place their equipment/personal items while maintaining physical distancing.
- ❑ **Reminder:** The assigned team personnel or coach/manager will track attendance of the players/coaches/managers/officials by having a dated copy of the team roster and 'checking off' any of those in attendance. This information should be maintained and remain with the teams for a minimum of 1 month - should a COVID-19 case(s) occur.
- ❑ For gatherings of 50 people or under, attendance is not required for parents/spectators – just for those directly involved in the activity (see second point on this slide).
- ❑ ***As per the recommendations from GNB, for gatherings of 50 people or above, attendance tracking for everyone at the softball facility (including parents/spectators) is required.***
  - *Must keep record of full name and phone number and/or email address of everyone at the facility.*



# PRE ACTIVITY PREPARATION CONTINUED

- ☐ Parents/Guardians and Spectators are also directed to the outfield, away from the dugouts and bleachers behind home plate, where they are advised to maintain physical distancing.
- ☐ Coaches should prepare a practice/game plan which ensures all activities are done while maintaining physical distancing of 2 meters, if possible.
- ☐ Huddles or team meetings are permitted while maintaining physical distancing.
- ☐ No personal or team equipment will be shared:
  - Example - No shared helmets, batters gloves, player face masks etc.
  - Example - No sharing of catching equipment.
  - Absolutely no sharing of personal water bottles or PPE.





# ON FIELD GUIDELINES

- ❑ Athletes are required to have their own hand sanitizer and every participant attending practice/game must sanitize their hands as frequently as possible.
- ❑ Sanitation champions will sanitize the balls as often as possible during the practice/game, and it is recommended a minimum once after every practice drill/inning. They will also sanitize bases both before and after practice/game.
- ❑ Coaches are responsible for ensuring there are enough balls to rotate through planned drills/innings, or to stop and sanitize the ones being used before continuing the practice/game.
- ❑ While different forms of sanitation for the softballs have been examined, at this point, we recommend a spray application of a sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol (same as hand sanitizer requirements).
- ❑ When athletes take a break, they must return to their designated position (equipment and personal items) for a water break and rest.



# ON FIELD GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- ☐ If bats are shared, the batter will hand the bat to a member of the sanitation champion team, holding it by the grip. The sanitation champion will take the bat by holding it by the barrel and proceed to sanitize it before the next batter takes it.
- ☐ Sunflower seeds, bubble gum, chewing tobacco, or other food products are **prohibited** in dugouts, on the field of play, and within the remainder of the facility.
- ☐ No spitting or licking of fingers.
- ☐ Pitching and catching drills/game warmups will be done between a single catcher and pitcher only. They will have a supply of balls that those two are touching and once they have finished, each athlete sanitizes their hands and the balls are sanitized immediately.
- ☐ During a practice, base running drills will be done while maintaining physical distancing in all cases, by both coaches and athletes.
- ☐ Skill development exercises including batting cages and pitching machines will only be done outdoors or in facilities with no enclosed walls (chain link or mesh fencing areas).



# POST ON FIELD ACTIVITY

- ☐ Huddles or team meetings are permitted while maintaining physical distancing.
- ☐ Each player is responsible for their own equipment bag. All team gear is recommended to be sanitized and stored in team equipment bags (When possible, equipment bags should be stored away from each other).
- ☐ Players are recommended to leave the venue immediately after the practice/game.
- ☐ Parents must be present to pick up their child as soon as the practice/games ends (YOUTH).
- ☐ Sanitation champions should inspect the area to ensure nothing has been left and the area is clean/sanitary.





# FIRST AID

- ❑ When minor first aid (cuts, bruise, scrape) is required, only the household member will administer first aid.
- ❑ Major first aid will be administered by the qualified and assigned team member, practicing usual medical sanitary protocol with the household member only in attendance.



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# PHASE 1 CRITERIA FOR U10 AND U12

- ☐ All criteria of Phase one above will apply for this age group as well as the following.
- ☐ A parent/guardian will be required to be present at the field for the entire duration of every practice/game.
- ☐ Parents and athletes will be instructed on the protocols in place for physical distancing and managing their own equipment bag, beverages and food.

*- If teams/associations choose to provide treats/snacks AFTER practice, they must be picked up outside the playing field from an assigned team personnel member in a safe manner.*



# PHASE 1 CRITERIA FOR U6 AND U8 TIMBITS

- ☐ The criteria for U10/U12 teams will also be followed by all participants and households for this age category.
  - ☐ Recommended (but not required) that drills and physical literacy activities will be done between the athlete and their parent/guardian, maintaining physical distancing and use of hand sanitizer or washing as frequently as possible. Along with following instruction from the program leader.
  - ☐ Hitting drills are not recommended due to the sharing of equipment and safety factors. If hitting drills are held, the bats, balls must be sanitized prior to the next athlete touching them. Batting helmets are required and they are not to be shared.
  - ☐ Parents and athletes will be instructed on the protocols in place for physical distancing and managing their own equipment bag, beverages and food.
- *If teams/associations choose to provide treats/snacks after practice, they must be picked up outside the playing field from an assigned team personnel member in a safe manner.*

Please refer to [Timbits Softball Return to Play Guidelines](#)



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# APPENDIX

- [Additional Assigned Team Personnel Contact Information Form](#)
- [Screening Tool Poster / Pre Screening Questionnaire](#)
- [GNB Symptoms Chart](#)
- [Modified Timbits Softball Return to Play Guidelines](#)
- [SportsEngine Individual Membership Registration](#)
- [SportsEngine Team Membership Registration](#)

***These guidelines are the minimum standard that Softball New Brunswick registered teams/leagues must follow. Associations/Leagues must also submit their own operational plans to SNB at [executivedirector@softballnb.ca](mailto:executivedirector@softballnb.ca)***