



TCMB Players and Parents,

It is our pleasure to welcome players and their families back to the 2021 season. Although our season will look a little different this year, we are so happy to get back on the diamond.

Currently TCMB is in Phase 1 of the Ontario's Government's plan to re-open. Currently the Region of Waterloo remains in Phase 1 until the middle of July. This means that there will be no game play until we enter Phase 2 sometime in the middle of July.

The following rules and regulations have been taken from Softball Ontario and OASA. Please read through and share with your player so you are aware of what is necessary to adhere to this season. As regulations are consistently changing, this document is subject to change at any time. Please note that TCMB will be enforcing these guidelines and will support all coaches in making sure we are all following the rules. If you are unsure about something, please direct all questions to Amy Balatoni (amybalatoni@gmail.com) or Todd Lichty (twlichty@gmail.com). Thank you for your patience as we navigate through the restrictions.

On behalf of the TCMB Executive

TCMB Return to Play Guidelines

Phase 1- Practice

Information for Phase 1 – Practices and training activities can resume with up to 2 groups of up to 10 players that do not co-mingle per diamond (i.e., 1 on the infield and 1 in the outfield). Coaches are not included in the 10.

- No full teams or regular games – skill development / practices only where allowed.
- 10 athletes can participate – coaches are not included in this count.
- Consider grouping by positions to work on skills or small team challenges (5 per team).
- 2 groups of 10 are allowed per diamond, so long as they do not co-mingle (i.e. 1 group on the infield and 1 in the outfield).

COVID Self-Assessment Screening Form

All players, parents and visitors entering the park must agree to be screened by using the QR code (or link) provided in the team's ball bag. Your player will not be permitted onto the diamond until they have been screened in. Each team will have the QR Code assessable for anyone to use to sign in. The QR Code and link can also be found on our website at www.tcmb.ca.



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Screening Form Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAaHQuJ2AiQ3B7RpuuVdnCDAc_urnpPPa-fFnOxbGoZ1ZIQ/viewform

The contact information (name and phone number) for all players, coaches and spectators in attendance for each game or practice must be recorded and retained for 14 days after the activity in case it is required for contact tracing in relation to an actual or potential case of COVID-19 being detected.

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 practice or game and the team / coach would be responsible to ensure the person showing symptoms is isolated from all others and isolate those who were in contact before discovery.

Any individual experiencing symptoms should take the initiative and stay home.

Arriving to the Diamond

Players will be asked not to put their equipment on the player bench. Players are to put their equipment on the bleachers and adhere to a 6-foot distance from the next player. Bleachers are off limits to any person who is not a player.

- Spectators are to bring their own chairs and sit outside of the diamond (i.e., along the base lines).
- Spectators are not allowed in the follow areas: on the field, bleachers, player bench. If you need to speak with your player, please let a coach know and we will send your player to you.
- Please do not group together unless you are from the same family.
- Be respectful of others' space and adhere to social distancing requirements.

Hand Sanitization

- The use of hand sanitizer must be on the bench and equipment area of every team for all training, practices, and games.
- Each team has been supplied with a bucket that contains hand sanitizer, extra masks, and wipes.
- All players will need to have access to their own personal hand sanitizer in the ball bag.
- Frequent hand sanitization will be stressed for players and is mandatory.

No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting

- General spitting will be discouraged for all participants, both on and off the field. It is recognized that this will be difficult to enforce.
- Sunflower seeds or gum will be handled with a zero-tolerance policy that will become enforceable through ejection from the practice or game.



Bats

- The most desirable scenario is that there will be no sharing of bats. If bats are to be shared between players, they must be sanitized by a coach / bench adult before each player uses it.
- Each player must have their own helmet and or facemask which should be cleaned after each use.
- No bat boys / girls allowed.
- Picking up the hitter's bat will be the responsibility of the bench coach and must be cleaned after each use.

Player's Equipment

- No gloves on fence, no bringing out gloves, batting gloves, distancing of player's bags of 6 feet.
- Players are to be reminded to not share equipment and keep each individual's equipment isolated – 6 foot distance and reduce coming into contact with the equipment of other players.
- Personal batting gloves are permitted. They are not to be shared with any other players.
- Each catcher must have their own personal equipment that should be disinfected after each practice or game.
- Sharing of water bottles is not allowed.
- Label all water bottles and personal equipment so there is no confusion.

Protective Face Masks / Helmets

- There should be no sharing of protective face masks or helmets at any time.
- Face shields are also allowed as it provides protection for the players' eyes.

Masks (non-protective)

- Face masks/coverings for the purpose of reducing potential virus transmission will be a required stipulation for entering the park.
- It is strongly recommended that all personnel on the diamond wear a face mask / covering.
- Where 6-foot physical distancing is not able to be maintained face masks / coverings must be worn.
- All coaches on the field of play are required to wear face masks when social distancing cannot be adhered to.

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 all age groups we will only permit competition / practice if we can adhere to local mass gathering allowances.*

Seating

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- 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 or outside of the outfield fence.
- Seating areas including bleachers 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. (i.e., injured players attending to support their team).
- All spectators must adhere to the 6-foot physical distancing requirement for anyone outside of their immediate family that they are residing with.

No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting

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

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 be always supervised by a parent / guardian.

Crowds

- Crowding will not be tolerated. Individuals will be asked to respect the 6-foot physical distancing rules at all times. When physical distancing is not being observed and gatherings of individuals become too large, they will be asked to separate.

Phase 2 – Game Play

Balls (for games)

- The defensive team will manage their own balls while in the field to reduce contact with individuals on the opposing team. No one on the offensive team is to retrieve or touch the ball. Additional official game balls are to be supplied by each team for each game.
- The defensive team will retrieve all balls including homeruns and foul balls unless a designated ball chaser for each team is used.
- Balls will require consistent sanitization by each team every half inning during games and the coach must determine how often during practices.
- Each team will have a bucket, soap and water, cloth and towel, or spray sanitizer and be responsible for cleaning their balls between innings. A designated individual should be identified by each team. For practices the coach will be required to determine how frequently to 'sanitize' the balls.
- Umpires will not handle the balls at all.



Catcher and Batter

- It is not expected that the catcher and batter will be able to maintain the 6-foot physical distancing desired. If not, then both must wear a face mask or covering while on the field of play.
- If the catcher and batter are able to maintain the 6-foot physical distancing desired, they will not be required to wear a face mask or covering.

Catcher and Umpire

- It is not expected that the catcher and umpire will be able to maintain the 6-foot physical distancing desired. If not, then both must wear a face mask or covering while on the field of play.
- If the catcher and umpire are able to maintain the 6-foot physical distancing desired, they will not be required to wear a face mask or covering. This may involve the umpire being positioned behind the backstop in cases where the distance between home plate and the backstop is very short. Alternatively, the umpire could potentially be positioned behind the pitcher for younger age groups.

Batter / Bench area

- On the bench – 1 bench adult / assistant coach / manager only – batter, then on deck batter, then batter in the hole outside dugout, then the batting order would have to be spread out at 6-foot intervals behind the dugout (will vary depending on park). Bench adult / assistant coach / manager to disinfect the dugout after each inning.
- Sanitizer on benches to allow for frequent hand washing (between innings / after at bats).
- If the dugouts / benches are not large enough to allow for 6-foot physical distancing between all players and coaches, then they are to be cordoned or blocked off. Then have the “bench” along the baseline / outfield fence / behind the dugout, perhaps mark off “boxes” painted on the grass in 6’ squares to ensure proper social distancing. Having each player bring their own lawn / folding chair.
- There is to be no contact with coaches at 1st, 3rd, after hits or home runs or reaching base, etc.
- Batters/runners should attempt to reduce any unnecessary contact with other players. They 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 at least 6-feet apart. If so, the on-deck batter may need to be positioned outside of the field of play.

General Protocols

- No handshakes, team huddles, high fives, etc. allowed. Suggest a new show of respect for the opposition at a safe distance.
- Mound visits with catcher / coach both must remain outside the circle and the catcher must



raise their glove up in front of their face if they are not wearing a face mask or covering.

No sunflower seeds, gum chewing or spitting

- General spitting will be discouraged for all participants, both on and off the field. It is recognized that this will be difficult to enforce.
- Sunflower seeds or gum will be handled with a zero tolerance policy that will become enforceable through ejection from the practice or game.

Pre-Game / Post-Game Huddles / Handshakes

- These should not be conducted at any time.
- They will not be allowed or required before or 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.).
- Air fives, cheers for certain situations and accomplishments, hand gestures and a group cheer thanking your opponent for participating.
- Create a method to show support without having to high five – i.e., a practiced in sync clap / collectively as a team (touch the dirt / do a cheer / synchronically a hand gesture)

Sunscreen

- Sharing of sunscreen is not permitted. Personal sunscreen use is permitted

Players on the bench / dugout

- Will need to be consistent with government guidelines relating to the maximum number of individuals allowed to gather in a given area. Recommend 1 coach / adult at each end with a bench adult / manager / coach = total of 3 max.
- Players may be required to sit behind the bench / dugout to help maintain safe distances between them.
- Make it a priority to provide your team with the 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.
- Keep a hand sanitizing station in your 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. Please stress to your players that this is a MUST (exception: their own safety helmet and mask).
- Do not eat in the dugout (seeds, spitz, snacks, etc.).

Exit from the playing field during a game

- During the game, players entering and exiting the playing field should do so in an orderly

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fashion that allows a 6-foot physical 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

- Coaches on the playing field must remain a minimum of 6-feet away from the base they are coaching to prevent contact with the defensive player. Also, coaches are not allowed to engage an offensive player with high-fives or any 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

- 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 face masks 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. For younger ages the parent will need to remove the child from the field and place them in a safe place respecting all social distancing rules.