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Softball Manitoba Return to Play Overview

Health Questions

Prior to the commencement of each practice/game players and coaches/managers must be screened for symptoms of COVID 19 including:

- Cough
- Headache
- Fever/Chills
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath/breathing difficulties
- Muscle Aches

Officials must abide by this screening as well.

Anyone that is showing symptoms of COVID 19 or are ill will NOT be allowed to participate.

Hygiene and Sanitization

All players, coaches, managers, and officials will be required to sanitize their hands prior to the start of the game/practice and are to continue to sanitize their hands frequently. Recommendations are that they sanitize hands at each scheduled break in practice or between each inning.

Players, coaches, managers, and officials are to refrain from licking their fingers or spitting.

Dugouts are to be sanitized prior to each game/practice. Dugouts are only to be used by coaches/managers and 1 volunteer who will be assisting with sanitization and monitoring of social distancing by players and coaches. Players are to use dugout only when entering or exiting the field.

Players and equipment are to be outside the dugout and are to maintain a social distance of 2 meters (6 ft.).

Shared Equipment

Amount of shared equipment used is to be limited and MUST be sanitized immediately after each use. Shared equipment refers to bats, gloves, helmets, and all Catcher's equipment.

Game balls – Teams on Defense will be responsible for sanitizing game balls. Balls are to be sanitized after each out/play and prior to a ball that went out of play being returned to play.

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Practice Balls – During practices coaches are to have a sufficient supply of balls to allow for frequent sanitization between uses. Balls should be sanitized after each drill or at each scheduled break in practice.

Masks

Currently masks are not mandatory but are recommended by the Province in circumstances where social distancing can not be maintained.

If you choose to wear a non-medical or cloth mask, you must do the following:

- Wash your hands immediately before putting it on and immediately after taking it off.
- Practice good hand hygiene while wearing the mask.
- Ensure the mask fits well (doesn't gape).
- Do NOT share masks.
- Avoid touching your face mask while wearing it, change the mask if it becomes damp or soiled. Used face masks are to be placed into your bag and taken home for laundering.

Social distancing is to be maintained at all times, with the exception of brief exchanges that result as part of the sport. **Catchers are to practice social distancing between themselves and the Batter.**

Players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators may NOT bring gum, sunflower seeds or other seeds to the game or practice.

Spectators will be directed to maintain social distancing at all times.

Umpires and other officials have the right to remove themselves from the game should these protocols not be followed.

Rule Changes

Aside from having Catchers and Batters adjust to allow for social distancing there are no other changes to the playing rules. The Provincial guidelines for recreational activities allow for "brief exchanges" and are defined as contact that does not exceed ten (10) minutes of time being less than two (2) meters away and may be cumulative.

Home Plate Umpires may elect to move from behind the Catcher to a position behind the Pitcher to allow for social distancing.

We all have a responsibility for the health and safety of our players, officials, volunteers and supporters.

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