

Clarington Slo-Pitch Return To Play Guidelines

March 7, 2021

Numbers:

- At no point will a baseball 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.). As long as 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 non-participants attending any event is limited to 1 per player. Such spectators shall physically distance themselves from other spectators and participants.

Screening/Diagnosed with COVID-19/Return from COVID-19:

Self-screening through <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment> is required by all participants.

- Any participant, volunteer or spectator diagnosed with COVID-19 or who has been in contact with any person having COVID-19 in the previous 14 days MUST not attend any game, practice, meeting or other in-person team activity and MUST notify their local public health authority.

Implementation of Safe Physical Distance:

- Maintain minimum of 2 metres distancing activity, including warm ups, pre game and post-game activities, wherever possible.
- Use of dugouts should be avoided where safe physical distance cannot be maintained.
- Use as much space as required outside the dugout (but in safe areas outside of the field of play) to maintain adequate physical distance.
- Avoid congestion at points of entry to the diamond (i.e. gates, dugout doors, etc.) to allow maintenance of 2 metres distancing among participants.
 - If spectators are in attendance, specific spectator measures for physical distancing shall be set as required/recommended by the local public health authorities.

Establishment of Hygiene Standards:

- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
- Sneeze and/or cough in a tissue or the internal crease of the elbow. Avoid contact of hands with personal respiratory points.
- All potentially infected waste (i.e. disposable tissues, masks, protective gloves, etc.), hygiene material, debris, etc., in all shared spaces (diamonds, dugouts, washrooms, etc.) that cannot be transported *off* property, shall be disposed of safely at the end of the in-person baseball activity.

Spectators:

- If/when spectators are allowed, make sure to follow local authorities' guidelines strictly.
- Ensure physical distance from participants and between spectators.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs for personal use or bring disinfectant wipes to clean the area where they sit. Municipalities and/or facility owners may or may not be cleaning bleachers on a regular basis.

Weather Delays:

- If a baseball event is interrupted by thunder, participants, volunteers and spectators are to return to their motor vehicles until the baseball event is cancelled or able to resume. If someone does not have a motor vehicle, they may shelter in a safe location but must maintain a minimum of 2 metres distancing from others, if possible.

Equipment:

Sharing of equipment such as batting helmet pitchers masks, or other equipment likely to have been exposed to respiratory droplets should be avoided. Each player should have his/her own bat, helmet, baseball mitt(s), **batting gloves**; etc. and store these items inside their personal bag when not in use. If equipment is shared it **MUST** be sanitized between users.

- There must be sanitized wipes or spray at each bench.
- Home team must supply sanitation wipes or spray to the home plate Umpire.
- Avoid personal clothing, equipment or electronics etc. being left in common places. Store inside personal bag whenever possible.
- No use of Saliva in preparing balls.
- PPE maybe worn at the discretion of the participants.

Participants:

- No spitting, including tobacco and other products.
- No sharing of water / energy drinks bottles or food.
- No shared water jugs, coolers or drink dispensers.
- No sunflower seeds.
- No handshakes ,fist or chest bumps,High fives, hugs, kisses, etc.
- Except as noted the two teams may share the outfield for pre-game warm ups provided physical distancing is maintained. Each team shall stay in the outfield area on its side of the field.
- Minimum physical distance of 2 metres at Home Plate meeting.
- Players responsibility to insure all Social distancing restrictions are adhered to.
- Player's, as in the regular rules of slo-pitch you are responsible for your actions. There are various rules in the rule book that hold you the player responsible for your actions. As a player you need to insure the guidelines are adhered to.

Umpires

- Ball/Strike umpire to work 2 metres behind the Catcher.
- Umpire(s) will not hold game balls, if the Umpire touches a ball sanitizer is recommended.
- Umpires may wear PPE masks at their discretion.
- The umpires will give one warning if the guidelines are being broken. If it continues to be an issue, the umpire call the game and immediately leave the playing field. Please review rules / guidelines during the plate conference.

Score Keepers:

- Should always work from a restricted area and a safe distance from others.

In-Game:

- Players shall not lick their fingers, blow on their hands or otherwise go to their mouth.
- Tag plays are allowed, but the defensive player should vacate the area as soon as reasonably practicable following the tag.
- Players must chase all foul balls, no other participants or spectators.
- All bats being moved out of harm's way during play must be handled by the barrel only.
- Defensive teams should not throw the ball around the infield after out.

Coaches:

- Team meetings, including pitching visits, shall maintain physical distance of minimum 2 meters.
- If a coach must approach an umpire, physical distancing of at least 2 metres must be maintained.
- While on offence, base coaches must always stay within their box, except to avoid a play being made in the coach's box. Any discussions between coaches and players (eg. batter visiting 3rd base coach; coach talking to runners, etc.) must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres.
- 1st and 3rd base coaches must wear a mask well coaching that base.
- Coaches as, in the regular rules of slo pitch, you are responsible for your players. There are various rules in the rule-book that holds both the player and the coaches responsible for the players actions. As a coach you need to insure the guidelines are adhered to.

Enforcement :

It is the expectation of Clarington Slo-pitch that all participants, volunteers, and directors will respect these protocols and adhere to them not only for their own safety, but for the safety of all participants. Failure to abide by these rules will come with repercussions. Enforcement should be by way of a warning against the violators and then a request to leave the in-person activity in the case of repeated violation. Intentional violations of these protocols by individuals will result in disciplinary action, up to and including, suspensions.