



**MSBA COVID-19
Return-To-Play (RTP) Guidelines Implementation**

July 1, 2020

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Introduction

Baseball Ontario remains committed to the safety of the baseball community in Ontario. While we are anxious for the return of our game, reopening baseball must take place within the context of the general reopening from COVID-19 closures occurring within the province. While we love baseball, the health and welfare of our participants must not be compromised. This document, as it may be updated from time to time, provides guidance on how baseball can return when it is deemed safe to do so by the Province of Ontario, municipal governments, and public health authorities. The principal purpose of this document is to provide a required framework and general recommendations to the Baseball Ontario community, during the global COVID-19 pandemic, for the safe return to baseball. The framework in this document is subject to all provincial emergency orders, advice and recommendations of public health authorities, municipal by-laws or other requirements, and requirements of facility owners. To the extent of any conflict between this framework and these other requirements, these other requirements prevail over the framework. This document will be periodically updated as the provincial situation, recommendations and guidelines continue to evolve. As revisions are made, the most current version of the document will be located on the Baseball Ontario website and membership will be advised through Baseball Ontario's weekly Inside Pitch, its OnDeck app and through its social media channels. As updated from time to time, this document shall remain in full force and effect until such time as Baseball Ontario's Board of Management rescinds its provisions.

Who should read this document?

All participants (players, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers) and their parents/guardians in the case of minors should familiarize themselves with the requirements and recommendations contained in this document prior to their return to baseball (training and competition) activities. Local Associations, Affiliated Associations, Select Loops and Select Associations, their respective teams and any other group or teams insured through Baseball Ontario ("Member Organizations") must use and follow this framework to establish minimum standards and protocols for return to baseball (training and competition) within their own jurisdiction. Member Organizations are strongly recommended to develop their own specific written policies and operating protocols and have them approved by their own board of directors. Such policies and protocols must be compliant with Baseball Ontario's guidelines together with municipal and provincial legislation and COVID-19 specific policies issued by government and local public health authorities. Changes to such legislation and policies should be monitored closely and the Member Organization's policies updated as required, ensuring that the Member Organization is applying the required standard of care and complying with local requirements. Member Organizations can supplement this framework with additional requirements for their own specific context but cannot lessen the requirements of this framework. Any Member Organization can, in its absolute discretion, determine that it is suspending or continuing to suspend its in-person baseball activities without sanction or penalty from Baseball Ontario.

Return-to-Play Minimum Criteria – Softball, T-Ball, and Baseball - What to Expect

Rep and House League Practices to commence July 11-20:

1. City park permits have been issued.
2. The MSBA Declaration of Compliance has been signed by one parent per player under the age of 18. Forms kept by responsible team designate.
3. The MSBA Declaration of Compliance has been signed by all players aged 18 or older. Forms kept by responsible team designate.
4. All applicable aspects of the MSBA Return to Play protocols have been deemed as being met or being able to be met.
5. Each division has met its minimum number of team requirements.

House League Softball and Baseball Games

1. Will only occur if Mississauga Public Health allows. Not allowed as of the time of this document edition.
2. City park permits have been issued.
3. If the City does not allow games to occur by July 27 for T-Ball and Rookie Ball, the T-Ball and Rookie Ball season only will be eliminated.
4. All aspects of the MSBA Return to Play protocols are being met.
5. Umpires are available.
6. The season will end on or before August 30, 2020.
7. There will be **NO TOURNAMENT** style playoff.
8. All games will be MSBA Intramural and be exhibition in nature. The city of Oakville has yet to determine whether they will have a season and therefor may participate in House League.
Estimated number of teams for each MSBA House League division will be as follows:
 - a. T-Ball – 3 - 4
 - b. Rookie Ball – 4
 - c. Tyke – 4
 - d. Peewee – 6
 - e. Bantam – 4
 - f. Midget – 2
 - g. Softball U14 – 1
 - h. Softball U16 – 1

Rep Softball and Baseball Games

1. Will only occur if Mississauga Public Health allows.
2. City park permits have been issued.
3. All aspects of the MSBA Return to Play protocols are being met.
4. Umpires are available.

5. The season will end on or before September 15, 2020.
6. There will be **NO TOURNAMENT** style playoff.
7. All games will be MSBA Intramural and be exhibition in nature. The city of Oakville has yet to determine whether they will have a season and therefore may participate in House League.

Estimated number of teams:

- a. Softball – 4
- b. Baseball - 16

Recommended Standards

The following documents will be placed on our MSBA website's COVID-19 resource page for use and reference by all players, coaches, parents, umpires, and volunteers:

1. The MSBA Return-to-Play Guidelines.
2. The MSBA Return-to-Play Guidelines Implementation Plan.
3. Current MSBA letter from MSBA President Dave Huctwith.
4. MSBA Declaration of Compliance
5. OnDeck App instructions.
6. Baseball Ontario member checklist.
7. Baseball Ontario Coach's checklist.
8. Baseball Ontario Parent/Spectator checklist.
9. Practice/Game Attendance Form
10. 2020 fee structure

Practice/Game Attendance

- Softball Rep – team managers ensure completion. Janet Gray-Baker will oversee.
- Softball HL – Jeff Saracini will assign a parent for 2 House League teams to ensure compliance. Janet Gray-Baker will oversee.
- Baseball Rep – team managers ensure compliance. Mike Grove will oversee.
- Baseball HL – goal - coaches/team parent ensure compliance. Mike Grove will oversee
- T-Ball – goal - coaches/team parent ensure compliance. Mike Grove will oversee.

Health and Safety Supplies

MSBA will provide each rep and house league team with an initial amount of hand sanitizer, wipes, gloves, and microfibre cloths. The budget will be \$350 per team. A committee has been established to manage this process.

2020 Season Fees

MSBA 2020 Season fees for all rep and house league teams are posted separately on the COVID-19 Resource page of our MSBA website.

Registrations

MSBA's Registrar will send all paid and waiting list House League registrants the Board-approved 2020 season fee structure and link to COVID-19 MSBA tab. MSBA's Registrar will direct each registrant to decide and reply back by July 7 from the list of options below:

1. Choosing one of the fee options listed and being reimbursed for the outstanding amount.
2. Having their full paid 2020 registration fee used as a credit for the planned 2021 season.
3. A full refund.

Diamonds

Diamond schedules will be distributed to rep and house league VPs by July 6 who will then send this information to the respective coaches.

Equipment, Uniforms, Batting Cages, and Team Pictures

Equipment

All rep and house league equipment will be distributed by MSBA VPs to all coaches on or before July 11.

Uniforms

All rep and house league uniforms will be distributed by the respective MSBA VPs on or before the start of games, should they occur.

MSBA Batting Cages

At this time, MSBA will not be operating its batting cage. With Board approval later in the summer, coaches will be advised should this change.

Team Pictures

MSBA produced team pictures will not be available for the 2020 season.

Umpires - Baseball

MSBA's Co-Umpires-In-Chief will ensure that our umpires have been trained on MSBA Return-to-Play protocols prior to the commencement of games, should they occur.

Umpires - Softball

MSBA's VP, Softball will ensure that our umpires have been trained on MSBA and Softball Ontario Return-to-Play protocols prior to the commencement of games, should they occur.

Parent Liaison (PL)

- MSBA's Parent Liaison Chair will email all PLs on or before July 2. PLs will be sent all documents listed on MSBA COVID19 page.
- PL meeting will be held July 9 to review documents. PLs will be MSBA's point-of-contact for all RTP questions to MSBA's PL Chair.

Coach Compliance 2020

MSBA Coach Compliance Chair Dean Correia will continue to ensure full compliance with its Coach Compliance Policy. Our Coach Compliance Policy applies to rep softball and baseball coaches. Due to the reduction of police vulnerable sector check services, those assistant and head coaches that do not have a valid Vulnerable Sector Check on file with MSBA must:

- 1) Coaches to use <https://www.sterlingbackcheck.ca/services/enhanced-police-information-check-e-pic/>
- 2) No VSC = not able to coach

MSBA Return-To-Play Guideline Enforcement

Coaches have the right to pull their team if non-compliance at any MSBA event by any attendee is consistent and/or endangers others. Umpires have the right to walk away from any MSBA event if non-compliance by any attendee is consistent and/or endangers others. Should a coach or umpire walk away from an event, an incident report must be filed with the respective division Vice President, Umpire-In-Chief, and Coach Compliance Chair.

Best Practices

The following, while not mandatory requirements, are suggested best practices or other considerations which Member Organizations and their teams should take into consideration with respect to in-person baseball activities:

- Run drills with players in groups of 3 to 4 (maintain groups intact throughout all practices to minimize number of interactions)
- Consider split squad practices with no physical cross-over between sessions
- Each player to have their own portable chair that is not shared
- Minimize number of coaches to maximize players
- Distribute practice plan to reduce the need for huddles / close communication
- Group rotation in one direction (i.e. clockwise around field)
- Use of protective gloves and personal face masks by all event personnel, participants (where feasible), and spectators.
- Use of physical barriers (e.g. Plexiglas) at points of interaction between event personnel and spectators (e.g. entry gate or ticket stand)
- Encourage good handwashing techniques - https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How_To_HandWash_Poster.pdf
- Encourage proper mask usage: How to wear a mask safely - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

Summary

Operational Element	MSBA	Players	Coaches	Parents	Umpires
RTP Resources and Documents	Resources placed on COVID19 website tab by July 2	View COVID19 website tab. Download relevant documents.	View COVID19 website tab. Download relevant documents	View COVID19 website tab. Download relevant documents	View COVID19 website tab. Download relevant documents
Health and Safety Supplies	MSBA purchases and distributes supplies before July 11	Receive supplies and use as per RTP guidelines	Receive supplies and use as per RTP guidelines	Receive supplies and use as per RTP guidelines	N/A
Registration	MSBA Registrar confirms registrations from July 2-7	Decide on registration option by July 7 and notify MSBA Registrar	N/A	Decide on registration option by July 7 and notify MSBA Registrar	N/A
Diamonds	MSBA to send schedule to rep and house league VPs by July 6	N/A	Receive diamond schedule from VPs by July 11	N/A	N/A
Equipment	MSBA to distribute equipment to coaches by July 11	Receive equipment by July 11	Receive equipment by July 11	N/A	N/A
Uniforms	MSBA to distribute on or before the start of games, should they occur.	Receive uniforms, should games occur	Receive uniforms, should games occur	N/A	N/A
Umpires	MSBA Co-Umpires-In-Chief review RTP guidelines with umpires, should games occur	N/A	N/A	N/A	Receive RTP guidelines training, should games occur
Parent Liaisons (PL)	MSBA PL Chair sends note by July 2. PL meeting July 9 to review RTP guidelines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Coach Compliance	MSBA Coach Compliance sends note to non-compliant Head Coaches by July 2. 2020 Compliance deadline is July 11	N/A	Ensure team coach compliance by July 11	N/A	N/A

