

Covid Protocols 2021

1. Screening. Prior to any game or practice all participants and spectators must complete the Covid screening form found on the MPBA web site> COVID SCREENING FORM. Note: Players, coaches, spectators from the same family can be listed on one form
2. General:
	1. Coaching staff will keep attendance for all practices and games for cross referencing.
	2. 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.
	3. MPBA will provide spray disinfectant for any shared equipment and hand sanitizer for players and officials. These mus be readily available on the bench.
	4. Maintain minimum of 2 metres distancing during physical activity, including warmups, pre-game and post-game activities, wherever possible.
	5. Use of dugouts should be avoided where safe physical distance cannot be maintained.
	6. Use as much space as required outside the dugout (but in safe areas outside of the field of play) to maintain adequate physical distance.
	7. Avoid congestion at points of entry to the diamond (i.e., gates, dugout doors, etc.) to allow maintenance of 2 metres distancing among participants.
	8. Spectators (as permitted by the local public health authorities) shall maintain physical distancing as required/recommended.
3. Hygiene:
	1. Clean hands at least every inning for games or every 30 minutes or after handling shared equipment at practices.
	2. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
	3. Sneeze and/or cough in a tissue or the internal crease of the elbow. Avoid contact of hands with personal respiratory points.
	4. All potentially infected waste shall be disposed of safely at the end of the in-person baseball activity.
4. Venues:
	1. Scheduling of diamonds must allow for a minimum of 30 minutes between the conclusion of the prior event and the start of the subsequent event.
	2. Participants, volunteers and spectators for a subsequent event shall remain in their motor vehicle in the parking lot until participants, volunteers and spectators from the prior event have returned to their motor vehicles.
	3. For games, both the home team and the visiting team are responsible for cleaning/sanitizing their dugout before and after games.
5. Spectators:
	1. If/when spectators are allowed, make sure to follow local authorities’ guidelines strictly.
	2. Ensure physical distance from participants and between spectators.
	3. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs for personal use or bring disinfectant wipes to clean the area where they sit.
	4. Spectators are encouraged not to wander to other areas of the park in which the diamond is located.
6. Practice
	1. Equipment: Sharing of equipment such as batting helmets, catchers’ masks, or other equipment should be avoided.
	2. 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.
	3. Equipment that must be shared must be cleaned/sanitized between players' use.
	4. PPE may be worn at the discretion of the participant (recommended that it not be white or grey).
	5. General equipment (e.g., L-screens, field maintenance equipment, bases) must be wiped down between groups if it must be shared.
	6. No spitting, including tobacco and other products.
	7. No sunflower seeds or chewing gum.
	8. No sharing of water/energy drink bottles or food
	9. No shared water jugs, coolers or drink dispensers
	10. No handshakes, fist or chest bumps, high fives, hugs, kisses, etc.
7. Games
	1. Pre-game:
		1. the two teams may share the field for pre-game warm up provided physical distancing is maintained.
		2. Each team shall stay in the outfield area on its side of the field. Hitting whiffle balls in the outfield is not considered BP for purposes of the following bullet point.
		3. Only one team shall be on the field at a time for BP (on the diamond), and Infield or infield/outfield practice.
	2. Game:
		1. No bat boys/girls shall be allowed.
		2. Apply hand sanitizer and/or wash hands upon conclusion of each half inning.
		3. Masks worn by pitchers, when they so choose, will be assessed as per existing rules regarding distracting colours, etc. (recommended that it not be white or grey). Rules of acceptable behaviour cannot be contravened.
		4. No sharing of catcher's masks in warming up pitchers. If no catcher's mask is readily available, warm up pitches may be thrown to a player/coach who is standing, but not squatting.
		5. A safety base may be used at first base. It is not mandatory to use it. The home team will determine if it is to be used for a particular game.
		6. At 8U/9U, the circle to be used around the pitching machine shall be a circle with 12' diameter instead of the 8' diameter circle specified in the 8U/9U rules.
		7. At 8U/9U, the offensive team coach feeding the pitching machine shall sanitize/clean their hands after every offensive inning.
		8. Players shall not lick their fingers, blow on their hands or otherwise go to their mouth.
		9. Tag plays are allowed, but the defensive player should vacate the area as soon as reasonably practicable following the tag. practicable following the tag.
		10. When first base is occupied, the defensive player at first base must wear a PPE mask if the runner is being closely guarded / held at the base.
	3. Umpires:
		1. Ball/Strike umpire:

 • May work from behind the catcher as long as he/she is wearing a PPE mask or face covering

• Must work 2 metres behind thepitcher if not wearing a PPE mask or face covering

* + 1. The use of hand sanitizer every half inning is required
		2. Umpires in the field may wear PPE masks at their discretion
	1. Score Keepers/Pitch Counters:
		1. Should always work from a restricted area and keep safe distance from others and from each other. If using a scorer's booth, it must be cleaned/sanitized before and after use.
		2. Avoid paper scoring/pitch counting when possible. Prioritize electronic scoring programs as alternative.
	2. Coaches:
		1. Team meetings, including pitching visits, shall maintain physical distance of minimum 2 metres. A maximum of 1 person (coach or player) and the pitcher may be included in a pitching visit.
		2. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (visor or mask, gloves) must be used by trainers (or persons performing trainer function) when assessing an injury.
		3. If a coach must approach an umpire, physical distancing of at least 2 metres must be maintained. Failure to do so may result in ejection.
		4. 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 (e.g., batter visiting 3rd base coach; coach talking to runners, etc.) must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres.
		5. Pitchers, catchers, spotters and bullpen coaches must always maintain a physical distance of 2 metres while pitchers are warming up in the bullpen.

Best Practices

1. Run drills with players in groups of 3 to 4 (maintain groups intact throughout all practices to minimize number of interactions)

2. Consider split squad practices with no physical cross-over between sessions.

3. Each player to have their own portable chair that is not shared.

4. Minimize number of coaches in order to maximize players.

5. Distribute practice plan in advance to reduce the need for huddles / close communication.

6. Group rotation in one direction (i.e., clockwise around field)

7. Use of protective gloves and personal face masks by all event personnel, participants (where feasible), and spectators.