



SWIFT CURRENT MINOR BASEBALL

Return to Train and Play Protocol

April 2021

Swift Current Minor Baseball (SCMB) is pleased to provide this protocol for approval so our players, coaches and support personnel can all get back onto the diamonds safely and in a timely fashion. In developing this plan SCMB used the Reopen Saskatchewan Plan and the Baseball SK Return to Train and Play document. We believe our Return to Train and Play Protocol is aligned with and meets the requirements of both these documents. The following provides direction and guidance for our organization as our Return to Train and Play Protocol:

Insurance, Waiver, and Registration

- SCMB is covered with Baseball SK insurance which is effective from April 1st of one year to the next. This insurance was NOT in effect during the emergency close down of the province. It should be noted that there is no Covid-19 specific coverage.
- A waiver will have to be signed by players indicating willingness to comply with guidelines and indicating awareness of Covid risks
- Parents/Guardians are expected to support SCMB and coaches in enforcing all Covid sanitization and behaviour outlined below
- Online registration is in place...payments and refunds are handled electronically

Phase 1 Return to Train

Personal Health and Hygiene

- If anyone becomes sick or feels ill, they should immediately stop participating and return home
- Anyone displaying ANY illness symptoms WILL NOT be allowed to participate
- All requirements in place for outdoor team sports, as dictated by the Sask Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan, in regard to the maximum number of people permitted in outdoor gatherings, physical distancing and other protective rules, shall be observed by Baseball SK, SCMB, and its membership.
- Anyone taking part in baseball shall observe proper hygienic practices while participating in any Baseball Sask and SCMB sanctioned events
- Anyone who has been in contact with someone who is sick or not feeling well should also consider not participating
- Ride Sharing is discouraged whenever possible



SWIFT CURRENT MINOR BASEBALL

- These activities shall not be permitted:
 - No sharing of water bottles or food of any kind
 - No spitting, snuff, chewing gum or sunflower seeds
 - No sharing of personal helmets
 - No sharing of catcher's gear unless disinfected between personal uses
 - No sharing of any other equipment unless disinfected between personal uses
 - No high fives, handshakes, etc.
 - No sharing of personal items like phones, wallets, etc.

PRACTICE

- Physical distancing must take place in and outside the dugout, including players and coaches. Areas will be marked. In most circumstances we will not be using our dugouts.
- All player bags should be spread along the fence line at 2m intervals
- All team meetings before, during or after the practice for coaching or teaching purposes shall respect physical distancing requirements
- No team huddles before, during or after the practice for coaching or teaching purposes
- If possible, players should bring their own hand sanitizer...other sanitizer will be available to disinfect equipment and objects
- All gear should be sanitized after each practice
- Bases and baseballs are to be disinfected after each session
- All commonly touched surfaces at the ballfield – benches, hooks on the back of the dugout, gates that are touched shall be disinfected at the end of each game/practice by the team using that area
- At any facility with more than one baseball field, each player, coach, official or person involved at a field must stay at the field where their practice is taking place.
- All participants to disinfect their equipment after each event
- Each field is considered one outdoor gathering, so long as people do not cross over into other fields
- All uniforms or clothing to be washed after each event
- For any baseball facilities that have bathrooms and/or canteens, both areas shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before each evening in use
- All drills to be created and implemented ensuring social distancing requirements are met.
- Only 1 team to practice at a time. No joint practices.

Games

- There will be no games played during the Return to Train Phase.



SWIFT CURRENT MINOR BASEBALL

Facility Adaptations

- Outdoor hitting facilities can be used permitting providing social distancing requirements are adhered to
- No changing or dressing rooms permitted
- Covid-19 signage awareness and educating on social distancing measures in place should be present at every field and facility utilized
- All field prep equipment to be disinfected and cleaned after every use
- All fan seating shall be marked adhering with social distancing requirements
- Number of parents or fans attending (Including teams on the field) must not go above the current maximum outdoor social gathering limit... attendance shall be monitored
- No gathering around the park until your scheduled start time (please wait in your car)
- Athletes must leave the park immediately after the practice.

Phase 2 – Return to Play

- We await further direction from the province and will comply with those regulations
- All return to train protocols will remain in place with the following additions for games:
 - There will be no tournaments or out of province travel until further notice
 - No plate meetings pre-game for lineup exchanges
 - No team huddles before, during or after the game for coaching or teaching purposes
 - Mound visits are permitted between the coach, pitcher, and catcher. 2 meters physical distancing must be adhered to between all three individuals
 - No arguing with umpires within social distancing minimum requirements. Any instances to be met with a suspension for the remainder of the year
 - No post game handshakes
 - All players to sanitize their hands when returning to the dugout from the field, after each at bat and as required
- Umpire Considerations:
 - Bring your own water and hand sanitizer (should they forget sanitizer, kindly ask home team coach to use some of theirs if possible)
 - Recommended to wear a mask and properly use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the game
 - Plate Umpire is permitted to work behind the catcher, avoiding any contact with the catcher. However, should they feel more comfortable social distancing, they can choose to call balls and strikes behind the pitching mound
 - Limit the handling of baseballs, line up cards
 - Ensure proper Social distancing (6ft) is followed when possible
 - Ensure baseballs were sanitized by home team prior to the start of each competition



SWIFT CURRENT MINOR BASEBALL

- Groundskeeping & Maintenance
 - Minimize the number of maintenance personnel working on the field at one time. Consider splitting the crew into two teams that do not work at the same time
 - Always maintain physical distancing guidelines
 - Assign staff equipment to avoid sharing between employees
 - Stagger work hours and break hours and limit access to lunchrooms or workstations
 - Place hand sanitizer throughout maintenance area and access to hand washing stations
 - Regularly sanitize any surface that is contacted – common areas
 - If equipment (including mowers) must be shared, they must be sanitized before being used by another employee

In Conclusion

We look forward to returning back on the baseball diamond soon. If there are any questions or concerns please contact us at SCMB, c/o President Kyle McIntyre or Treasurer Liam Choo-Foo.