

Baseball PEI

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2020 Baseball PEI 8U Guidelines

***Please note, these Guidelines are subject to change to any time, due to order by the Chief Public Health Office of Prince Edward Island and/or the Government of Prince Edward Island**

Foundational

- All requirements in place for outdoor team sports, as dictated by the Chief Public Health Office of Prince Edward Island, in regards to the maximum number of people permitted in outdoor gatherings, physical distancing and other protective rules, shall be observed by Baseball PEI and its membership.
- Anyone taking part in baseball on PEI shall observe proper hygienic practices while participating in any Baseball PEI-sanctioned activity.
- Anyone displaying **ANY** illness symptoms **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.
- Anyone who has been in contact with someone who is sick or not feeling well should also consider not participating.
- These activities shall not be permitted:
 - No sharing of water bottles or food of any kind.
 - No spitting, chewing gum, sunflower seeds or putting fingers/hands on/around a mouth or face.
 - 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.
- Ride-sharing should be discouraged whenever possible.
- All participants shall disinfect their equipment and all uniforms or clothing shall be washed after each event.
- All participants should bathe/shower at the first opportunity after each event.
- No sharing of personal items like phones, wallets, et cetera.
- 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.
- Physical distancing must take place in and outside the dugout, including players and coaches. Therefore, there can only be as many people in a dugout at one time as is permitted by physical distancing.
 - For example, if a dugout is twenty feet long, there could be no more than four people in the dugout at once, and each person must stay at least six feet away from other people.
- Either each player/coach should have their own hand sanitizer or the team should have hand sanitizer available to all players/coaches to use throughout the game/practice.
- All gear should be sanitized after each game/practice.
- All team meetings before, during or after the game/practice for coaching or teaching purposes shall respect physical distancing requirements.
- Each team shall keep a log of all players, coaches and other people connected with their team at the field for every game/practice/function they have during the season. This information shall be kept for at least one (1) month for purposes of contact tracing.

Suggestions for Associations

- For any baseball facilities that have bathrooms and/or canteens, both areas shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before each evening in use. If these areas are being used for an entire day, these areas also should be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day as well.



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- At any facility with more than one baseball field, each player, coach, official or person involved at a field must stay at the field their game/practice is taking place. They cannot go over to the other field(s) and watch as they may contribute to the breaking of the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering. Each field is considered one outdoor gathering, so long as people do not cross over into other fields.
- For any facility with more than one baseball field, the local municipality, in conjunction with the minor baseball association using that facility, must have an operational plan submitted and approved by the Environmental Health division of the Department of Health and Wellness.
- It is advisable that for 8U programming, a lower number of players should be on the field for a session. If there are more than ten to fifteen children at one time, for example, it may be very difficult to keep physical distancing between the players and to ensure they follow the rules and modifications in place due to Covid-19.
- To help keep players focussed, observing physical distancing and the rules and modifications in place due to Covid-19, and to help keep gear separate and disinfected (if necessary), it may be advisable to have one parent/guardian on the field with each child during each 8U session. The parent/guardian can ensure their player follows the rules, modifications and physical distancing, assist the player with getting their gear when necessary, get overthrown baseballs, et cetera.
 - There should be no situations where a small group of coaches will face the difficult task of both leading 8U sessions and ensuring players are following physical distancing, rules, modifications, et cetera.
 - There should be special attention paid to ensure that the number of players, parents/guardians and coaches does not exceed the maximum number of people permitted in an outdoor gathering.

Rules for Parents /Things of Which to be Aware

- The reality is if the mass gathering maximum numbers are being exceeded, the CPHO may shut down all baseball. It is up to all of us participating to ensure this does not happen.
- If the session is not the first session of the day/evening played at a field, players/coaches shall not arrive at the field more than thirty minutes before their session, and after the session, they must be gone as soon as possible.
 - Players/coaches arriving for a session cannot go to the field until the players/coaches from the previous session have left the field.
- It should be noted, in all these guidelines, physical distancing guidelines shall be observed as much as possible and drills should be designed in mind to respect physical distancing. While it is acknowledged that it is difficult to get children 8-years-old or younger to physically distance from others, all efforts should be made to ensure all participants physically distance as much as possible. We would also ask parents to speak to their children before each session the importance of physical distancing and not putting their hands near their mouth, eyes and nose.

