

Joint Statement on Behalf of Brandon Valley Baseball Association and Brandon Valley Youth Softball Association

Our goal is to return to baseball and softball in a safe and controlled manner. This will in no way be baseball or softball like we have experienced in previous years. The following plan is a structured and safe compromise to allow us to return to a slightly modified baseball and softball game scenario. The guidelines are being monitored closely and are enforced by your peers. We need 100% compliance to continue to provide a safe baseball and softball experience for everyone. Failure to adhere to these rules result in numerous emails and phone calls to unpaid Brandon Valley Baseball Association, Brandon Valley Youth Softball volunteers or City of Brandon employees which will put summer baseball and softball at risk, so please do your part to help us return to play. This is ultimately going to come down to responsibility and respect from both our families, players and spectators. Please know that city officials, along with baseball and softball board members will be endorsing this plan and have the authority to remove Parents, Coaches, Players and Fans from the game and park who do not comply.

Return to Play Play

If and Coaches, Players, Fans or Family Members are sick or experiencing any of the following symptoms or live with someone who is covid-19 positive, please remain at home!

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Unexplained Headache
- Vomiting and/or Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Please use judgment when bringing senior citizens and others with health issues to the games.

Phase 1 (June 1 - June 14): Start Baseball/Softball Practices

1. Practices start while observing social distancing.
2. One team per field.
3. Stations at practice.
4. Split the team into small groups.
5. Maintain 6 ft social distancing practice everywhere on the fields.
6. Each player responsible for their own helmet, glove, water bottle, and bat. If bat is shared, sanitize between use.
7. No players may share equipment.
8. No dugout use at practice – hang bags on the fence – 6ft apart.
9. No treats and players must bring their own water bottle marked with their name.
10. Sunflower seeds and other items that require spitting shall be prohibited.
11. No spitting.
12. Maintain 6 foot spacing for team meetings and instruction.
13. Use of bathrooms are at your own risk. City employees will clean and sanitize daily but other than that they will not be cleaned by members from either board.
14. Please use judgment when bringing senior citizens and others with health issues to the games.
15. Practices are closed to the public. Parents and spectators are not allowed at practices or they must wait in their vehicles in the parking lot.

Phase 2 (June 15 – End of Season): League Games

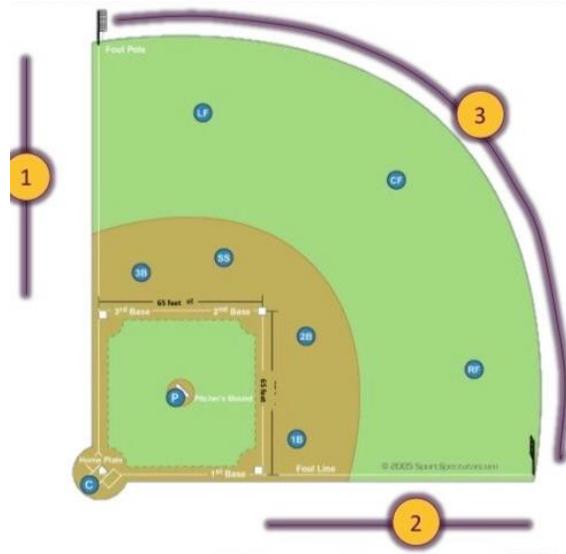
1. Games start while observing social distancing.
2. No limits on group size.
3. To keep exposure to a minimum, all game times will be 1.5 hours per game with 30 min in between games. 6:00 – 7:30 departing by 7:45 and 8:00-9:30 with arrival no earlier than 7:45. The exception to this is T-ball and Coach Pitch which softball manages; those games will be 45 minute game times with 30 minutes in between 6:00-6:45 and 7:15-8:00. **Potentially double headers.**
4. No player or coach may enter the dugout until the current team and equipment is out of the dugout and the benches are sanitized. The Second team utilizing the dugout will be responsible for sanitizing the benches.
5. No players may share equipment.
6. Each team will provide its own balls (supplied by the BVBA and BVYSA), which would be switched out each inning. Foul balls will only be retrieved by the team in the field.
7. Player and coaches must wash hands before and after each game. Hand Sanitizer will be provided by the BVBA and the BYSA/coaches and Players are encouraged to sanitize between innings.
8. No handshakes or fist bumps before or after the games. Please tip your hat to the opponents after the game.
9. Base coaches must maintain 6 ft distances and cannot touch a runner or player on or off the field.
10. Mound visits must maintain 6 ft distances.
11. Umpires will maintain 6 ft distances behind the pitching mound. Coaches must call the umpire to their dug out with all questions and remain 6ft away. Pre- game coin flips will be held with one coach per team and 1 umpire. Coaches and umpires should not shake hands or have any physical contact.
12. Catchers will be asked to maintain a reasonable safe distance. Catchers gear will be wiped down after use and before any catcher substitution.
13. No Catchers at the Rookies, Machine Pitch, T-ball or Coach Pitch levels. One catcher per game at the 8u and 10/12u level in softball and Minors and Intermediate levels in Baseball if using the leagues equipment. If a player has their own equipment, they will be allowed to catch, however, they will not be permitted to loan their gear to other players.
14. Use of bathrooms are at your own risk. City employees will clean and sanitize daily but other than that they will not be cleaned by members from either board.
15. No team water will be allowed. Players must bring their own water bottle marked with their name.

16. Sunflower seeds and other items that require spitting shall be prohibited.
17. No spitting.
18. Please use judgment when bringing senior citizens and others with health issues to the games.
19. Fans must stay outside the fence lines (along foul lines and in the outfield) while observing social distancing. The area from the dugouts to the backstop are for players only. Fans are not permitted in these areas. All bleachers will be closed for the 2020 season. Social distancing measures will be enforced at First Nation Bank Field Grandstand.
20. Fans must maintain social distancing of 6 ft at bathroom and concession areas. Fans are encouraged to bring and use hand sanitizers and disinfectants for their use while in public areas of the park.
21. No scoreboards in 2020 as controllers cannot be properly sanitized.
22. Crow's Nest is limited to one scoreboard operator and announcer or multiple if from the same family.
23. Players and coaches will only enter and exit the field through their dugout.
24. Each team may occupy a dugout

OR

No more than three to five individuals could be in the dugout at any given time and would have to maintain social distancing. Dugouts are extended from behind the dugout to the backstop for both teams to practice proper social distancing. Parents and spectators are not permitted to stand behind dugouts or are between dugouts and backstops.

Social Distancing The Fans



As part of our "Safe Play: Back to the Diamond" guidelines, **all fans would be required to watch the games in a physically distant manner** in the following areas of the field: (1) down the left field line, (2) down the right field line or (3) outside the outfield fence.

Fans and players will be required to enter the field area following a specified route and will be required to leave the playing area following a separate specified route. This will allow for a safe, responsible flow of "people traffic" when multiple games are being played on a field throughout the day.