

SOFTBALL ALBERTA RETURN TO PLAY 2021



EFFECTIVE JUNE 10, 2021

- **Youth and adult sports – resume with no restrictions, indoors and outdoors**

The Softball Alberta “Return to Play” is based on an overriding objective of providing an opportunity for as many participants to safely return to softball activities in 2021.

Government of Alberta requirements will take precedence over Softball Alberta requirements at all times.

Our guiding principles include the following:

1. **Distancing and masking requirements remain in effect.**
Mask as needed in areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained (ex. when not actively playing, washrooms, concession, spectating, etc.).
2. Players & coaches should be encouraged to monitor / screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice and play.
3. Minimal shared use of equipment.
4. Commonly touched equipment used for game play (e.g. game ball) should be routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
5. Spectators are directed to the baselines / outfield where they are advised to maintain physical distancing by household.
6. Spectators must stay out of designated areas for players and coaches.
7. Outdoor fixed seating facilities (bleachers) – 1/3 seated capacity or 150 people max per diamond for non-fixed seating. This number includes spectators, athletes, umpires and coaches. 2 metres of physical distancing must be maintained at all times and groups must remain within household.
8. All players and coaches should have their own water bottles/sports drink. Community water jugs or shared cups should not be used.
9. Coaches plate meeting: one coach allowed for each team and must maintain physical distancing.
10. Conferences should be allowed at the pitching area only with the coach and pitcher/catcher while maintaining proper physical distancing.
11. No player should lick their fingers during softball activities. No shaking hands, high-fives, etc.
12. Participants must not compete if they are feeling unwell.
13. Contact information of the coaches, officials and players should be recorded by the home team and maintained in order to assist with AHS contact tracing if necessary.

TOURNAMENTS

- Participants are to follow any Facility/Municipality Protocols in place.
- Game times should be staggered to ensure there is an unencumbered pathway to enter and exit the facility.
- The hosting club will have diamonds set up under the park/venue and diamond preparation, and it will be the responsibility of the host to communicate with visiting teams about any protocols to be followed at each specific park or facility.
- AHS guidelines of 150 maximum people per diamond or 1/3 bleacher capacity. This number includes spectators, athletes, umpires and coaches. 2 metres of physical distancing must be maintained at all times and groups must remain within household.
- **Please Note: these guidelines may be updated should circumstances change or should relevant guidelines and AHS orders be revised.**