



## **Update on 2020 Baseball Sask Season**

Now that we have been given the go-ahead from the Government to begin Phase 1 – Return to Train from the 2020 Baseball Sask Return to Train and Play Protocol, I wanted to give all of our Membership base some important information that you will require to prepare.

### **Return to Train and Play Protocol**

Although the Government has set the date of June 22, each Minor Ball Club will need to contact and receive approval first from their Municipality before getting on the diamonds and parks.

Please note that this only opens up Phase 1 – Return to Train of the Baseball Sask Return to Train and Play Protocol. This will allow members to practice, train, hold registration and evaluate players for Team selection.

Baseball Sask will make an announcement sometime next week regarding the official date for Phase 2 – Return to Play from our Return to Train and Play Protocol. No games shall be played prior to that date.

### **[Baseball Sask Return to Train and Play Protocol](#)**

### **Membership Acknowledgement and Waiver**

All members will be required to sign off on the 2020 Baseball Sask Registration Acknowledgement Waiver in order to participate this season. This will need to be sign before stepping foot on a baseball diamond.

This Waiver was emailed to all members in the RAMP Online Membership System on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are not yet registered in RAMP, you will need to sign it when you register.

### **[2020 Baseball Sask Registration Acknowledgement \(Waiver\)](#)**

## Checklists and Ball Park Signage

Baseball Sask has created the following checklists for Coaches, Players, Parents/Spectators and Ball Park Maintenance Personnel to give them all an idea of what responsibilities they will have in order to allow the Return to Train Phase to be a success.

Also created are a series of signs that can be printed off, laminated and put up at your local ball diamonds to help communicate the requirements. These include the following:

- Social Distancing
- No Spitting
- Hand Sanitization
- Wash Your Hands
- Self-Screening
- No Garbage Cans
- No Players Beyond This Point

All of these Checklists and Signs can be found at the following link from our website:

[Checklists and Ball Park Signage](#)

## Membership Registration Deadline and Insurance

Due to the late start to the 2020 Baseball Season, the Membership Registration Deadline will now be **Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**. This will enable plenty of time for our members to complete their registration if they have not done so yet.

All Players, Coaches, Managers and Executive will need to be added on our RAMP Online Membership System.

*NOTE: If your registered any members over the past couple months for the 2020 Season and they have made the decision not to play due to the late start, you will need to **DELETE THESE MEMBERS FROM YOUR RAMP SYSTEM** or they will be invoiced to your Minor Ball Club for 2020 Baseball Sask Fees.*

Insurance will once again be provided to all Active and Affiliate Members as long as they are registered on Ramp and their Minor Ball Club has paid their annual membership fees to Baseball Sask.

NOTE: By point of reminder, no insurance coverage is provided for any claim related to COVID-19 at present as suggested by Baseball Sask Insurer AON and their underwriter, Markel Canada.

### **2020 Membership Registration Fees Decreased**

Our Board of Governors have approved a Motion to decrease the Membership Fees for all Active Members to \$15 each (originally \$25). This will include all players, coaches, managers and executive. With the shortened season we wanted to make it more affordable to our membership. (Senior Non-Competitive and Affiliate Members fees remain at \$5).

### **2020 Provincial Championships Cancelled**

The Baseball Sask Board of Governors made the extremely tough decision to cancel all 2020 Provincial Championships. This decision was not made lightly as it was a topic of discussion for many weeks. We were holding out hope, however, seeing that even though Phase 4.1 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan opens on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Government of Saskatchewan remains to state that no tournaments are allowed. It was not fair to our current and future Host sites to plan adequately.

We also carry the responsibility to look out for the health and safety of our members. Provincial Championships bring with them mass gatherings from different teams from all over Saskatchewan. We cannot estimate what the allowable outdoor maximum gathering limit will be for late August. Due to this, we cannot guarantee that our Championships would even be approved by the Government of Saskatchewan at that time.

We have heard from many of our members who have stated that their main area of focus will simply be to provide some type of a local baseball season for their teams and leagues. We want to give them the ability to do just that and not worry about being done prior to Provincials.

We sincerely thank all of our communities that were prepared to Host a Championship. You will all be given the right of first refusal to host these again in 2021.

In conclusion, we realize that there are members who will be very disappointed with this decision and we fully understand that. We appreciate your love and dedication to our great game. Unfortunately, with so many unknowns in such a fluid situation, we have made this difficult decision.

### **Membership Assistance Program Funding**

Baseball teams and associations registered with Baseball Sask are eligible to apply for grant money through the Membership Assistance Program (MAP). The MAP program allows the Baseball Sask to support our members by providing direct financial assistance to benefit sport development at the club and community levels. MAP is funded by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund through the proceeds of lottery ticket sales in Saskatchewan.

The deadline to apply for MAP is **August 1st (for 2020 ONLY due to Covid-19. July 1st every other year)**. Applications received by this date will be reviewed in late August and applicants notified soon thereafter. In the event there is MAP funding remaining after the first wave of applications have been reviewed and approved, a second round of applications may be considered.

Details on how you can learn more about eligible Projects and Application Process can be found in the link below:

[\*\*MAP Criteria and Application Process\*\*](#)

### **Online NCCP Coaching Modules**

These past couple of months have been truly surreal and something that many of us have never experienced before. With that in mind, Baseball Sask is continuing to offer our members programming to enhance their baseball knowledge as well as allow them the ability to receive NCCP certification.

With social distancing & isolation in mind, Baseball Sask has been working hard at adapting programming to service members, and Coach Training is no exception. Still wanting to meet the needs of associations & their coaches, we have found a way to offer the same NCCP training. Rather than in person clinics during this time, the same training will be facilitated ONLINE. We have trained Saskatchewan Coach Developers to facilitate this training on-line. We are confident that coaches will gain the same knowledge & training as in person, & of course, the same credit will be granted.

For more information on upcoming NCCP Modules see link below:

[\*\*2020 NCCP Online Module Registration\*\*](#)

### **Online Umpire Clinics**

Please see below for important information regarding the registration and training of umpires for the 2020 baseball season.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we will be holding our Umpire Clinics ONLINE.

[\*\*Online Umpire Clinic Registration Process\*\*](#)

## **National #PlayCatch Week – June 21-27**

Beginning the week of Father's Day, National Play Catch Week encourages everyone to pick up a ball, grab a buddy and head out to the nearest park or green space and #PlayCatch!

Whether you dig up an old pigskin, softball or baseball, get out there and #PlayCatch. There's always someone yearning to learn and another who needs to loosen up an underused shoulder and show off – pass along – those old skills. Can you still throw a spiral? Does your two-seam fastball still move like it used to?

Don't worry about the fancy stuff. Dust off the gear and start at the beginning. Playing catch is an excellent way to burn off some energy while spending time with family, friends, and coworkers. A ball doesn't take much space, doesn't need fancy electronics and it doesn't tell you to work harder. In fact, the only thing you have to do is keep your eye on the ball.

That's easy enough to do while carrying on a conversation with a son or daughter, father, mother, friend, or even a stranger who chooses to receive your wild pitch. The fun that ensues during National Play Catch Week could create a lasting routine.

### **HOW TO OBSERVE**

It's simple. You. Ball. Someone to play catch with. Repeat! What more could you ask for during a beautiful week in June than to spend time with someone, getting fresh air, and exercise all at the same time? Capture the moment and use #PlayCatch to share on social media.

### **HISTORY**

The Play Catch Foundation founded National Play Catch Week the Third Week in June to bring awareness to the benefits of playing catch with people. Rhett Grametbauer with Foam Finger Nation has played catch with people all around the country and attests to the joys it brings through his book and film. Both can be found at [www.RhettGrametbauer.com](http://www.RhettGrametbauer.com). The Registrar at National Day Calendar proclaimed National Play Catch Week to be observed the Third Week in June beginning in 2018.

