



BRITISH COLUMBIA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Providing Canadian Youth Baseball Program Since 1963
Rally Cap-9u-11U-13U-15U-18U-CollegePrep-JuniorMens-
Girls Baseball-Blastball-Challenger Baseball
www.bcminorbaseball.org

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Presidents,

Reference is made to our minutes from last two BCMBA Board of Director's meetings and more particularly to the messaging around the Return to Play (RTP) guidelines established under Phase 2 of Baseball BC's RTP guidelines (dated June 15th).

Based on RTP information provided to date by participating member Associations, and our own support and monitoring, BCMBA believes that we have a good grasp of the overall baseball programming being offered under Baseball BC's RTP Phase 2 guidelines which have now been in place since mid-June.

As such, BCMBA would like to acknowledge and thank those member Associations that have undertaken active "traditional" programming, provided member Association affiliation information and fees in addition to creating and posting of their RTP safety plan, guidelines and protocols as required.

We, BCMBA, also recognize that for various reasons that some member Associations, not running at "full" membership during these COVID-19 times, may be offering limited programming or offering skills only with no programming while not affiliating with BCMBA this year. The issue here would be "Risk" and/or "injury" as not being affiliated leaves players and coaches with no insurance. They may also be subject to being left out from current and future cohorts (Phase 3 effective August 28th) and will have to start their RTP programming from the beginning.

Associations offering programming have slowly moved through progressive programming steps in Phase 2 such as: 10 player/2coach practice only, then full team practice only. In July teams were allowed under Phase 2 to play within a Local Sports Organization ("LSO") and effective August 8th teams were allowed to play in three (3) team cohort bubbles with adjoining LSO's. Now, effective tomorrow Friday, August 28th Baseball BC and members will move to Phase 3 of the Return to Play guidelines. Event participation still remains at no more than 50 people (includes players, spectators, umpires, etc.), but player cohort expands to 100 players for example. Please refer to Baseball BC's updated guidelines and protocols dated August 25th on their website <https://www.baseball.bc.ca/>

All of these small steps within Phase 2 are about safety of the baseball community and their families while allowing for a slow expansion of programming for members under the current RTP guidelines and protocols.



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As BCMBA members prepare to move to Baseball BC's Phase 3 effective August 28th and the Fall Ball programming season (traditionally after the Labour Day long weekend) in the coming weeks we may recommend all member Association programming restart at Phase 2 to familiarize and practice their RTP safety guidelines and protocols or wait until Fall Ball and even 2021 to resume play.

BCMBA's Risk Management Committee with the support of the Board of Directors and Baseball BC highly recommend that all associations begin with Baseball BC's RTP Phase 2 (dated June 15th) restrictions, participant numbers, equipment & activity/competition protocols when your association programming resumes whether it be in Fall of 2020 or waiting until 2021 spring.

- Player affiliation forms and payment for those players not currently registered to ensure insurance for members is active
- Ensure your association has developed and posted its own RTP safety plan, protocols and guidelines if not done so already
 - All associations to begin at Phase 2 of Baseball BC's RTP plan (dated June 15th) this is regardless of where Baseball BC is in RTP Phases
 - Association members to safety guidelines and protocols in advance team game play
 - Maintain contact tracing forms as per Baseball BC's Phase 2 guidelines

In the end, this is about member safety for all volunteers, coaches, parents, players and extended family. BCMBA has a belief of all members familiarize and practice safety protocols especially given the limited programming that is offered my most no matter where Baseball BC is at in regards to RTP Phases. We do not know how long safety measures will be in place given this pandemic has recently seen an uptick in cases.

Also noted in the BCMBA board meeting minutes recently, there have been two separate baseball COVID-19 related incidents, luckily both members tested negative. Given the local association safety protocols and guidelines they were prepared and acted swiftly on behalf of the members to ensure the safety within that team's "bubble".

BCMBA acknowledges and appreciates the amount of work that goes into getting players onto the field safely. We are here to support all member associations in regards to developing, familiarizing and practicing all safety guidelines and protocols with the priority of keeping our members as safe as possible...this starts with Baseball BC's RTP guidelines as set out in Phase 2.