

## BC Minor March 2021 Update

As the start of the spring season is generally April each year, baseball is moving into a not-so-traditional year of programming. BC Minor Baseball's hope that your association has been reading our monthly meeting minute reports along with what has also been communicated by Baseball BC (with the last update being March 1<sup>st</sup>).

Baseball within the province is currently at Phase 2 Stage 1. This is team practice only as per Baseball BC's RTP guidelines. As a reminder, your own association's internal safety protocols should be posted on your website for public viewing. Currently, within this stage, there is no gameplay or inter-squad games permitted.

BCMBA is expecting another update from the Ministry of Health sometime in April. Any updates from there will go through ViaSport to Baseball BC and then onto all organizations in the province as to possible "next steps."

The next stages within Phase 2 can be tricky. BCMBA has found with recent Regional Workshop and Single Season virtual meetings that there is much misunderstanding (messaging filtering down to coaches, for example) in what is currently allowed and what is not allowed. BCMBA is here to assist all members in understanding each step along the way to keep our sports membership safe.

As association members possibly move through each phase and stage, BCMBA wants to ensure that everyone is on the same page as to what is and is not allowed. Attached is the Baseball BC March 1<sup>st</sup> RTP update. There are no firm dates of moving to any possible stages or phases.

Moving to Phase 2, Stage 2 is "modified, and in-club play is permitted." **Only** gameplay within your association is permitted. Games are permitted at all levels within your association (generally, your 5U to 11U is in-house only). For older divisions that have various tiers within, they **cannot** play each other. That means, for example, 13U A cannot play 13U AA, 15U AA cannot play 15U AAA, 18U AAA cannot play CP, etc. etc. There are no exceptions to this. Also, this puts associations with one team at a particular level in a standby mode.

Associations with one team at a particular level that they cannot play any games until Phase 2 Stage 3. At that time, they will only be allowed to play **one** team from a neighbouring association with **one** team at that same level. For example, if you have only one 13U AA team, you cannot play any games until this stage as per Baseball BC's guidelines. Associations with one team cannot play a neighbouring association with multiple teams at the same level. There are no exceptions to this.

Phase 3 under Baseball BC's guideline is where teams can move into cohort groups of 100 or fewer players. Similar to what occurred towards the end of Summer and Fall in 2020 prior to baseball being rolled back to Phase 2 Stage 1 over the winter.

BCMBA's "ask" of associations is to provide team declarations for each level on the provided spreadsheet. From this, BCMBA will have an idea for what possible external cohorts may look like (traditional-sized Interlocks may already be this size, some may not). We will not schedule games for any non-single season divisions. What our concern is that teams will play in cohorts that could be too large

or outside of one without knowing the guidelines, therefore, possibly expanding them and putting others at risk.

There are no timelines for Phases. There are no timelines for possible summer baseball. There is a lot of trickle-down information that starts with Baseball Canada that we are still awaiting regarding the sport itself outside of our own sport's safety guidelines.

BC Minor Baseball is ever hopeful we can have every association's cooperation with this request. BCMBA's priority is getting our youth athletes back on the field in a safe manner through each stage. We have noted in our meeting minutes 2021 will not be a normal year, but it is truly important to get kids back on the field participating in our sport.

Suppose you could please provide the requested information back to BCMBA [riskmanagement@bcminorbaseball.org](mailto:riskmanagement@bcminorbaseball.org) by no later than Sunday, March 28, 2021. BC Minor Baseball will work with every association to ensure all members are on the same page and work together to get programming restarted safely!

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