



## **ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION SAFETY/RISKMANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Baseball Ontario undertakes to reduce reasonably the risk of personal injury and damage from baseball activities to players, coaches, umpires, third parties and facilities.

To accomplish this, Baseball Ontario shall:

1. Continue to initiate and update a plan of action to protect this Association and its members.
2. Maintain a reporting process of any injuries sustained in connection with baseball activities.
3. Review all reports of injuries and ascertain whether or not rule changes are required that will reduce the risk of an injury.
4. Review and update a Safety/Risk Management Program.
5. Suggest minimum standards for recommendation to municipalities for playing facilities to be used by its members.
6. Annually review its constitution and where required bring forth amendments to adopt Safety/Risk Management Program initiatives.
7. Where conflict exists, identify how the conflict may be resolved for the protection of Baseball Ontario and its members.
8. Maintain a Safety/Risk Management Committee to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the Safety/Risk Management Program to ensure that the objectives of such program are met.
9. Develop Safety/Risk Management materials as resource materials for its members.
10. Endeavor to increase the awareness of its members to Safety/Risk Management issues.
11. Maintain a liability and accident coverage insurance program.
12. Monitor and report to its members claims under such liability and accident coverage insurance program.
13. Evaluate risk in regard to facilities, protective equipment and individuals.

### **Purpose and Objectives**

1. To provide a safer sport environment and reduce frequency and severity of injuries for all participants in baseball activities throughout Ontario.
2. To demonstrate to the public a commitment to safety guidelines for all participants.
3. To assist in the establishment of minimum educational standards for coaches and other team officials, thereby enhancing public credibility.
4. To provide a framework for program and facility evaluation, with proper record keeping and defense in case of litigation.
5. To identify risk areas, develop risk management techniques and evaluate such risk management techniques on regular basis.

## **Action Plan**

- ❖ Review application forms for OBA play-offs, tournaments, elimination tournaments and clinics to ensure appropriate reporting procedures exist for:
  - Infractions committed by any team personnel
  - Umpires reports
  - Injuries sustained in baseball activities
  - Medial attention provided as a result of such injuries
  - Risks to which persons are exposed as a result of condition of facilities, including:
    - Description of risk
    - Recommended action to address
  - Availability of first-aid and emergency services
- ❖ Provide articles regarding Safety/Risk Management issues.
- ❖ On request, assist local associations, which are having difficulty upgrading to appropriate safety standards facilities in their community, in lobbying their municipality
- ❖ Organize seminar on Safety/Risk Management for Annual Meeting
- ❖ Maintain an active Safety/Risk Management Committee
- ❖ Identify and assemble resource material

### **Safety/Risk Management Implications to Members**

The Baseball Ontario Safety/Risk Management Program will only be successful if instilled in each of Baseball Ontario's members. The following outlines the expectations in this regard to the following classes of members:

#### **Players:**

1. Players should be physically and emotionally fit, use appropriate equipment and understand and respect all safety regulations.
2. Players should engage in proper warm-up exercises to reduce the risk of injury.
3. Players should inform their team officials with respect to all injuries incurred while playing or participating in baseball activities or which may affect their capacity to participate in baseball activities.
4. Players should inform their team officials of any medical problems they may have and the treatment of same should that be required, including in particular any medication allergies.
5. Players should conduct themselves in a manner not to endanger the safety of players, coaches, umpires, spectators and others.

#### **Coaches (including managers and players acting as coaches):**

1. Coaches should ensure that the playing facilities are free from foreign objects or other perils which may cause injury to participants.
2. Coaches should determine if any player has any health problem and exercise appropriate discretion in whether such player should participate or continue to participate in any baseball activity.
3. Coaches should ensure that all players wear appropriate safety equipment.
4. Coaches are encouraged to be trained in first-aid practices or to identify other persons association with their team who are qualified to administer first-aid.
5. Coaches are encouraged to be NCCP certified.

#### **Umpires:**

1. Umpires should have a working knowledge of baseball safety regulations, including those related to the wearing of protective equipment, and ensure that such regulations are enforced.

2. Umpires should ensure that the playing facilities are free from foreign objects or other perils which may cause injury to participants.
3. Umpires are encouraged to be trained in first-aid practices.
4. Umpires should wear proper equipment and should inspect and maintain such equipment regularly.
5. Umpires should report safety infractions and misconduct of participants.

**Conveners:**

1. Conveners should have a working knowledge of baseball safety regulations, including those related to the wearing of protective equipment, and ensure that such regulations are enforced.
2. Conveners are encouraged to be trained in first-aid practices.

**Spectators:**

1. Spectators should remain removed from the playing surface so as to minimize the possibility of being injured by balls, bats participants, etc.

**Directors:**

1. Directors are responsible for the management of the OBA and should supervise management staff, provide guidance and policy development and acquire an adequate knowledge and understanding of the OBA's affairs.
2. Directors should act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the OBA.
3. Directors should be loyal to the OBA including, where necessary, subordinating personal interests to those of the OBA and avoiding conflicts of interest.
4. Directors should be sensitive to the limits of their legitimate authority within the OBA's constitutional framework.
5. Directors should become acquainted with all aspects of the OBA.
6. Directors should attend meetings of the Board and should inquire as to what transpired at meetings where they are unable to attend.
7. Where the Board itself lacks certain expertise, Directors should retain the services of experts where required.
8. Directors should use their own specific skills and expertise in the carrying out of their duties.
9. Directors should exercise sound and practical judgment and should be cautious and discreet in conduct.

**Terms of Reference For Safety/Risk Management Committee**

1. The Committee shall consist of at least four representatives of Baseball Ontario.
2. Committee meetings shall be held regularly throughout the year.
3. The Committee shall provide a written report to the Board of Directors on an annual basis outlining its objectives, accomplishments, concerns and issues. A brief review of risk management and safety topics shall be scheduled for each Board meeting.
4. The Committee shall identify and assemble resource materials to be made available to members.
5. The Committee shall provide ad hoc advice to participants, coaches and officials on Safety/Risk Management matters. Where research is required, the Committee shall conduct such research and provide such advice in a timely manner.
6. The Committee shall develop effective communication procedures.
7. The Committee shall monitor the effectiveness of the OBA's Safety/Risk Management Program.
8. The Committee will be responsible for dealing with immediate concerns in Safety/Risk Management but equally importantly will develop and maintain long term plans and processes.
9. The Committee shall recommend to the Treasurer, on an annual basis, a budget for the OBA's Safety/Risk Management Program.