

Tee-Kay Slowpitch Baseball League

Covid 19 Return to Play action plan & policy

In response to the Covid19 pandemic, the Tee-Kay SlowPitch League has prepared the following plan as a course of action to return to play for all its members for the 2020 baseball season. All league members (defined as all active players, coaches, game officials and spectators) are expected to abide by the rules covered in this plan while also adhering to all Provincial, Regional, Municipal and facility specific guidelines and restrictions. The rules and guidelines covered by this action plan must be respected by all members for the league to be able to have a complete and successful 2020 season, no exceptions will nor can be tolerated.

General Health Regulations and Mandates

- members must adhere to all Provincial, Regional, Municipal and facility-specific restrictions and guidelines; including any and all applicable Laws and Bylaws;
- league coordinators will review with local permit officers/municipal officials the specific requirements on an ongoing basis; the return to play plan can and will be adjusted accordingly as guidelines and restrictions evolve;

Personal Protection

- all players must have completed the most recent SPN waiver; players will not be permitted to play otherwise; this includes any and all spares a team will or may use during the season. Team captains will be required to provide proof upon request;
- members are asked to use the self-screening tool before attending any league games and events. The self-screening tool is available online: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> . If an individual shows any symptoms listed in the self-screening tool, is feeling ill or has been in contact with another person who is ill or shows symptoms, you must not enter the facility.
- members are required to practice social distancing of 6 feet (2 meters) at all times; where a game situation requires close contact for players, social distancing is immediately back in effect at the conclusion of the play;
- the use of a mask or face shield and personal batting gloves at all times is recommended;
- avoid contact with others and avoid touching your face at all time; do not share food or beverage;
- cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue;
- spitting is not permitted! Use of sunflower seeds and chewing tobacco will not be permitted at the facility;
- frequent washing of the hands where possible is highly recommended;

- members will be required to bring their own chairs as not seating will be made available by the facility (including picnic tables, stands, common area seating;

Team Requirements

- the use of antibacterial hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes is required and must be supplied by each team individually, members are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer as well;
- the use of individual bats is recommended - where it is not possible, it is recommended that a bat be wiped down between each usage;
- teams will be required to use their own set of balls defensively, minimizing the number of people who touch the ball by half. The hitting team will not handle the balls when playing. Defensive teams will be required to retrieve all balls, including foul balls and out-of-play balls. Balls should be wiped before each inning;
- a maximum of 16 rostered players may attend each game. Players must be rostered online with SPN at <https://registration.slo-pitch.com/Account/Login> ;
- any fines levied to the league by authorities during league games and events will be absorbed by the offending team; the league and facility will not be responsible to pay any fines for teams unable to adhere to all restrictions and guidelines;

Facility restrictions

- it is recommended that members arrive 15 minutes maximum before scheduled game time and to leave facilities immediately upon game completion;
- there can be no congregating at parks, facilities or parking areas before or after games;
- bathrooms will not be available at Buhler Park; portable toilets will be available;
- Buhler Park will have a ZERO tolerance for abuse towards employees pertaining to the restrictions and guidelines being implemented, individuals unable to respect employees will be banned from the facility;
- all garbage must be collected and removed by each team after a game;

Social Distancing During the Game

- there will be no contact between members, “no handshakes or high-fiving”;
- ground rules shall be provided to team representatives before the game;
- offensive players will need to line up along the fence outside of the diamond spread out according to social distancing standards
- dug outs will only be used by the on deck batter;
- coaches will stand 2 meters away from 1st and 3rd base at all times, however it is recommended that there be no base coaches;

- the catcher will stand 2 meters behind the strike mat;
- no coaching conferences and group huddles will be allowed; in the unfortunate case of an injury to a player, as few individuals as is needed to assist are to attend to the injured players with all others respecting social distance spacing;
- immediately upon the completion of the game, all members will leave the diamond area promptly;
- spectators must sit socially distanced from team members and other spectators;
- it is recommended that spectators be kept to a minimum;
- it is recommended that children should not be left unattended while playing;
- in the case that a participant number restriction be implemented by the facility, a no spectator rule may have to be utilized;

Umpires

- it is recommended that umpires wear a mask or face shield;
- umpires will provide further detailed ground rules on an as needed basis observing the necessary distancing before and during games;
- there will be no exchange of lineup cards, teams will keep score with their own scorekeeping books;
- it is suggested that the umpire utilize a small notepad for necessary game management;
- umpires will stand where they are comfortable calling the game, and at least 2 meters away from the catcher and batter;
- umpire conferences are to be kept to a minimum adhering to distancing requirements;

Please consider that these restrictions and guidelines are not what the league, facility and all authorities desire to have in place. The Covid19 pandemic has brought forward a need to take drastic measures to protect all individuals from the spread of this virus. This season will be played under new normals that no one is accustomed to and it is imperative for the success and continuity, as well as the health of each individual member, of this league to adhere to these rules, no exceptions. It will take the effort and sacrifice of every league member this summer in hopes of returning to normal conditions in future seasons. We thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.