



Softball Saskatchewan
Return to Play Protocols
and Guidelines

Updated September 21, 2021



Please note, the information contained in this document is subject to change at any time based on new or updated information provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan. We appreciate the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of sport and the positive impact it has on the wellbeing of those who participate.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Effective September 17, 2021, the Provincial Government announced several new initiatives to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

DEFINITIONS

“Close contact” means an individual who has one of the following forms of contact with an individual with COVID-19 during that individual’s infectious period:

1. lived with or was within two metres of an individual with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more of cumulative contact.
2. had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of an individual with COVID-19.
3. was coughed or sneezed on by an individual with COVID-19.
4. provided direct care to an individual with COVID-19; or
5. had physical contact with an individual with COVID-19.

“Face covering” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that fully covers the nose, mouth, and chin, but does not include a face shield or visor.

“Fully vaccinated” means, at the time an individual becomes a close contact of an individual with COVID-19, it has been 14 days or more after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 immunization series or 14 days or more after first dose of a single-dose immunization series.

Effective Friday, September 17, 2021, an interim province-wide mandatory masking order was implemented for all indoor public spaces (to be reviewed in the latter part of October).

MINOR SOFTBALL

From the Public Health Order - Section 4: Face Coverings in Enclosed Settings - Clause c (x)

Individuals under the age of 18 (i.e., 17 & under) are exempt from wearing masks while participating in sporting activities for the duration of the sport or activity only.

This exemption does not cover: Players, Coaches or others not actively participating. Masks must be in place unless you are an active athlete during any game or practice.

Umpires, even while active in the game, must wear masks at all times.

ADULT SOFTBALL

From the Public Health Order - Section 4: Face Coverings in Enclosed Settings - Clause c (ix)



Individuals 18 years of age or older while participating in a sporting activity, for the duration of the activity only, are exempt from wearing a mask if they are subject to an organization wide proof of vaccination policy.

IMPLEMENTING PROOF OF VACCINES REQUIREMENTS

Adult Member Organizations and those serving athletes 18+ may ONLY participate “mask free” if they implement an organization wide mandatory proof of vaccination policy. While this would allow adults to play while un-masked there are liability, legal and logistical considerations that need to be understood before taking such action.

CONFIRMING PROOF OF VACCINATIONS

In the coming weeks, the government will launch QR Codes and QR readers, but they will not be a full solution until they are fully implemented, and all participants can access their info from My Sask Health records.

Softball Saskatchewan has not implemented a proof of vaccination policy.

HANDLING POSITIVE COVID CASES

If you are notified of a positive case, you are advised to seek guidance from Public Health to manage it and any close contacts that may need to be considered.

MANDATORY SELF-ISOLATION

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must self-isolate for 10 days after receiving a positive test result. Close contacts of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 will also be required to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last exposure if they are not fully vaccinated.

Fully vaccinated individuals identified as a close-contact of a positive case will not be required to self-isolate but will be required to self-monitor and seek testing at the first sign of COVID-19 symptoms.

We encourage all members to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This will support reduced caseloads, keep our sport safe and encourage the government to reduce restrictions once again.

OUTDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES

- Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice and play, using the [self-assessment tool](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19) at saskatchewan.ca/COVID19.
- Teams can continue to have normal outdoor practices involving all players and coaches.
- Games and Tournaments are permitted.
- Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.
- Commonly touched equipment used for game play (e.g., game ball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.



- Umpires may take their normal positioning for games.
- Physical distancing in and around dugouts is encouraged.
- Spectators must remain in designated areas. Masks are not required to be worn, but they may be worn if spectators are more comfortable with that layer of protection.
- Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN), or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
- Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.
- Contact information of the coaches, umpires and players should be recorded by the teams for games and maintained in order to assist with contact tracing for 30 days in the case of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Teams are encouraged to still designate one or more Sanitation Champions on each team to be responsible for contact tracing of players, coaches, and umpires if necessary. (See Appendix #1).

INDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES

- Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice, train and play, using the [self-assessment tool](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19) at saskatchewan.ca/COVID19.
- Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.
- Commonly touched equipment used for practice (e.g., softball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
- Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN), or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
- Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.
- Contact information of the coaches, umpires and players should be recorded by the teams for games and maintained in order to assist with contact tracing for 30 days in the case of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Teams are encouraged to still designate one or more Sanitation Champions on each team to be responsible for contact tracing of players, coaches, and umpires if necessary. (See Appendix #1).

RETURN TO PLAY AUTHORITIES

This section identifies the assumptions considered in the drafting of these protocols and guidelines as they relate to the current Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines and Softball Saskatchewan Operating Rules and Policies.

- **All member Associations/Leagues, Teams and umpires must be in compliance with these guidelines. (Violations of these guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension).**
- Only sanctioned activities are covered under our Softball Saskatchewan Insurance Program.
- It is assumed that compliance policing will be performed by local and provincial health authorities, local association/league personal, athletes and parents, along with all relevant stakeholders.

APPENDIX #1

Sanitation Champion Duties:



- Each Association/League/Team, etc. should designate one or more person(s) to be a Sanitation and Health/Safety champion for each planned activity.
- Take attendance and complete the Health & Safety Sign in Sheet at start of EVERY activity (e.g., practice, game, etc.)
- Monitor activities to ensure all participants are following protocols.
- Responsible for cleaning and sanitizing commonly touched equipment including balls and any shared equipment such as bats and helmets.
- If necessary, provide required cleaning and sanitation supplies (including masks and hand sanitizer)