



Adapted from viaSport COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATE

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Step 1: Assess the risks at your venues

Identify areas where there may be risks, either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. The closer together individuals are and the longer they are close to each other, the greater the risk.

- We have identified areas where umpires gather ([Change room](#), [Parking Lot](#), [Plate Meeting](#), [Umpire In-game and Pre-game Conference](#))
- We have identified situations and processes where individuals are close to one another or members of the public. ([Plate Umpire and Catcher](#), [Plate Meeting](#), [Coach Conversations](#))
- We have identified the equipment that may be shared by individuals ([Plate Mask](#), [Chest Protector](#), [Shin Guards](#), [Ball Bags](#), [Plate Brush](#), [Indicator](#), [Baseballs](#))
- We have identified surfaces that people touch often ([Baseballs](#), [Mask](#), [Plate Brush](#), [Indicator](#), [Door Handles to Change Rooms](#))

Step 2: Implement protocols to reduce the risks

Select and implement protocols to minimize the risks of transmission. Below is a list of protocols that have been identified to help deal with common situations

First level protection (elimination): Limit the number of people and ensure physical distance whenever possible

- Umpires must show up to the ballpark in full uniform (minus plate gear)
- Pre-game conferences must take place accounting for social distancing requirements.
- In-game conferences must take place accounting for social distancing requirements. This may require the umpires to find a location on the field other than where these conferences have traditionally been held in order to avoid conflict.
- Umpires should carry hand sanitizer, to be used after each inning.
- Umpires must keep a physical distance of 2M between them and other umpires, parents, players, and coaches at all times outside of game action from arrival to the park, to leaving after the game
- Umpires must check in with the home team volunteer in charge of Event Attendees Tracking.
- The umpires must enter the field and head straight to the plate meeting 5 minutes before game time, keeping 2M of physical distancing between them at all times.
- Balls and Strikes will be called by an Umpire located behind the mound.
- The second Umpire will be positioned in accordance with modified positioning protocols as put in place by BCBUA from time to time. Any such protocol will account for physical distancing requirements. This umpire will be distanced behind the batter, and must wear full plate gear for safety reasons.
- Umpires will not handle baseballs. The home and visiting teams must each supply game balls for their team to use while on defense, and a different, sanitized baseball will be required after each ball is put in play.

- In Phase 4 of Baseball BC's Return to Play Document, should Provincial social distancing recommendations remain active, umpires will continue to officiate games in accordance with modified protocols as put in place by BCBUA from time to time.
- If umpires are permitted to return behind the plate, BCBUA recommends following Provincial Health Guidelines which may include the added benefits of wearing a non-medical mask and/or gloves.
- Change rooms will not be used unless absolutely necessary and will be limited to the Plate Umpire putting on gear.

Reduce the risk of surface transmission through effective cleaning and hygiene practices

Cleaning protocols

Provide information about your cleaning plan. Specify who is responsible for cleaning, the cleaning schedule, and what the cleaning protocols will include (e.g., which surfaces, tools, equipment, etc.). If this information is in another document, identify that document here.

UIC's for local associations will be tasked with ensuring Sanitizing materials are available for umpires in each equipment shed that shared equipment may be stored.

It is the umpire's responsibility to sanitize the gear that they will be using, including masks, chest protectors, shin guards, plate brushes, and indicators.

Umpires are also responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their own personal gear between each game.

In Phase 4 of Baseball BC's Return to Play Guidelines, enhanced cleaning measures will remain in place. This includes all equipment including masks, chest protectors, shin guards, plate brushes, and indicators.

Sanitization protocols in Phase 4 will be determined in conjunction with recommended health & safety guidelines in place at this time and may or may not be required. Further clarification should be sought when the sport officially enters Phase 4 to determine proper sanitization requirements."

Step 3: Develop Policies

Develop the necessary policies to manage your sport.

Our policies ensure that participants and others showing symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from participating in sport activities

Health and Safety

- Anyone displaying ANY illness symptoms MUST NOT attend.
- Reminder to all participants daily to avoid touching of eyes, nose or mouth
- No sharing of water bottles.
- No sharing of food of any kind.
- No spitting.
- No chewing gum or sunflower seeds.
- No sharing of any personal equipment or items
- Ride sharing to be discouraged whenever possible.
- All participants encouraged to disinfect their equipment after each event.
- All participants encouraged to wash all clothing and selves after each event.

Sanitizer

- It is recommended that UIC's (Umpire in Chiefs) work with local associations to ensure small bottles of hand sanitizer are available for umpires, and/or ensure that sanitizing stations will be available to use should an umpire forget theirs
- Recommended that each umpire carry their own sanitizer where ever possible

Plate Meetings:

A socially distanced plate meeting shall be held prior to each game. This meeting will have two umpires, and each head coach, from the respective teams, meet 6 feet apart at home plate.

Topics include:

- Ground Rules;
- League Rules;
- COVID-19 Specific Rules including a reminder that umpires will not enforce any of Baseball BC's COVID related safety rules, and are there in their usual capacity to umpire the baseball game;
- Remind coaches that baseballs are the responsibility of the team on defense;
- It has been recommended to Baseball BC that teams post lineups on a clipboard that is accessible by the umpires during the game for lineup changes. Umpires are responsible for their own pen/pencil.
- Inform coaches that umpires will have the ability to call a brief timeout if they feel the need to sanitize their hands during a half-inning;

Step 4: Develop communication plans and training

You must ensure that everyone participating in the sport activity knows how to keep themselves safe while participating:

- The BCBUA Board of Directors will vote on the BCBUA Umpire Return to Field Protocols at the earliest opportunity upon completion of the final document;
- The BCBUA will inform all Area Reps, Umpire in Chiefs (UIC's), and Umpires through e-mail, website, and social media channels of the Final Return to Field Protocols document and will also request that the protocols are communicated to any leagues where BCBUA officials will work games to ensure that league return to play plans account for umpire requirements;
- A copy of this should be kept by each umpire, and available through local association websites as well. This will be suggested to associations through the Area Reps, Baseball BC, and BC Minor.

Step 5: Monitor and update your plans as necessary

Things may change as your season plays out. If you identify a new area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, take steps to update your policies and procedures.

- We have a plan in place to monitor risks;
- We make changes to our policies and procedures as necessary. Specifically, this plan will be reviewed any time there is progress through the phases of return to play as directed by Baseball BC;
- Individuals should be aware of who to contact with any health and safety concerns. Any officials who have health and safety concerns should start with their UIC who may escalate their concern to their BCBUA area rep as required;
- When resolving safety issues, we will involve designated health and safety representatives

Be advised that personal information must not be included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan

Personal information is any recorded information that uniquely identifies a person, such as name, address, telephone number, age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, finger prints, or blood type. It includes information about a person's healthcare, educational, financial, criminal or employment history. Visit [this OPIC link](#) for more information.