



Ontario Baseball Association Return to Sport Task Force

SUMMARY OF CHANGES - 2021 SEASON

- Title change to Return to Sport from Return to Baseball and date to reflect last updated (this change was also made throughout the document in several areas).

GENERAL SECTION

- Removed limitation on number of non-participants in attendance (Pg. 4).
- Added "zone" verbiage to reflect Province of Ontario's current wording (Pg. 6).
- Added Use of Face Masks/Face Coverings section (Pg. 6).
- Reduced time between events on diamonds from 45 minutes to 30 minutes (Pg. 6).
- Removed snack bar and concessions limitation from Venues section (Pg. 6).

PRACTICE SECTION

- Changed wording on PPE worn in the field of play protocol under Equipment (Pg. 8).

COMPETITION SECTION

- Clarified that pre-game ceremonies are discouraged but not prohibited (Pg. 9).
- Removed limitation of participants at home plate meeting and required face covering by all participants while physical distancing at plate meeting (Pg. 9).
- Removed the requirement for only defensive players to touch the baseball.
- Removed the requirement for the offensive team to have a representative over the age of 16 to retrieve the bat.
- Added protocol to allow ball/strike umpire to work behind the catcher as long as they are wearing a PPE mask or face covering. If not wearing a face covering, ball/strike umpire must work 2 metres behind the pitcher (Pg. 9).
- Removed limitation on umpires not holding game balls.
- Added new protocol: Umpires are required to sanitize hands at the end of every half-inning (Pg. 9).
- Changed verbiage allowing umpires working in the field to wear a PPE mask at their discretion on (Pg. 9).
- Added enforcement for when a pitcher goes to their mouth (Pg. 10).
- Removed limitation of lead-offs, new protocol: defensive players holding runners on base at 1B must wear a PPE mask (Pg. 10).
- Removed limitation of throwing the ball around the infield after outs.
- New protocol: Coaches must wear a PPE face covering when approaching other participants (Pg. 10).
- Added a section on Travel (Pg. 10).
- Removed opening/medal ceremonies limitation for tournaments.

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