Return to Play Plan
for Baseball and Softball
29 July 2020, v3

Baseball Softball UK

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WELCOME BACK!

At BaseballSoftballUK, we’re passionate about the sports and we hope that’s pretty obvious.

The coronavirus and subsequent lockdown has taken a huge toll on much of the country and, like many others, we were gutted to have had to suspend our national programmes and events, as well as close Farnham Park Baseball and Softball Complex and our Home Plate Bar and Kitchen clubhouse, with most of the BSUK team then needing to furlough. Not to mention missing out on the Cubs and Cardinals at London Stadium!

So, after shutting down on 17 March with no clear outcome in sight, we’re delighted to be able to share with you our Return to Play Plan for outdoor baseball/softball in England. We created it in consultation with a large cross-section of players, umpires and administrators from the baseball/softball community before presenting it to various Government departments for review and approval.

We hope you will read the entire document to understand our approach, the background ‘admin’ for organisers to work through and some of the terms used. However, if time is short, we’ve also summarised the most important bits for you here. They are:

- Game-Specific Modifications – what you need to do before, during and after play.
- Health & Safety Measures:
  - Risk Assessments – we’ve outlined what you need to think about and created handy forms so you don’t have to start from scratch.
  - Participant Registration – another outline with more handy forms and examples.
  - Covid-19 Officer Role – respect this hero who’s going to help keep you safe.
  - Participant Code of Conduct – a quick guide to what we expect from you.

We’re unsure when restrictions will continue to ease and in what form. We’re unsure if there will be other waves, spikes or lockdowns. What we will do is continue to lobby Government for a full easing of restrictions, when appropriate, for baseball/softball to be played – both outdoor and indoor. So, for the time being, these guidelines and framework are the ‘new normal’ for our sports and we’ll likely see them in place for a while to come.

Please support your friends and teammates who put in the hours volunteering to organise the sports you love by following the guidance they will communicate to you to keep everyone safe during the process of resuming play.

We’ll organise sessions for participating Federations, affiliated organisations and leagues to talk through this guidance and help support them – and their members in turn – throughout. The guidelines will also keep evolving, so let me know if you’d like to see anything added.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me directly at ReturnToPlay@bsuk.com or with any of the team at BaseballSoftballUK. Meanwhile, check out our Return to Play online hub for all the latest info.

See you on a diamond soon!

Joëlle Watkins
Head of Commercial, BaseballSoftballUK
INTRODUCTION

BaseballSoftballUK (BSUK) is the development agency for Baseball/Softball in the United Kingdom, funded by Sport England. Since 2000, BaseballSoftballUK has been providing membership services to the sports’ governing bodies, the British Baseball Federation (BBF) and British Softball Federation (BSF).

We have produced a Covid-19 Return to Play framework and guidance for those involved in the organisation, delivery and participation of baseball/softball in the UK in order to facilitate a safe return to the sports in line with approvals from the UK Government.

This guidance focuses on the key aspects needed to incorporate Covid-19 social distancing and enhanced hygiene requirements to help mitigate associated risks. The guiding principles are intended to set out sufficient information for the baseball/softball community to discharge its duty of care in a reasonable, proportionate, confident and sport-specific way. The guidance is not exhaustive and therefore also includes signposts to extensive, existing information created by relevant authorities.

When reviewing this guidance, it is important to note the following:

- This guidance allows for groups of up to 30 people maximum to gather for the purpose of playing baseball/softball outdoors and for social distancing to be breached only in circumstances required on the field of play without modification of the rules themselves. We expect indoor guidance to follow later subject to Government advice.

- UK Government advice is subject to change at short or no notice. BaseballSoftballUK will therefore regularly review and update this guidance, publishing updates on the BaseballSoftballUK website www.baseballsoftballuk.com/returntoplay and promoting alerts through our digital channels (social media and email).

- Government policy as relates to Covid-19 is devolved, so advice on public health, social distancing and sport differs for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Whilst this guidance has been approved by the Department of Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS), Public Health England (PHE) and Sport England, it is intended to cover the United Kingdom as best practice. Sport Wales and sportScotland have also been consulted and approval of this guidance is pending.

- The guidance provides over-arching best practice for the safe return of baseball/softball regardless of the affiliation structure of leagues, clubs, teams and events. The guidance will help mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission – it cannot eliminate it completely.

Who is this guidance aimed at?

The return to play framework is for baseball/softball participants including event organisers, players, umpires, volunteers, coaches and spectators. It applies to baseball, slowpitch softball and fastpitch softball, at adult and youth levels.
Definitions

The following definitions are provided for terms used in this document and within templates provided by BaseballSoftballUK:

- **Baseball/softball** refers to baseball, fastpitch softball and slowpitch softball.
- **Activity Provider** refers to the organiser/s of an event including participating Federations, affiliated bodies, independent event organisers, leagues, clubs and teams.
- **Event** refers to any outdoor baseball/softball event including casual/friendly games, tournaments and competitions, and training and coaching events for up to 30 participants.
- **Participant** refers to anyone involved in the organisation of an event including organisers, players, umpires, volunteers, coaches and spectators.

Approach

This guidance was prepared based on the “Return to Recreational Team Sport Framework” created by Sport England, the DCMS and Public Health England, published on 17 July 2020, by Government [here](#), whereby the risk of transmission of coronavirus was categorised into Droplet, Fomite and Population risk criteria to be reviewed against a Team Sports Risk Exposure Framework.

Consultation

This guidance has been informed by extensive research and consultation and will be continually reviewed. It has been created following discussion and consultation with, or informed by, the following:

- The British Softball Federation (BSF), the sport’s National Governing Body
- Jes Sandhu, British Association of Softball Umpires (BASU)
- Thomas Haywood, Amateur Baseball Umpires Association (ABUA)
- Independent British baseball leagues in the UK (e.g., organisations not affiliated to a Federation) including:
  - South West Baseball League
  - East of England Baseball League
  - West Midlands Baseball League
  - British Baseball League
  - Baseball Scotland
- Steven Hazard, NHS Paramedic Practitioner and current GB athlete (capped in baseball and softball)
- BaseballSoftballUK staffing body
- Other National Governing Bodies of sport, including Rounders England

Protocols issued by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), the global governing body for the sports, have also been consulted, as has Softball Ireland which governs softball in Northern Ireland.

The content of this Return to Play guidance has been widely welcomed across the baseball/softball community. However, the British Baseball Federation has indicated it may submit its own protocols and we have encouraged them to base it on the mitigations included within our submission.
RETURN TO PLAY FRAMEWORK

Game-Specific Modifications

This guidance sets out minimum standards for the organisation of adult and youth baseball/softball outdoor events in the UK for leagues, tournaments, competitions, training and coaching events for up to 30 participants. It is expected that Activity Providers will comply with the Government-approved modifications to ensure the safety of participants. There are no rule modifications to the game at this time, mandated or otherwise.

The guidance could change in response to the current Covid-19 alert level or other Government advice. It will help mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission and cannot eliminate it completely. The provision of cover by insurers is likely to be conditional on this guidance being adhered to.

The protocols combine to mitigate transmission risks through:

1. Social distancing
2. Enhanced hygiene practices – for participants and equipment
3. Controlled attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before play</th>
<th>During play (outdoor training &amp; games)</th>
<th>After play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Check for symptoms of Covid-19. If you are symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible infection, you must remain at home and follow UK Government guidance.</td>
<td>• Adhere to social distancing except when the ball is in play: any close proximity and face-to-face interactions must be kept to an absolute minimum and for the shortest time possible.</td>
<td>• Ensure all shared equipment (e.g., bases, team bats and balls) are collected and disinfected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete an opt-in form and attendance register to support NHS contact tracing.</td>
<td>• Adhere to social distancing in dugouts.</td>
<td>• Socialise after the event in line with current UK Government guidelines on hospitality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shower and change at home.</td>
<td>• Disinfect all personal and team equipment before and after warming up and before the game.</td>
<td>• Leave the venue whilst maintaining social distancing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Follow UK Government guidance on public transport or car-sharing.</td>
<td>• Sharing of equipment is discouraged and items disinfected between use if shared.</td>
<td>• Shower and change at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Follow advice on use of the specific venue facilities (changing rooms, toilets, clubhouse).</td>
<td>• Umpires must not share indicators or counters.</td>
<td>• Report any subsequent Covid-19 case of self of household to the NHS and your event organiser.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Your Covid-19 Officer will ensure the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation related to Covid-19. | • Bat handling
  • If a player fails to reach base while batting, they must pick up their own bat (by the handle) upon leaving the field.
  • If a player gets on base while batting, the on-deck batter must remove the bat (by the barrel).
  • Sharing bats is discouraged. If shared, they must be disinfected between uses. | |
| • Clubs/teams should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. Participants should arrive changed and ready to begin if possible. | | |
### Before play
- Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible, use it and wash your hands regularly.

### During play (outdoor training & games)
- **Ball handling**
  - Each team must bring (or be provided with) two game balls for use during defensive innings (ideally new and unopened).
  - Mixed Slowpitch softball only: these should be two 11” and two 12” balls, with a nominated defensive team player on the sidelines (or an offensive player if short) responsible for sanitising balls before returning them into play.
  - Each team must disinfect balls after warm up and prior to each inning.
  - Balls used in tagged plays should be taken out of play and disinfected immediately by the defensive team before being returned to play.
  - Umpires should not handle balls.

### After play
- Tag plays: these remain permitted and must be conducted and concluded quickly.

### Teams must bring hand sanitiser, antibacterial wipes or spray to disinfect equipment and bin bags for rubbish.

### Players must use hand sanitiser prior to warming up with equipment or the game itself.

### Players must avoid sharing equipment and use their own helmet, glove, mitt, batting gloves, bat, etc., where possible.

### Umpires (Plate)
- If the umpire assesses that in calling balls and strikes, a 1m+ distance from the catcher can be regularly maintained, no mitigations are necessary. Otherwise:
  - **Baseball & Fastpitch Softball:** the Umpire and Catcher must both wear face coverings, in addition to any protective wire safety masks.
  - Umpires may choose to call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher, without need for face coverings.
  - **Follow Government guidance on face coverings.**

### Each team may bring up to 14 participants comprising the player roster, base coaches and managers (15 participants permitted if no external umpire/s are attending).

### Players should bring individual drinks containers and refrain from sharing drinks with other players.

### The inclusion of a second umpire (field) is discouraged.

### No cheering, shouting, loud celebrations, calling out, etc., are permitted.

### Spectators are discouraged and must adhere to social distancing if present.

- Chewing gum, tobacco or seeds, spitting into gloves/mitts, licking fingers, smoking or vaping not permitted.
Participant Code of Conduct

Ensuring a safe return to play for baseball/softball will require cooperation and diligence by all Participants during the coronavirus pandemic.

We therefore ask that you please read, understand, adopt and share the Participant Code of Conduct, which will enable everyone to play their part in keeping our sports as safe as possible. Please also support your Covid-19 Officer by helping provide information requested and adhering to guidance they’ve put into place to support you.

Read and download the Participant Code of Conduct here.

Health & Safety Measures

This section provides more information for Activity Providers (organisers, administrators and officials) who will be organising the return to play for their participating Federation, affiliating body, league, club, team or independent event.

The following measures are to be implemented with guidance and resources provided in each case:

- Risk Assessments – outline of what you need to think about, plus examples
- Participant Registration – outline of the process, plus forms and examples
- Covid-19 Officer Role – key role needed within each tier of organisation
- Participant Code of Conduct – a quick guide of expected behaviour

Risk Assessments

For all return to play activity, Activity Organisers must conduct Risk Assessments to mitigate against the transmission of Covid-19. To help you in the process, we’ve created three Risk Assessments templates.

They were prepared based on the “Return to Recreational Team Sport Framework” created by Sport England, the DCMS and Public Health England and published on 17 July 2020, by Government here, whereby the risk of transmission of coronavirus was categorised into Droplet, Fomite and Population risk criteria to be reviewed against a Team Sports Risk Exposure Framework.

- Droplet Risk Assessment template: focuses on social distancing.
- Fomite Risk Assessment template: focuses on hygiene measures for participants and equipment.
- Population Risk Assessment template: focuses on social distancing, hygiene and controlled attendance.

Further Information

- Creating a risk assessment for clubs and organisations published 25 June by Club Matters (Sport England).
**Participant Registration**

This section provides guidance on what Activity Providers are required to do to deliver a safe return to play. It should be viewed as an extension of how you already gather and manage data for your organisation.

Every event gathering must collect and keep for a minimum of 21 days contact information for all Participants, including full name, telephone number and email.

As recommended by Sport England and their legal advisors, Sheridans Sports Group, in the context of a return to play it is useful way of:

i. Capturing data to assist NHS contact tracing efforts and help contain clusters or outbreaks.

ii. Providing guidance to Participants on their roles and responsibilities.

iii. Ensuring Participants are aware of the protocols and risks associated with returning to play.

**Who’s Involved**

Activity Providers are responsible for administering the Participation Registration Process. This is likely to be the person in your organisation who handles data collection and communication. The Covid-19 Officer supports this person and ensures the process is adhered to.

Data should be gathered for all Participants involved in the delivery of an event such as players, coaches, managers, captains, umpires, volunteers, event staff and also spectators.

**Considerations**

The Participant Registration process does not discharge an Activity Provider’s liability or duty of care. Data may be gathered either on or offline and should be GDPR compliant and stored safely for 21 days before being destroyed.

Activity Providers will need to follow guidance provided by the [Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)](https://ico.org.uk) on Covid-19 data collection detailed [here](https://ico.org.uk).

They may also need to undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) per the guidance [here](https://ico.org.uk) and follow the [six key data protection steps](https://ico.org.uk).

**Process**

Activity Providers will need to:

1. Pre-event: communicate Covid-19 guidelines and a protection statement at the time of communicating the event to all Participants.
2. Before the event: gather Participant opt-in data for NHS Test and Trace up to a maximum of 14 days beforehand.
3. Day of the event: collect a Participant Attendance Register.

To help you, here are some examples which can be adapted:

1. BaseballSoftballUK booking form including Covid-19 Guidelines and Protection Statement for Farnham Park Baseball & Softball Complex: [https://bsuk.co/RTPBookingFP](https://bsuk.co/RTPBookingFP)
BaseballSoftballUK Covid-19 check-in form for Farnham Park, showing Data Capture for NHS Test and Trace: https://bsuk.co/COVIDData

2. Participant Opt-In Form template: https://bsuk.co/COVIDOptIn

3. GDPR Statement (generic): https://bsuk.co/COVIDGDPR

4. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) template: https://bsuk.co/DPIA

5. Participant Attendance Form template: https://bsuk.co/COVIDAttendance

Further Information

This section should be read in conjunction with Sport England’s legal guidance here.

Covid-19 Officer Role

As part of BaseballSoftballUK’s commitment to ensuring that the return to community baseball and softball activity is as safe as possible, each Activity Provider must appoint a dedicated ‘Covid-19 Officer’ who will be central in determining how the overall return to play is conducted for their organisation/event.

This is a requirement sanctioned by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Sport England, Public Health England and the Health & Safety Executive and is a condition for a return to play. Not following this procedure could increase risk of transmission of the coronavirus, as well as invalidating any insurance claims.

Activity Providers include all those involved in planning the return to play for their participating Federation or affiliating body listed above, as well as wholly independent organisers of baseball/softball events.

Events may consist of gatherings limited at the time of issuance of this document of up to 30 participants for the purpose of casual games or larger training or coaching sessions.

Participants are all those involved in the delivery of an event such as players, coaches, managers, captains, umpires, volunteers, event staff and also spectators.

Who should the Covid-19 Officer be?

- Every participating Federation, affiliating body, league, club and team, as well as independent event organisers, must appoint a Covid-19 Officer. Unless otherwise notified, the most senior person in each organisation will be deemed to be the responsible Covid-19 Officer. Please inform BaseballSoftballUK of the Covid-19 Officer nominee at ReturnToPlay@bsuk.com.

- The Covid-19 Officer must be a registered member of their participating Federation or organising body, where affiliated.

- The person taking on the role of Covid-19 Officer should be communicated to all Participants, and where possible, identified on relevant websites and communications.

Role and Responsibilities

- Being the designated contact for guidance updates from BaseballSoftballUK and participating Federation or affiliating body.
• Managing the implementation and compliance with guidance for the organisation and/or event, working with third party venue/facility operators as needed.

• Establishing, communicating and executing event and location-specific protocols to mitigate against Covid-19 risks, based on the Risk Assessments provided, and focusing on:
  - Social distancing practices
  - Enhanced hygiene practices – for Participants and Equipment
  - Controlled attendance

• Ensuring the Participant Registration process is followed.

• Ensuring and documenting that all members/participants have received a pre-event briefing on personal safety and risk mitigation measures.

• First Aid provision: minimising the risk of transmission at an event with enhanced First Aid kits containing face masks, face shield, disposable gloves and disposable aprons. Refer to the Government’s guidance for First Responders here.

• Signing off the elements of the organisation’s Return to Play Risk Assessment which relate to Covid-19 measures. The organisational Risk Assessment must, in turn, be approved by the league/club/team committee. Please refer to the Club Matters (Sport England) ‘Creating a risk assessment for clubs and organisations’ guidance published 25 June for support.

Covid-19 Response Plan

• Should Covid-19 be traced to a Participant, ensure the Activity Provider/s and your team, club, league, affiliating body, participating Federation and BaseballSoftballUK are aware so they can consider steps such as self-isolating, testing and suspending future events.

• Consider how you will communicate internally and externally, with appropriate spokespeople and communications channels in place.

Resources, sample risk assessments and guidance for Activity Providers and Covid-19 Officers can be found here.

* Covid-19 Officers will have their contact information added to a specific, secure list and will only be contacted on matters relating to the Return to Play Plan. To change your team or organisation’s Covid-19 Officer, or to unsubscribe from this list, please contact ReturnToPlay@BSUK.com.
FURTHER GUIDANCE

Insurance

This section is aimed at outlining key considerations for Activity Providers who will need to ensure their existing insurance policies remain valid and appropriate – in accordance with these guidelines – before arranging a return to play. There is no expectation or requirement to establish insurance specifically to cover for the coronavirus itself in the context of return to play.

This section does not provide advice based on specific policies. The provision of insurance does not in itself discharge an Activity Provider’s duties of care and adequate Health & Safety protocols will need to be developed and implemented to protect all Participants.

Considerations

Activity Providers are recommended to check the following areas:

- Confirmation that insurers will provide cover if official guidance is followed.
- Premiums for appropriate ‘top-up’ insurance which may be necessary.
- Revised cover terms at the time of renewal.
- Exemptions for any category of Participants within existing policies.
- Travel cover and medical expenses which, if provided/required, are likely to be revised by the insurance provider.
- Where applicable, Employers’ Liability, Professional Indemnity, Public Liability and Occupier’s Liability policies, as well as Directors’ and Officers’ insurance policies.

If an Activity Provider isn’t covered by their affiliating body’s insurance or is independent, they will need to ensure its own insurance policies are sufficient before returning to play.

An Activity Provider with adequate insurance provision in place will still need to take reasonable steps to ensure it has discharged its duty of care to protect the health and safety of Participants. If followed, the Return to Play guidelines provided by BaseballSoftballUK and approved by Government provide the necessary framework. The provision of cover by insurers is likely to be conditional on these steps being taken.

British Softball Federation (BSF)

The BSF presently offers Civil and Public Liability Insurance until 30 November 2020, which will remain valid for returning clubs or teams who were affiliated, paid-up members in 2019 (details here). New teams registered in 2020 are also covered.

British Baseball Federation (BBF)

We understand the BBF presently offers insurance and does not carry Covid-19 exclusions at the time of issuance of this document. Contact the BBF here.
Affiliating Bodies

- British Baseball League, East of England Baseball League, South West Baseball League: cover is in place for new or returning members.
- Baseball Scotland, West Midlands Baseball League: please check directly with these organisations.

Please check with your participating Federation, affiliating body or independent event organiser whether adequate insurance is in place.

Further Information

Please refer to the legal guidance provided by Sport England and their legal advisors, Sheridans Sports Group, detailed here.

Venues

This section covers guidance on creating a safer playing environment, whether a facility is owned and/or managed by the Activity Provider or whether the Activity Provider is reliant on third party owned or managed facilities. Adherence to these guidelines should be worked out collaboratively between the Activity Provider and facility. Each facility should have a specific facility operations plan that incorporates a full risk assessment.

To help you in this process, the Droplet Risk Assessment template covers venue criteria.

Baseball/Softball Specific Considerations

These considerations apply to venues and scheduling:

- Social distancing must be used within dugouts.
- No more than two teams are permitted on any one diamond at the same time. Consideration should be given to providing each team with an opportunity to warm up on the diamond.
- Temporary diamonds should not be created in close proximity to one another to make social distancing difficult between teams.
- If three or more teams use the same venue for a game or training, teams not actively competing against each other should not interact.
- Schedules should minimise the need for teams to change diamonds wherever possible.
- Game and training times should be staggered where possible to avoid congestion in public spaces such as car parks.
- Participants must not congregate in groups or exchange items following a game or training session and must adhere to 2-metre social distancing while departing a venue.
- Visiting teams must be allowed to depart the venue first.
## General Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movement on site</strong></td>
<td>• All venues must have entry &amp; exit and parking arrangements that ensure social distancing can be maintained.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Venues must display the appropriate signage to facilitate social distancing at all points throughout the facility and car park.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Venues will implement traffic flow systems where possible and appropriate.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Venues will outline socially-distanced areas for teams, officials and spectators.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Venues will ensure that disability access remains available within the site as normal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changing rooms and showers</strong></td>
<td>• Where possible, players must shower at home and arrive changed. Use of changing and shower facilities must follow Government advice on the use of indoor facilities when available.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If these facilities remain closed, exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require their use: e.g., supporting disability athletes, a child needs a change of clothing etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Toilets</strong></td>
<td>• Toilets will need to be opened for pre-match, match and for 30 minutes following.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Toilets should be cleaned regularly in line with Government guidance for clubhouses/indoor facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Toilets capacity should be managed via entry and exit per Government guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygiene</strong></td>
<td>• Participants should refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths on or around the playing area. They should also not chew gum, tobacco or seeds, spit, spit into gloves/mitts, lick fingers, smoke or vape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clubhouses and Hospitality</strong></td>
<td>• Venues will use clubhouses and hospitality facilities in line with Government guidance on hospitality settings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Groups in clubhouses and hospitality facilities must be restricted to six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider Government guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If facilities remain closed, exceptions must be made for essential activity such as provision of First Aid or access to essential equipment for the event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Further Information

- [ReOpen: Sport and physical sector facility reopening guidance](#) published by the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), the professional development body for the UK’s sport and physical activity sector.
- [COVID-19 - A framework for the re-opening of gym, leisure centre and wider fitness industry during social distancing](#) published by UK active.
- [Reopening toolkit for clubs and organisations](#) published 25 June by Club Matters (Sport England).
High Risk Groups: Medical, Black and Minority Ethnic, Disability, Young Players

Medical
Medically High Risk groups as defined by the NHS here are discouraged from putting themselves at risk in line with Government guidelines. We recommend they do not participate in baseball/softball activity once shielding stops from 01 August 2020.

Black and Minority Ethnic
BaseballSoftballUK also recognises the emerging evidence indicating that black and minority ethnic communities (BME) are disproportionately affected by Covid-19. We record via our annual Participant Survey that 14% of Participants nationally identify as BME.

We understand from NHS reporting that mitigations are centred around social distancing and limiting contact and contact time with others. We are confident the Guidance and Health & Safety protocols, including enhanced hygiene practices, will minimise the risk for BME Participants and do not therefore propose additional, specific measures to be implemented.

Sources:

Disability
BaseballSoftballUK will continue to work with our partners Activity Alliance, Disability Sports Coach, Parasport and the UK Blind Baseball Association to ensure activity is safe and adapted where necessary. These Government-approved guidelines remain applicable for disabled participants.

Young Players
Players under 18 years old and their Parents / Guardians / Carers should continue to follow existing safeguarding measures outlined in the safeguarding section of the BaseballSoftballUK website here. At this time, the modifications laid out in the framework should be applied to youth baseball/softball and there are no additional mandated measures.

Further Information
Refer to activity alliance’s guidance, published 19 June 2020 entitled Reopening activity: An inclusive response [Considerations for community sport and leisure providers on including disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.]
Resource Bank

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this guidance or would like further support, please contact BaseballSoftballUK at: ReturnToPlay@bsuk.com.

Below is a list of official organisations and associated resources for further guidance:

British Softball Federation (BSF)
Email: info@britishsoftball.org
https://www.britishsoftball.org/

British Baseball Federation (BBF)
British Baseball League
Baseball Scotland
East of England Baseball League
South West Baseball League
West Midlands Baseball League

World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)
Covid-19 Prevention Guidelines:
https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/static.wbsc.org/assets/cms/documents/bf420054-a523-f0cd-c738-8be0d949a731.pdf
Safe Return to Baseball/Softball – Covid-19 Prevention Guidelines

Sport England
Return to Play hub:
https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play

Return to Play legal guidance:
https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-06/Legal%20risks%20and%20duties%20of%20return%20to%20play.pdf?M6px4v48lm3EijY0Q8e8mknT9Pf

Club Matters toolkit to help sports clubs prepare for reopening:
https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/course/view.php?id=71

Club Matters social distancing general guidance:

UK Government
Guidance for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England: