



BASEBALL CANBERRA PLAN FOR THE RETURN TO PLAY IN A COVID-SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Effective from 21 January 2022
Version 1.0

Baseball Canberra (BC), as the peak body for baseball in the ACT, has developed this *Return to Play in a COVID-Safe Environment Plan* (the Safety Plan) to protect the health of our participants, staff, coaches, volunteers and spectators and to comply with the ACT Government's rules for the safe return of sport in our region. This high-level, principles-based Safety Plan has been developed to meet the ACT Government's requirements in relation to COVID safety planning, and therefore may be subject to change to ensure actions are kept up-to-date and are responsive to changing needs. As the ACT Government does not require organisations to develop additional full COVID Safety Plans at this time, this Safety Plan should be read alongside BC's (full) COVID Safety Plan, which is available here: <https://www.baseballcanberra.com.au/covid-19-updates-resources.html>.

NOTE: the ACT Government requires each individual club to develop their own Return to Play in a COVID-Safe Environment Plan to help guide the return of your members to the sport and your facilities. The following guidance document may assist clubs in drafting their plans:

https://www.sport.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1662966/PICC0149-Return-To-Sport-Framework.pdf

Once in place, details of your plan must be clearly communicated to all stakeholders. There is no 'template' for these plans, recognising the individual nature of each sporting organisation, its sites and its activities. To avoid doubt, Safety Plans do not (and will not) be approved by the ACT Government however, all sporting organisations must be able to produce a copy of their Safety Plan to government officials for compliance purposes if required. With that in mind, affiliated clubs must lodge a copy of their individual Safety Plans with BC by **no later than 28 January 2022**.

Be sure to follow all COVID-19 health directions issued by the Australian Government Department of Health (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19>), the ACT Government (<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au>) and your medical practitioner.



Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to ensure, for the purposes of the 2022 short season, that BC and its affiliated clubs comply with the ACT Government's rules for the return of sport, namely:

- Conform to the 'get in, train/play, get out' principle (i.e., minimise all unnecessary contact including off-field social events where appropriate);
- Limit activities to comply with government advice and restrictions on group sizes for indoor enclosed areas (e.g., cages, canteens, changes rooms) and outdoor areas where relevant;
- Minimising the sharing of sporting equipment, and where equipment is used, ensure appropriate cleaning (see details, below);
- No play for people who are unwell (infected individuals and close contacts must comply with all relevant government protocols for quarantine/self-isolation before returning to play);
- Limiting spectators to one parent or carer where possible;
- When off-diamond, maintaining physical distancing between yourself and other people and groups you do not know; and
- Practicing good hand and general hygiene, including washing your hands well if using shared equipment.

These guidelines apply to all Baseball competitions, training and/or events after the "Effective From" date until such time as a review is undertaken and changes recommended and approved by BC.

If any inconsistency or conflict exists between these guidelines and ACT Government Health Regulations, ACT Government Health Regulations will apply.

Hygiene

- Individuals must adopt good hygiene practices pre- and post-activity.
- Hand sanitiser must be positioned at key points (e.g. canteens, dugouts, scorers huts, toilets and registration tables) and levels monitored/maintained during game day and training.
- Unwell individuals must not take part in BC or club-level activities and must depart immediately if they experience COVID-19 symptoms.
- Personal equipment must not be shared, including, but not limited to:



- gloves (fielding and batting)
- hats/caps (*team helmets must be sanitised between each inning)
- individuals' bats (*to enable the use of team bats, batting gloves must be worn)
- catchers' masks (*if they must be shared, thoroughly sanitise before changeover), and
- water bottles and towels.
- Synthetic/safety balls used for junior games (e.g., T-ball and Machine Pitch) must be sanitised every inning and before, during and after practice.
- Umpire will sanitise match balls at each half inning. Sanitising materials (e.g. spray and rag) will be supplied by Home team.
- Defensive team will be responsible for sanitising their match balls should a ball go out of play.
- Defence will take their match balls off the diamond at the completion of their defensive innings.
- All ACTBUA or club umpires must adhere to the ACTBUA COVID-19 Policy.
- Spitting, nasal secretions and eating/spitting of sunflower seeds is prohibited.

Further details, if needed see: [COVID safe behaviours - COVID-19 \(act.gov.au\)](#)

Site-specific Recommendations

Club canteens and surfaces:

- must be sanitised routinely (e.g., serving benches, bench top counters), hand sanitiser pump packs clearly on display, minimal serving windows used, minimal serving staff used, and facemasks worn, 1.5m safe distancing markers/lines clearly visible for waiting customers, individual water bottles must not be filled in these locations. Contactless payment methods are the new norm and must be prioritised at all sites.

Scorers Huts:

- maximum of two people allowed in the hut at any time; two separate tables and chairs provided (one per scorer) and disinfected before each game/on scorer changeover.



Dugouts:

- if dugouts are not large enough to accommodate teams and maintain appropriate social distancing seating protocols an area should be 'roped off' for players only adjacent to each dugout to accommodate numbers, and dugouts must be disinfected (sprayed and wiped) at start of game day and in between each game.

Stadium Seating:

- be sure to follow all ACT Government restrictions and physical distancing requirements applicable to outdoor areas where relevant.

COVID-19 Safety Officers

- Clubs will appoint COVID Safety Officers to act as the contact point for your members and participants and to ensure that actions identified in the Safety Plan are observed by players, volunteers, officials, and spectators.

Check In CBR App

- All attendees (aged 16 years and over) must check-in via the Check In CBR App upon entry/arriving each day. Clubs are to ensure that check-in QR codes are available at the entry and around the venue to assist in this.

Incident Management

- BC or individual clubs may be contacted by the ACT Government to assist with contact tracing. Access to records in relation to training and group gatherings may be required.
- If a member tests positive for COVID-19, this should be reported immediately to BC. BC will work with ACT Health and will advise further action.

Review and Monitor

- Safety Plans must be monitored and reviewed and updated as necessary in accordance with ACT Government Health Regulations.

Further Information

- ACT Government Public Health Directions
<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/restrictions/act-public-health-directions>
- National Principles for the resumption of sport and recreation activity
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-national->



principles-for-the-resumption-of-sport-and-recreation-activities

- AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment
https://www.ais.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/730374/35845_AIS-Framework-for-Rebooting-Sport-Summary.pdf

This Safety Plan was approved by the Baseball Canberra Board on XX January 2022 and endorsed by Council of Presidents on XX January 2022.

The Baseball Canberra Board has appointed the BC General Manager to execute the Safety Plan and is BC's primary point of contact for all related matters:
gm@baseballccanberra.com.au