



## MISSISSAUGA SOUTHWEST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

3195 The Collegeway, Mississauga, Ontario, L5L 4Z6

905-607-5875

msbabaseball.ca



July 2, 2020

Dear MSBA Community:

**Re: MSBA Re-opening for 2020 Season**

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Mississauga Southwest Baseball Association Inc. ("MSBA") is **re-opening its in-person baseball and softball activities as of July 11, 2020**. There is a lot of information in this letter. Please read it carefully.

With Mississauga being in Stage 2 of the Province's COVID-19 Reopening plan, the Province has approved outdoor sports teams to practice and train. Similarly, the City of Mississauga has confirmed that it is prepared to issue permits for certain baseball diamonds to allow for practices. As such, we have the governmental permissions required to practice.

On June 14, 2020, Baseball Ontario issued its Return to Baseball protocol. As we will be insuring all 2020 softball activities through Baseball Ontario, this protocol provides us with the base guidelines for our reopening. Upon receipt of the protocol, a committee of MSBA's board of directors reviewed the document and recommended certain enhancements to the protocol. These were adopted at the board's meeting of June 25, 2020. At that meeting, the board approved the MSBA COVID-19 Guidelines dated June 26, 2020 which can be found on our MSBA website. At its June 30, 2020 meeting, the board approved implementation procedures and authorized the re-opening of in-person baseball and softball activities.

As discussed below, there is, however much that still must be done by all of us, if we are going to achieve reopening. We have created a special section of our website devoted to COVID information, including checklists for Players, Parents/Spectators and Coaches on what will be required of each of us.

### **Governmental Decisions Required for Games**

The current limit on gathering sizes is 10, which includes all players, parents/guardians, coaches and umpires attending. This number will have to be increased to between 40-50 before we will be able to play games.

Further, Stage 2 only allows for outdoor team sports to train and practice. While it is hoped that Stage 3 will permit competition, there is no guarantee as to if or when Mississauga will achieve Stage 3.

We will continue to monitor developments and will advise as permissions are received.



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### T-ball/Rookie Ball

In deciding to re-open, we took special consideration of the nature of our youngest age groups: t-ball and rookie ball. At those age categories, participation in games is so central to our programs that we did not feel it wise to operate those groups unless it was clear that there would be an opportunity to play games. Accordingly, we have set the following guidelines for the re-opening of our house league t-ball and rookie ball:

- By July 20, we must have confirmation from the Province of Ontario and the City of Mississauga that games can commence by late July so as to be able to schedule a minimum of 8 games. (Note: this does not apply to rep rookie ball.)

If that does not occur by July 20, we will be closing the house league t-ball and rookie ball programs and providing either a credit towards 2021 registration fees or a refund to all families.

### Do You Feel Comfortable Returning

Just like other areas of your lives, each family will need to assess their own comfort level in light of the risk of COVID-19. Each family's circumstances will be unique. **We certainly understand and will respect any decision made not to participate this year. We will provide either a credit towards 2021 registration fees or a refund to anyone registered choosing not to play.** All we ask is that you advise us promptly of your decision so that we can move forward with those who will participate and process credits or refunds to those who will not.

We have set a deadline of July 7, 2020 to get back to us. House league baseball and softball players, including those at t-ball and rookie ball, will be contacted directly by our Registrar, Dean Correia. Meetings will be set up with Parent liaisons and rep and select teams will be contacted by our Vice-Presidents and we ask that you respond back through your teams.

We will be in touch through our coaches with respect to the dates, times and park locations for individual teams to resume practising.



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### Registrations

We have taken into consideration the shortened season and the uncertainty of playing games in a revised fee structure. Documents describing our house league and rep fees are posted on our MSBA website.

There will also be additional documentation required from all those participating (players, coaches, umpires). All participants will have to complete the following documentation:

- (1) a COVID-19 Declaration; and
- (2) either:
  - a. an Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement (for persons under 18); or
  - b. a Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement (for persons 18 and older).

Baseball Ontario has all of these documents, and others, available electronically through its OnDeck app, available through Google Play or Apple App Store or at <https://ondeck.baseballontario.com/>. We encourage you to use the OnDeck app to complete these forms and we have instructions to help do so on our website.

Anyone, who had not previously registered, will have to complete the regular registration documentation.

### COVID Compliance

We will need the help of everyone participating to help keep our baseball/softball activities as safe as possible. Prior to attending any event, we ask you to self-screen for COVID-19 (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>) and not to attend any game or practice if you are feeling ill or have been in contact with someone having or suspected of having COVID-19. Further, like everywhere else these days, please maintain physical distancing of 2 metres. There will be requirements to clean hands at events. **Any participant desiring to wear a mask is encouraged to do so.**

Please familiarize yourself with the checklists for players, parents/spectators and coaches posted on our website.

We will be supplying our teams with supplies necessary for the cleaning and sanitization required by our guidelines. We encourage you to bring with you hand sanitizer or wipes for your own personal use.

One of the requirements of our guidelines is to keep track of people attending our events. To help with this, there is a Check-in Attendance Tracker in the OnDeck app. **This needs to be completed for every practice and game.** We have created a form that teams can use when they can't use the app.



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### Conclusion

While I have tried to provide information on the most important topics, one letter cannot cover everything. There is a lot more detail on our MSBA website: [www.msbabaseball.ca](http://www.msbabaseball.ca) and through the OnDeck app. Coaches and parent liaisons will be getting more information to provide to you.

On behalf of MSBA, I want to thank the board of directors for their hard work in reviewing guidelines and protocols, preparing documentation, arranging for supplies and answering questions related to COVID-19, in addition to all of the "regular" baseball/softball work that they would do in a normal year. Your efforts are most appreciated.

To our families who are deciding not to return to baseball/softball this summer, we wish you well and look forward to you hopefully returning to us next summer.

To our families who are deciding to return to baseball/softball this summer, we hope that we can offer you a safe and enjoyable experience. May the sound of a bat hitting a ball, the squeels of delight when a good play is made and the warmth of the sun provide us all with a small taste of normal in a year which has been anything but.

Sincerely,

David Huctwith, President  
Mississauga Southwest Baseball Association  
905-891-6117 [david.huctwith@sympatico.ca](mailto:david.huctwith@sympatico.ca)