

**Reviewed and Approved by GNL Amended Return to Sport Plan Baseball NL
June 15, 2021**

**RETURN TO SPORT PLAN
BASEBALL NL**

Alert Level 2

Phase 1 (current phase – no return to play plan required)

- **Individual Athlete Skill Development (March 28th – April 30th, 2021)**
 - At the provincial level, Baseball NL offers training in our Canada Games Program and NL Girls High Performance Program in three regions across the province (Avalon, Central, and Western). These programs use the same facility in each region and adhere to the operational guidelines of the facilities they are using.
 - At the club-level, various associations offer indoor training programs via their Winterball program or Specialty Camp series. These are weekly programs that use the same facility consistently and follow the guidelines of the facility.

- **Individual Athlete Skill Development (May 1st – 31st, 2021) – All Star Tryouts**
 - In this phase, local associations will be permitted to begin their all-star tryout process. These tryout sessions will take place indoors initially before moving outdoors once weather permits and outdoor facilities are ready (dependent on each municipality).
 - Indoor tryouts will have a maximum of 50 players **per session** trying out. In addition to this, there will be approximately 20 coaches and volunteers assisting with the tryouts
 - The 50 athletes will be divided into smaller groups for the purpose of completing the tryouts. These groups will remain the same for the entirety of the tryout.
 - The coaches and volunteers will be assigned to a station and will remain at that station for the duration of the tryouts.
 - Groups will rotate through the stations as part of the tryout process.
 - Once the tryout session is completed for one group, the group will leave through separate exits and another group of players will come in for a second session of tryouts using the same process as outlined above. There will be a minimum of 15 minutes allotted for the changeover of athletes and cleaning of high touch surfaces from one session to the next.
 - As athletes finish their tryouts, they will leave the facility as a group, through designated exits (separate from the entrances). This will ensure there is no athlete crossover.
 - Athletes are not permitted to show up until 15 minutes before their scheduled tryout. This will also ensure that the previous tryout has ended and players have left before the next group enters the facility.
 - 15 minutes is consistent with what was used in 2020 when there were multiple groups using the same facility
 - There may be some associations that start these tryouts later in the summer, but this would be the earliest time in which they could begin.

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- With starting these all-star tryouts, each association would offer tryouts within their own association and there would be no competition between associations at this time. Starting their respective tryout processes at this time would allow for each association to pick all-star teams for eventual competition later in the summer.

Phase 2 (competition phase – Return to Sport/Play Plan required)

- **Adult Senior League Competition (May 30th – October 11th, 2021)**
 - In this phase, the two adult Senior baseball leagues in Newfoundland and Labrador will begin their seasons. There are two (2) separate leagues in the province – St. John’s Amateur Baseball and Corner Brook Baseball League. These leagues run independent of each other on a weekly/nightly basis.
 - The Corner Brook Baseball League traditionally starts its season on the Sunday following May 24th. For 2021 – ***Sunday, May 30th***.
 - The St. John’s Amateur Baseball season traditionally starts its season on the first Saturday in June. For 2021 – ***Saturday, June 5th***.
 - Both leagues would be played under its regular nightly/weekly schedule format, while adhering to public health guidelines (Sport Guidance and other relevant Guidance) and any potential additional sport-specific guidelines that may be in place (gameplay modifications, health and safety protocols, etc.).
- **Regional House League Competition (June 15th, 2021 – September 26th, 2021)**
 - In this phase, local association regional house league programming will begin and is played under its regular daily/weekly schedule.
 - House league programming in all associations will run on a nightly basis for different age divisions and skill levels. Please see page five for more information
 - This competition structure is a part of the regular competition schedule for these teams.
 - Baseball NL, in cooperation with its members, will continue to enforce the public health and safety measures that were implemented for the 2020 season. More information on these measures can be found at the end of this document.
- **House League All Star Programming (June 15th, 2021 – September 26th, 2021)**
 - In this phase, all-star competition will begin and is played under its regular daily/weekly schedule.
 - Exhibition games amongst teams from different health authorities may occur.
 - This is necessary to ensure all teams and athletes can avail of programming.
 - This competition structure is a part of the regular competition schedule for these teams.
 - Baseball NL, in cooperation with its members, will continue to enforce the public health and safety measures that were implemented for the 2020 season. More information on these measures can be found at the end of this document.

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Regional House League Programming

Local Association	Age Divisions Offered
St. John's Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Mount Pearl Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
CBS Kiwanis Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Paradise Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Baseball CBN	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Baseball Gander	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Grand Falls Windsor Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Pasadena Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Corner Brook Baseball Association	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Bay St. George Minor Baseball	7U, 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U

House League All Star Programming

Local Association	Regional Health Authority	Age Divisions Offered
St. John's Minor Baseball	EASTERN	11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Mount Pearl Minor Baseball		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
CBS Kiwanis Minor Baseball		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Paradise Minor Baseball		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Baseball CBN		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Baseball Gander	CENTRAL	11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Grand Falls Windsor Minor Baseball		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Pasadena Minor Baseball	WESTERN	11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Corner Brook Baseball Association		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U
Bay St. George Minor Baseball		11U, 13U, 15U, 18U

Gameplay Modifications – Return to Baseball April 2021

REFERENCE	MODIFICATION
GPMG-001	There will be no pre-game plate meetings for lineup exchanges. Lineups should be exchanged with opposing teams and umpires before the game, in a safe way that respects maintaining physical distance.
GPMG-002	No mound visits by a catcher to a pitcher will be permitted.
GPMG-003	Mound visits by a coach may be permitted. If a coach wishes to make a mound visit to discuss strategy or to remove the pitcher, the coach MUST wear a mask (medical or non-medical) or other face covering during the entirety of the mound visit and maintain physical distance when possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the MLB and WBSC – World Baseball Softball Confederation – approved guidance. During a coaches mound visit, the catcher may be permitted to be a part of the visit, but MUST maintain at least 6' of physical distance at all times. No other players are permitted.
GPMG-004	No congratulatory gestures – including handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc.

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GPMG-005	Physical distance must be maintained inside and outside the dugout, including between players and coaches. Therefore, the maximum number of players permitted in a dugout will be restricted to ensure that physical distance is maintained. i.e. if a dugout is 24 feet long, there can be no more than four people in the dugout at once, and each person must maintain at least six feet of distance from other individuals. For anyone outside of the dugout, it is recommended that players be behind the fencing or in a reserved area of bleachers specifically for “dugout” use
GPMG-006	The home plate umpire will be stationed behind home plate in their normal position and MUST wear a mask (medical or non-medical) while umpiring. - This is the MLB and WBSC – World Baseball Softball Confederation – approved guidance.
GPMG-007	Other officials can optionally wear a mask (medical or non-medical) or other face covering at all times, but MUST carry a mask (medical or non-medical) or other face covering and wear it when an in-game situation dictates they wear it. - Officials at other bases are able to maintain at least 6’ of physical distancing for the majority of the game - This is the MLB and WBSC – World Baseball Softball Confederation – approved guidance
GPMG-008	On a tag play, once the defensive player applies the tag, they must vacate the area around the opposing player immediately.
GPMG-009	While not mandatory, a “softball-style” safety bag should be used at first base where possible.
GPMG-010	Local associations will be directed to stagger/alter start times, to allow for stakeholders to safely arrive and leave facilities and minimize congestion as much as possible.
GPMG -011	Players and parents/guardians are expected to arrive no more than 15 minutes before a scheduled game/practice start time and are expected to leave within 15 minutes of a scheduled game/practice finishing.

Baseball NL has developed these gameplay modifications based on guidance from Major League Baseball (MLB) and the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), and in collaboration with Baseball Canada and the other Provincial Baseball Offices across the country.

GPMG-003, 006 and 007 have been added or altered from what was approved and used during the 2020 season. The remaining modifications remain unchanged from what was approved for the 2020 season.

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Health and Safety Protocols – Return to Baseball April 2021

REFERENCE	MEASURE
HSP-001	Anyone displaying any symptoms of any illness will not be permitted to participate
HSP-002	No sharing of water bottles or food of any kind is permitted
HSP-003	No spitting, chewing gum, or sunflower seeds
HSP-004	No sharing equipment unless properly cleaned and sanitized after each use
HSP-005	Ride sharing/carpooling only if deemed safe by public health officials
HSP-006	Uniforms should be washed as soon as possible upon completion of activity
HSP-007	Washroom facilities (if present at a field or facility) be limited to one person at a time, unless physical distance can be maintained in washroom facilities. Washroom facilities MUST , regardless of the number of people, be cleaned and sanitized daily.

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HSP-008	All commonly touched surfaces at the ballfield or facility – benches, hooks on the back of the dugout, gates that are touched, door handles, etc. – shall be disinfected at the end of each game/practice by the team using that area.
HSP-009	Hand sanitizer should be available to all players and coaches to use throughout the game/practice.
HSP-010	All team meetings before, during or after the game/practice for coaching or teaching purposes shall respect physical distancing requirements.
HSP-011	Physical distance must be maintained both inside and outside the dugout, including between players and coaches. Therefore, numbers of people in the dugout will be restricted in an effort to maintain physical distance (6'). Any other players must remain in the area outside the playing field and only enter the dugout when physical distancing measures allow
HSP-012	All participants recommended to shower as soon as possible upon completion of activity
HSP-013	The enforcement of physical distancing measures, reinforced by signage at all baseball fields and indoor training facilities, in which Baseball NL offers programming. Additionally, spectators will be encouraged to remain as far away from other spectators as possible, by their local association
HSP-014	“Large gathering areas” (see below for more information) be prohibited
HSP-015	No parents/guardians allowed on the field before or after a game (unless parent/guardian also serves as a coach)
HSP-016	Parents and guardians are permitted to attend games and practices, but their access to the field/bleachers/seating area is restricted based on direction from their local association and/or municipality.
HSP-017	Any “gathering” place – clubhouse, building, etc – with the ability to hold spectators CANNOT open until larger indoor gatherings are permitted under public health guidelines.

Baseball NL endeavours to reaffirm that all of the above Hygiene & Health and Safety Measures must be followed throughout the entirety of the spring/summer and do not change in any way as we progress to a new alert level.

2021 Baseball NL Schedule of Events

June 25 – 27	CBS Kiwanis Community Cup Senior Club Tournament CBN Bulldogs Classic	Conception Bay South Corner Brook Conception Bay North
July 2 – 4	Mary Tavenor Tournament T12 Atlantic Tournament	Corner Brook Halifax, NS
July 9 – 11	Provincial Senior B Mike Buist Classic	Gander St. John’s
July 16 – 18	Provincial Junior A Gerry Murphy Memorial Tournament	Corner Brook Paradise
July 23 – 25	Provincial Senior A Finals (Games 1 – 3) 12U, 14U, 16U, Girls Invitational	Senior B Winner Grand Falls Windsor
July 30 – August 1	Provincial Senior A Finals (Games 4 – 7) 18U Qualifier	St. John’s
August 6 – 8	Atlantic 17U/22U Men High Performance Invitational Provincial 14U Girls (AA and A)	Nova Scotia

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August 13 – 15	McDonald's Invitational Tournament	Mount Pearl
August 20 – 22	Atlantic 21U Women High Performance Invitational	St. John's, NL
August 27 – 29	Atlantic 13U High Performance Invitational	Charlottetown, PEI
	Provincial 16U Girls	
	Atlantic 15U High Performance Invitational	New Brunswick
	Atlantic 16U Girls High Performance Invitational	Summerside, PEI
	Atlantic Senior Mens Invitational	St. John's, NL
	Provincial 13U AAA	
	Provincial 13U AA	
	Provincial 13U A	
	Provincial 18U AA/A	
	Provincial 15U AA/A	
September 3 – 5	Provincial 15U AAA	
	Provincial 11U AAA/AA	
	Provincial 11U A	
	Provincial 12U Girls (AA and A)	
	Provincial 18U Girls	
	Atlantic 18U AA	New Brunswick
September 10 – 12	Atlantic 14U Girls	Nova Scotia
September 16 – 19	13U Atlantic Club Invitational	St. John's
September 17 – 19	Atlantic 11U AAA	Nova Scotia
	Atlantic 11U AA	Grand Falls Windsor
	Atlantic 13U AA	Prince Edward Island
	Atlantic 15U AAA	Nova Scotia
	Atlantic 15U AA	New Brunswick

Invitational Tournaments – Return to Baseball June 2021

Dates	Age Division	Location	# of Teams	# of participants	Notes
June 25 th – 27 th	11U	CBS	5	85	Staggered start times
June 25 th – 27 th	13U	CBN	8	128	Multiple fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times.
June 25 th – 27 th	ADULT	Corner Brook	6	110	Staggered start times
July 2 nd – 4 th	11U – Division I	Corner Brook	6	96	Teams play within their division until playoff round.
July 2 nd – 4 th	11U – Division II	Corner Brook	6	96	
July 2 nd – 4 th	13U – Division I	Corner Brook	4	64	
July 2 nd – 4 th	13U – Division II	Corner Brook	4	64	
July 2 nd – 4 th	15U – Division I	Corner Brook	4	64	Multiple fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times.
July 2 nd – 4 th	15U – Division II	Corner Brook	4	64	
July 2 nd – 4 th	12U Girls	Corner Brook	5	80	
July 2 nd – 4 th	14U Girls	Corner Brook	4	64	
July 9 th – 11 th	11U – Division I	St. John's	4	64	

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July 9 th – 11 th	11U – Division II	St. John's	5	80	Teams play within their division & do not play other teams Multiple fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times
July 9 th – 11 th	11U – Division III	St. John's	6	96	
July 9 th – 11 th	13U – Division I	St. John's	4	64	
July 9 th – 11 th	13U – Division II	St. John's	4	64	
July 9 th – 11 th	13U – Division III	St. John's	4	64	
July 9 th – 11 th	15U – Division I	St. John's	4	64	
July 9 th – 11 th	15U – Division II	St. John's	6	96	
July 9 th – 11 th	12U Girls	St. John's	3	48	
July 16 th – 18 th	11U – Division I	Paradise	4	64	Teams play within their division & do not play other teams Multiple fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times
July 16 th – 18 th	11U – Division II	Paradise	4	64	
July 16 th – 18 th	11U – Division III	Paradise	4	64	
July 16 th – 18 th	13U – Division I	Paradise	8	128	
July 16 th – 18 th	13U – Division II	Paradise	6	96	
July 16 th – 18 th	15U – Division I	Paradise	4	64	
July 16 th – 18 th	15U – Division II	Paradise	4	64	
July 23 rd – 25 th	12U Girls	GFW	5	80	Separate fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times
July 23 rd – 25 th	14U Girls	GFW	5	80	
July 23 rd – 25 th	16U Girls	GFW	3	48	
August 6 th – 8 th	11U – Division I	Mount Pearl	5	80	For highlighted divisions, teams are broken into two pools and play within their pool until playoff round. Multiple fields used throughout the weekend with staggered start times
August 6 th – 8 th	11U – Division II	Mount Pearl	8	128	
August 6 th – 8 th	13U	Mount Pearl	8	128	
August 6 th – 8 th	15U – Division I	Mount Pearl	5	80	
August 6 th – 8 th	15U – Division II	Mount Pearl	7	112	

Adult Provincial Championships – Return to Baseball June 2021

Dates	Age Division	Location	# of Teams	# of participants
July 9 th – 11 th	Adult	Gander	4	80
July 16 th – 18 th	22U	Corner Brook	5	100
July 23 rd – 25 th	Adult	TBD	2	45
July 30 th – August 1 st	Adult	St. John's	2	45

Minor Provincial Championships – Return to Baseball June 2021

NOTE: Teams and participants based on 2019 Provincial Championship registration.
(Provincial Championships were cancelled in 2020)

Dates	Age Division	Location	# of Teams	# of participants	Notes
July 30 th – August 1 st	18U	Mount Pearl	9	144	Two divisions; Multiple fields; Staggered start times
August 6 th – 8 th	14U Girls AA & A	Bay St. George	5	85	Two divisions;

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					Multiple fields; staggered start times;
August 20 th – 22 nd	16U Girls	St. John's	3	48	Staggered start times
August 27 th – 29 th	13U AAA	Mount Pearl	6	96	Multiple fields; Staggered start times
August 27 th – 29 th	13U AA	Gander	7	112	Multiple fields; Staggered start times
August 27 th – 29 th	13U A	Bay St. George	6	96	Multiple fields; Staggered start times
August 27 th – 29 th	18U AA/A	Corner Brook	8	136	Two divisions; Multiple fields; staggered start times;
August 27 th – 29 th	15U AA/A	St. John's	10	160	Two divisions; Multiple fields; staggered start times;
September 3 rd – 5 th	15U AAA	Paradise	4	64	Staggered start times
September 3 rd – 5 th	11U AAA/AA	St. John's	13	208	Two divisions; Multiple fields; staggered start times;
September 3 rd – 5 th	11U A	CBN	9	144	Multiple fields; staggered start times;
September 3 rd – 5 th	12U Girls AA & A	Grand Falls Windsor	7	112	Two divisions; Multiple fields; staggered start times;
September 3 rd – 5 th	21U Women	Corner Brook	3	48	Staggered start times

High Performance Atlantic Events – Return to Baseball June 2021

Dates	Tournament Division	Location	# of Teams	# of participants
August 6 th – 8 th , 2021	17U/22U	Nova Scotia	10	200
August 20 th – 22 nd , 2021	13U	Prince Edward Island	4	100
August 27 th – 29 th , 2021	15U	New Brunswick	4	100
August 27 th – 29 th , 2021	16U Girls	Prince Edward Island	4	100
August 27 th – 29 th , 2021	Senior Men	St. John's, NL	5	120

Traditional Atlantic Events – Return to Baseball June 2021

Dates	Tournament Division	Location	# of teams	# of participants
September 3 rd – 5 th , 2021	18U	New Brunswick	5	90
September 10 th – 12 th , 2021	14U Girls	Nova Scotia	6	100
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	11U AAA	Nova Scotia	5	90
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	11U AA	Grand Falls Windsor, NL	5	90
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	13U AAA	St. John's, NL	8	140
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	13U AA	Prince Edward Island	5	90
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	15U AAA	Nova Scotia	5	90
September 17 th – 19 th , 2021	15U AA	New Brunswick	5	90

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