



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

GAMEPLAY MODIFICATION GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

As Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador looks to begin its phased approach to the resumption of baseball activity, we recognize and understand that our sport will not look the same for the 2020 season. Having said that, we are committed to offering as full a summer as possible and getting all players back on the field in some form or fashion.

With a resumption of programming as the ultimate end goal, this document aims to address concerns that have been expressed to Baseball NL as it relates to gameplay modifications. These modifications are being made to ensure our members that our sport can resume as safely as possible. With the expectation that physical distancing will remain a part of Alert Level 2, these modifications will be in effect at all levels of competition (Club or Provincial) in Minor, Junior and Senior for the duration of the 2020 season:

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 physical distancing as much as possible.
GPMG-002	No mound visits by catcher or coach. If the coach wishes to change a pitcher or other position, he/she may call time, walk out to the foul line closest to their dugout, and make changes from that position.
GPMG-003	No congratulatory gestures – including handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc.
GPMG-004	Physical distancing must take place in and outside the dugout, including players and coaches. Therefore, there can only be as many people in a dugout at one time as is permitted by physical distancing. IE: if a dugout is 24 feet long, there can be no more than four people in the dugout at once, and each person must stay at least six feet away from other people. 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-005	The umpire calling balls and strikes will be positioned six feet behind the pitcher and call balls and strikes from that position. There will NOT be a traditional home plate umpire.
GPMG-006	On a tag play, once the defensive player applies the tag, they must vacate the area around the opposing player immediately
GPMG-007	A runner on third base cannot steal home or score on a passed ball or wild pitch.
GPMG-008	While not mandatory, a “softball-style” safety bag should be used at first base where possible.
GPMG-009	Local associations will be strongly encouraged to stagger/alter start times to allow for stakeholders to safely arrive and leave facilities.
GPMG -010	Players and parents/guardians are expected to arrive no more than 15 minutes before a scheduled game/practice and are expected to leave within 15 minutes of a scheduled game/practice finishing.

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With the above gameplay modifications made, Baseball NL feels strongly that we are able to offer programming to its membership that is not only in accordance with the public health guidelines, but also allows for the safest resumption of activity possible. We also recognize that additional modifications may have to be added to this document as we progress through the summer depending on guidance from public health officials in order to ensure the utmost health and safety for everyone involved.

As stated above, our end goal is to return to programming for our membership this season. We fully understand that while it will not be a “traditional” game, it is our mandate to offer programming to our members in whatever form or fashion possible. With that in mind, we are fully committed to fulfilling this mandate.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the undersigned to discuss any of the details or information contained above.

Regards,

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