



Baseball Nova Scotia
2020 Summer Contingency Plan
April 28th, 2020

Dear Baseball Nova Scotia Membership,

The purpose of this document is to create an adjusted pathway to returning to play for the 2020 summer baseball season in Nova Scotia. Everything in this plan is dependant on the information provided by the Provincial and Federal governments and is subject to ongoing change.

The first thing we will have to accept as a sport is that nothing will return to 'normal' this summer. If it is deemed safe and permissible for team sport to return this summer, it will undoubtedly come with many provisions that encourage social distancing and safety measures to minimize risk. It is unclear the exact measures that will be mandated, but it will be up to all members to adhere to these rules. As Baseball Nova Scotia receives more information on the impacts to team sport, decisions will have to be made on the feasibility of conducting programming.

In this document, BNS will outline current adjustments to the calendar of events, Bluenose League, Provincial Championships, Atlantic Championships, development programs (Recreational, Rally Cap, Challenger, etc.), coach education, official training, and high-performance programs. The date and program adjustments were created after dozens of consultations with association presidents and board members. In addition to these different aspects of the organization, we will continue to consider the addition of fall programming and other services that can be offered while regular programming is being impacted.

While we await further directives from the government and health officials, we encourage association leaders to continue to reach out to Baseball Nova Scotia (via email) with questions, ideas, or any issues you may need assistance with.

Official updates from the organization will occur as more information becomes available.

Stay safe,

Baseball Nova Scotia Executive and Board

Calendar of Events

As the state of emergency has been extended, and many recreational departments have delayed opening until June 1st, no in-person programming will commence prior to June. The dates listed below are the latest dates BNS can feasibly offer programming.

Critical Dates

June 26th- Last possible date for confirmation from Nova Scotia Government that it is safe for sport and recreation to operate within the province. If no return date is available, Bluenose League will be canceled for the 2020 season

July 11th- Last possible date for Bluenose League to begin play

July 27th - Last date for confirmation of Provincial Championships. If no return date is available, Provincial Championships will be canceled for the 2020 season.

COE Key Dates

- June 26th - Bluenose Registration Opens*
- July 2nd - Bluenose Registration Closes*
- July 11th - Bluenose League Play Begins*
- July 27th - Provincial Registration Deadline
- July 28th - Classification Meeting
- August 7th-9th - Provincial Qualifications (AA)
- August 21st-23rd - Provincial Weekend #1 (Intermediates)
- August 28th-29th - Provincial Weekend #2
- September 4th-6th - Provincial Weekend #3

*Key Bluenose League dates (registration dates, and opening play) could be adjusted to earlier dates if permitted.

Please note these critical dates could be adjusted should the Provincial Government make longer term announcements regarding social distancing measures, or specific announcements pertaining to the operations of team sport.

Bluenose League

- One schedule for the entire summer. As opposed to previous years when teams get reclassified, teams will receive their entire schedule at the beginning of the season.
- Travel will be as restricted as possible to ease financial burden on participants. As we know many families have been impacted during this crisis, we want to minimize the financial implications of extensive travel. This strategy will vary from league to league.
- Neutral game sites for teams over two hours away from Metro to be explored and utilized (Cape Breton and South Shore teams most impacted). The intention is to eliminate the need for over night trips.
- Only one Blackout weekend permitted. If play commences July 11th, it only leaves 7 weekends available for play.

Association Tournaments

- BNS will not sanction association tournaments at the A, AA, or AAA levels through July and August.
- Due to the condensed nature of the season, it could result in too many blackout weekends, resulting in teams losing a high percentage of their weekends for league play.

Provincial Championships

- AAA and AA to proceed as normal
- A division's will be classified on a regional basis. No tiering of divisions will be done. Due to time restrictions, proper tiering of A teams will be extremely difficult
- In situations where there are not enough teams in a Region, teams could be combined with a neighbouring Region.
- No Classification weekend to be held
- Provincial Hosts to be determined at July 28th Classification meeting

Provincial Championships continued...

Provincial Weekend #1 (August 21st-23rd)

- Intermediate AAA, AA, and A

Provincial Weekend #2 (August 28th -30th)

- 18U AAA, AA, and A
- 11U AAA, AA, and A
- 13U AAA
- Girls 14U

Provincial Weekend #3 (September 4th-6th)

- 15U AAA, AA, and A
- 13U AA, and A
- Girls 12U

Atlantic Championships

Decision to be made at the end of June (exact date TBD)

Development Programs

- In-person development programs canceled for 2020 (My First Pitch, Rally Cap, and Coach Development sessions)
- Associations can still order hats for Rally Cap
- Challenger Baseball will monitor the recommendations of the Province, and will only commence when it is safe to do so
- Recreational baseball is largely administered at the association level. As associations consult with Baseball Nova Scotia, the operations of recreational baseball may differ, dependant on the community

Coach Education

- NCCP requirements will be unchanged for 2020. BNS will continue to schedule online NCCP clinics leading into the summer.
- Additional Safe Sport requirements to be announced. BNS will advise when more information is available.

Officials

- Limited to no in person clinics, at least for returning umpires
- More use of online functionality – online test minimum
- Online registration as well as online payment.

High Performance Programs

- National Championships canceled for 2020 season
- Eastern Canadian event developed for 17U (August 21st-23rd in Halifax) 15U (August 28th-30th in Moncton) and 16U Girls (August 28th-30th in Summerside)
- Even with no National Championship, High Performance programs will operate for training purposes
- Tryouts will commence when safe to do so

