

SOFTBALL PROTOCOL

General	All athletes, coaches, and Local Committees members must follow municipal and provincial mandates for all facilities. Where there is a discrepancy between the facility and SOBC protocols, follow the directive with a higher level of protection and safety for your context.
General	All members of the group must practice physical distancing – 3 metres at all times.
General	No loitering in venue or parking lots before/after practice. Following practice, exit the training venue as promptly as possible and avoid excess socializing in the lobby and/or parking lot after your practice.
General	Practice proper hygiene – sanitize hands before, during, and after practice, and do not touch your face. Participants must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering the program area, and after any trips to the washroom.
General	Ensure there are designated individual spaces for athletes to drop their bags, water bottles, etc. so they do not mix together.
Local Expectation	Maximum group numbers per program in Level 1: OUTDOOR – Must have a ratio of 1 coach to up to 4 athletes, up to a maximum of 10 people in a training group. One of these 10 individuals needs to take on the Program Safety Volunteer role.
Coach	No crossover between training groups once the season starts. Coaches must only train the group of athletes they have been assigned to, no substitutions. If a coach is sick or unwell and the coach ratios cannot be maintained, they will need to inform the athletes that particular practice has been cancelled.
Coach	Inquire about facility protocols prior to practice and be familiar with procedures. Ensure athletes are aware of these protocols and everyone follows them.
Athletes	Arrive ready to begin practice right away – i.e. put on practice wear before arriving, bring a pre-filled water bottle, etc.
Equipment	Minimize use of shared equipment. Assign athletes their own equipment (balls, mitt, helmets, etc.) for the duration of practice.
Equipment	Athletes may pair up with another athlete or coach to do passing drills. 3 metres must be maintained while doing so and the same partners must be used for the duration of a practice. Shared equipment and hands must be sanitized between drills.
Equipment	Dugouts and benches are not to be used.
Equipment	General program equipment (such as cones) must only be handled by coaches/volunteers. All program equipment must be sanitized before and after practice.
Sport-Specific	Consider focusing on skills as outlined in Fundamental Sport Skills: Softball .
Sport-Specific	Consider having athletes alternate between using T's for batting practice and wall/fence targets to throw at.