



OASA Spring Town Hall

April 2021



2021 OASA Spring Town Hall Agenda

- Welcome
- Return to Play Guidelines
- Ontario's Colour Coded Regions
- Softball Canada Age Change / Ball Size / Pitching Distance Vote
- Tournament Dates / Hosts (OASA, ECSC, SC)
- Affiliation
- Insurance
- High Performance Pitching Development Program
- Coach Development / Certification Requirements
- Other Updates
- Q & A



2021 OASA Return to Play Guidelines

- current version from 2020 as posted on our website is to be reviewed / updated in April 2021 based on government and public health guidance in place at that time
 - Softball Ontario is in the process of drafting a province wide version as well
 - all leagues and teams must adhere to provincial and local Public Health Unit guidance when organizing and running their programs
- (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open>)
- leagues and teams must get guidance from the local permit issuing bodies regarding any restrictions that they put in place

Brief Synopsis of OASA RTP:

- everyone to maintain 6 ft physical distancing whenever possible
- home team / host responsible for screening, diamond / park sanitization, overall headcount
- teams / players responsible for personal hand sanitizer, masks / face coverings, contact info
- masks / face coverings required by batter, on deck batter, all base runners, 1st / 3rd base coaches, catcher, plate umpire (minimum)
- defensive team only to handle game balls; offensive team only to touch bats
- umpires do not touch bats, balls or players equipment
- teams to maintain physical distancing on team bench or use area outside of dugout
- no spectators in infield bleachers, use outfield fan area only



Ontario's Colour Coded Regions

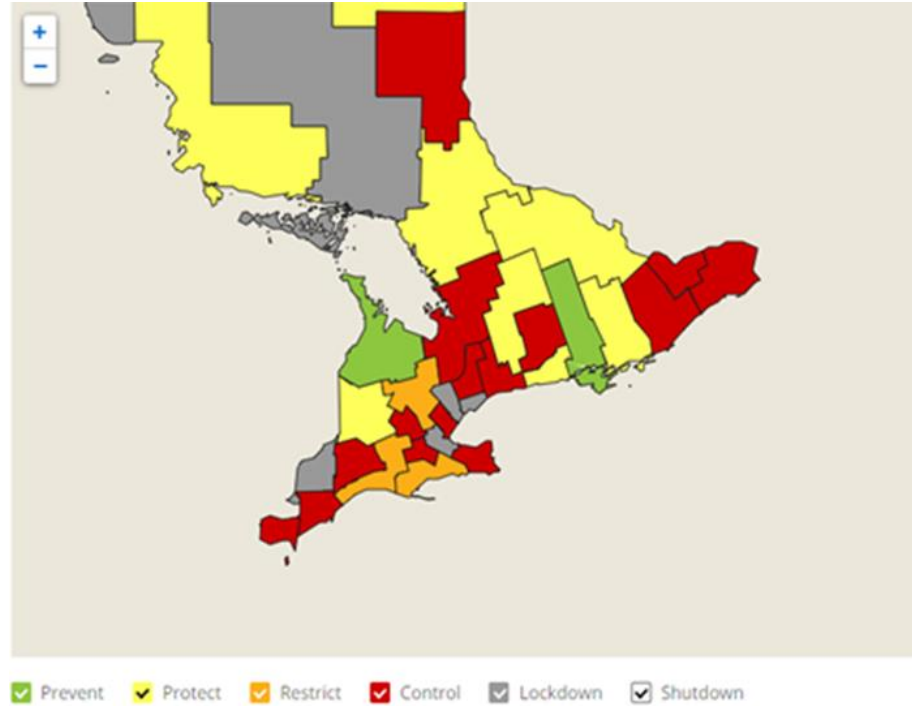
- 34 Public Health Units, 5 colour coded levels across the province
- ”You should avoid travelling between zones (for example, from Grey-Lockdown to any other zone, Red-Control to Orange-Restrict or Yellow-Protect to Green-Prevent), except for essential reasons.”
- Shutdown (effective 20210403) and Lockdown are tighter than Grey

PHU Colour	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey
Practices & Games	Yes	Yes	Yes	Training only	Training only
Screening / Contact Info	Passive / No	Passive / Yes	Active / Yes	Active / Yes	Active / Yes
League max	50	50	50	0	0
Indoor / Outdoor max	50 / 100	10 / 25	10 / 25	10 / 25	0 / 10
Spectators In / Out	50 / 100	50 / 100	0 / 0 1 per U18	0 / 0 1 per U18	0 / 0 1 per U18

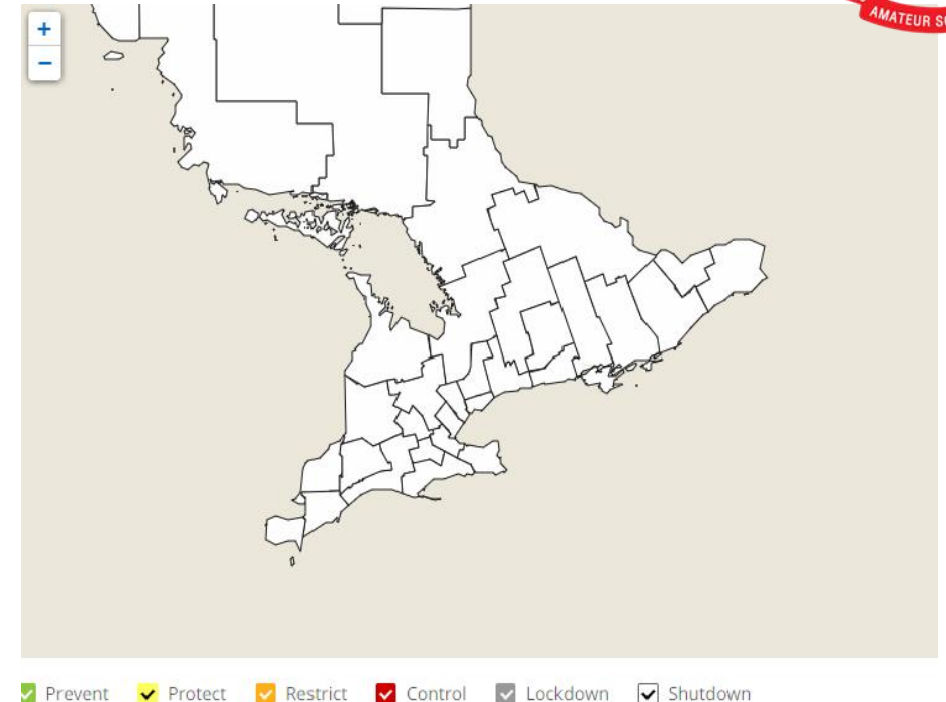
Ontario's Colour Coded Regions

-how quickly things change
 -a map that shows the 34 PHU's as at March 30th and April 3rd

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>



March 30th



April 3rd

Quote from SO Consultant at the Ministry 20210406 asking for clarification of the 4 week Shutdown on team sports.

More information around the restrictions for outdoor recreational amenities can be found in Schedule 3, Section 4 of [O. Reg. 82/20](#).

Of note, Section 4. (3) (b) states:

An outdoor recreational amenity described in subsection 2 may only open if,

- team sports are not practised or played within the amenity;



Softball Canada Special General Meeting

Age Change / Ball Size / Pitching Distance Vote

- discussions have been underway since at least Nov 2019 with stakeholders from every province and territory and Softball Canada (SC) regarding revisions for both males and females
- a task force was established by SC that researched the subject and made recommendations that aligned with the Long Term Player Development (LTPD) framework
- on April 12, 2021 a Special General Meeting will be taking place to vote on the proposed changes, which would take effect for the 2022 season, assuming that they are approved

Canadian
Championships

Current Age	Current Pitching Distance	Current Ball Size	Proposed Age	Proposed Pitching Distance	Proposed Ball Size
U6 (5 & 6)			U7 (6 & 7)	30	11
U8 (7 & 8)	30	11	U9 (8 & 9)	30	11
U10 (9 & 10)	30	11	U11 (10 & 11)	35	11
U12 (11 & 12)	35	11	U13 (12 & 13)	38	11
U14 (13 & 14)	40	12	U15 (14 & 15)	42	12
U16 (15 & 16)	42	12	U17 (16 & 17)	46	12
U19 (17, 18 & 19)	46	12	U20 (18, 19 & 20)	46	12
U23 (20, 21, 22 & 23)	46	12	U23 (21, 22 & 23)	46	12
Men	46	12	Men	46	12



2021 Tournament Plans

- OASA successfully ran Provincial championship tournaments in 3 age groups in 2020
- 2020 hosts (Tara U14, Wilmot U16 and Drumbo U19) had reservations and questions leading up to the tournaments, but by working together with participating teams and local officials all went well
- there were 0 (zero) incidents of COVID-19 that occurred at any of our events

- currently we are still looking for hosts in several of our age groups
- we recognize that with a constantly changing status in each Public Health Unit it may be difficult to plan and confirm tournament locations far in advance
- given the previous max of 50 players we were considering many smaller (4 team) tournaments
- hopefully we get back to that 50 threshold or potentially 100

- Softball Canada has been in constant contact with their hosts and may have to pivot from national championships to regional championships if health and travel restrictions dictate (late April / May)
- Eastern Canadian championships will likely just be the Maritime bubble provinces
- ON was originally scheduled to host the Male U19 ECSC, however, it will take place out east in 2021 and hopefully be hosted here in 2022



2021 Tournament Dates / Hosts

Age Group	Qualifiers / Eliminations	Provincials	Canadians	Eastern Canadians
U8 Event	July 24 – 25 E – tbd W - tbd	N/A	N/A	N/A
U10	July 17 – 18 E - tbd W – Ponsonby?	Aug 14 – 15 tbd	N/A	N/A
U12	July 10 – 11 E - tbd W – Ponsonby?	Aug 7 – 8 tbd	N/A	N/A
U14	July 2 – 4 Grafton	July 24 – 25 tbd	Aug 4 – 8 Wilmot, ON	Aug 12 – 15 NS
U16	July 9 – 11 tbd	A July 29 – Aug 1 London (OSG)? B/C July 31 – Aug 1 Grafton	Aug 11 – 15 Fredericton, NB	Aug 12 - 15 NB



2021 Tournament Dates / Hosts

Age Group	Eliminations	Provincials	Canadians	Eastern Canadians
U19	July 2 - 4 tbd	July 24 - 25 tbd	Aug 7 – 11 Saskatoon, SK	Aug 19 – 22 tbd
U23	July 9 – 11 Owen Sound	N/A	Aug 4 – 8 Saskatoon, SK	N/A
Intermediate	N/A	Aug 20 - 22 tbd	N/A	Sept 10 - 12 Fredericton, NB
Senior	N/A	tbd	Sept 1 – 5? tbd	N/A
Masters	N/A	July 23 – 25 tbd	Sept 1 – 5? tbd	N/A



2021 OASA Affiliation

Deadline Dates:

May 15th – U14, U16, U19, U23, Intermediate A, Senior Men, Masters

June 1st – U8, U10, U12

July 15th – Intermediate B / C

- affiliate **now**, before the above dates to help us plan for the season
- hold off on paying affiliation fees until events / tournaments are confirmed
- obtain insurance if you intend to operate in any way this year
- electronic information submissions as much as possible - roster, Release of Liability Waiver, Rowan's Law Code of Conduct (coaches / manager), COVID-19 Declaration (3 – 5 days before tournaments), date of birth documentation on players not registered in 2020



2021 OASA Insurance

- 2021 premiums have increased 10%+ over 2020 primarily due to COVID-19
- we have included a \$30 per team increase for Liability coverage for all teams that represents a player / coach registration charge that offsets a \$100 per team Softball Canada fee that previously was charged only to affiliated teams
- all individuals that are to be covered by OASA insurance are required to provide us with full demographic information, including email addresses/date of birth/gender/indigenous information, to allow us to service our members and to meet Ministry requirements related to Sport Recognition and Sport Priority Funding to report aggregate numbers
- all individual personal information provided to OASA is protected under our Privacy Policy and PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act)
- Ontario's Bill 218, which protects sport organizations / administrators in Ontario from civil liability due to COVID-19 requires that precautions be in place and followed – including RTP Guidelines
- if your league is not incorporated, you should strongly consider it to protect your executives from personal liability exposure



High Performance Pitching Development Program

Issue:

-Ontario has dominated minor aged Canadian championships for many years, yet we have had inconsistent JMNT (Junior Men's National Team) international results over the years and we have consistently been under represented on the SMNT (Senior Men's National Team)

Objective:

-to develop a program that consistently identifies and develops high performance pitchers within the OASA that progress through to Team Ontario (Canada Summer Games), JMNT (U18 and U23), SMNT and ideally achieve consistent medal level performances

Plan:

-to be developed during 2021, with implementation to start ideally in the fall / winter 2021 / 2022 (U12+ pitchers, catchers development pathway too, holistic program, physical, mental, nutritional, high calibre / international experienced instructors, small pitcher / instructor ratio, monthly / quarterly / annual plans, individual / group sessions virtually and in person, webinars, video analysis, annual assessment of program, instructors and athletes)



Coach Development / Certification Requirements

- OASA believes that if we develop and enhance coaches at all levels it will result in better athletes and teams that will in turn increase the overall calibre and strength of male fastball in the province
- Softball Canada (SC) is moving more clinics into a hybrid mode (online / classroom)
- through the Coaches Association of Ontario (CAO) reimbursement for many clinics are available
- OASA plans to create a Coaches Development Pool in 2021 to identify and provide an enhanced coaching program and development opportunities potentially leading to Team Ontario or Team Canada (JMNT & SMNT) assignments (details and timing tbd)

- all OASA coaches and managers should create a profile with the Coaches Association of Canada (CAC) and get an NCCP # - <https://coach.ca/>
- Minimum 2021 Softball Canada coaching certification requirements for all age groups U14+:
 - Foundations of Coaching Softball Parts I & II, and
 - Make Ethical Decisions (Online Evaluation) (all are available online)
- OASA will mirror these requirements for all age groups in 2021
 - U8 to U16 at least 1 coach
 - U19, U23 and Senior Men at least 2 coaches
- for 2022 OASA and SC expect to revert to previously published NCCP levels



Other Updates

- OASA along with Softball Ontario and the other member associations (PWSA, ORSA, SPOA) have received some resiliency funding from the Ministry that we need to put towards rebuilding sport / softball in the province. We need to spend this money over the course of the next 30 – 60 days. Watch for updates that will explain the opportunities for leagues to take advantage of these.
 - Game Balls, PPE (by receipt)
 - Respect in Sport – Activity Leaders, Parent Programs, Keeping Girls in Sport
- new SC Public Service Announcement (PSA) in development
- 3 B5 kits to be given to each P/T by SC to pilot (<https://baseball5.wbasc.org/>)
- Jays 'Play Ball' campaign (<https://www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/baseball-academy/play-ball>)
- OASA Springboards not likely happening
- NCCP Coaching Clinics being updated / revised to go more hybrid (online / in person)
- SO Umpire registration and L1, L2, Refresher, Jr/Int online clinics starting very soon



OASA Spring Town Hall Questions?

April 2021