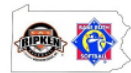




# Getting Back to Baseball/Softball

State Plans for the Summer



It is our goal to get our young athletes back on the field!

Not a one-size fits all...

Be flexible...

Some counties will be entering the green phase before others, so timing on the start of a potential summer rec season will vary geographically. Please follow the guidelines set forth by the state and your local government.

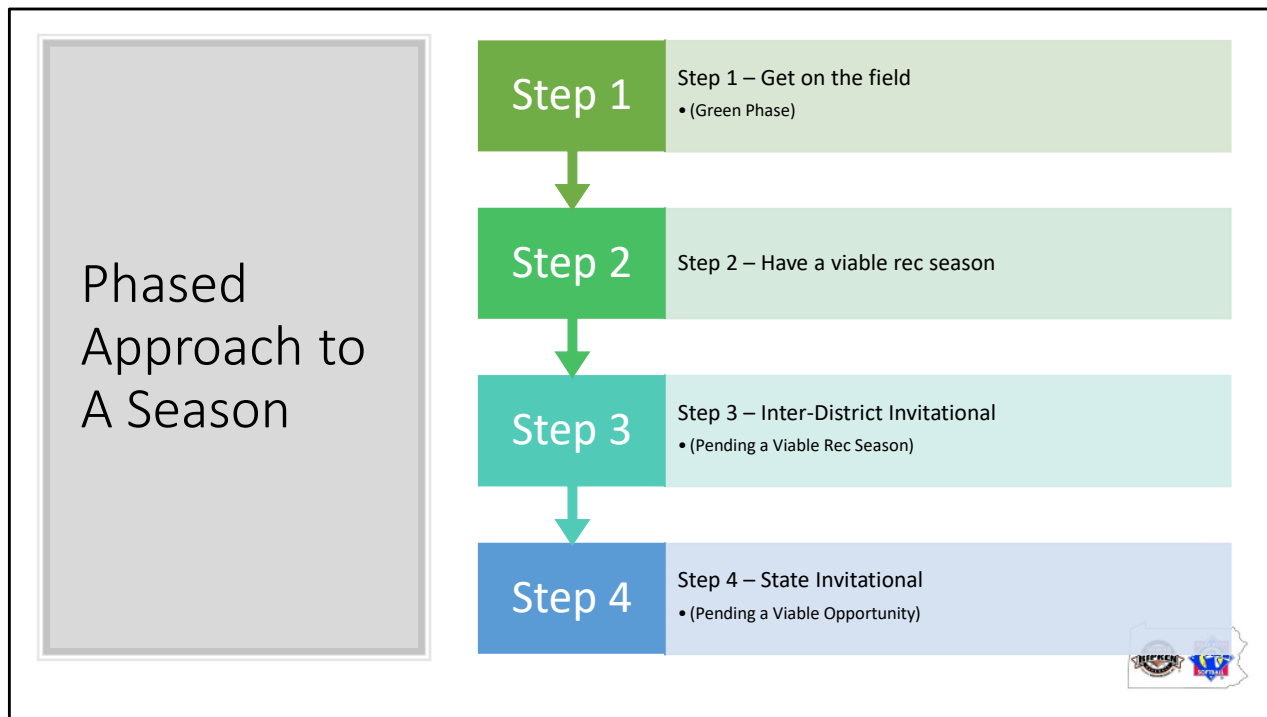
2020  
Tournament  
Trail

- NOT GOING TO BE THE TRADITIONAL EXPERIENCE
- Crawl
- Walk
- Run

A traditional tournament trail is not going to happen for 2020. However, that doesn't mean we won't do anything. Again, as mentioned earlier, we will need to be flexible as some leagues will be able to start before others. The first priority is to give leagues the opportunity to get a good, viable season in for everyone. But towards the end of July/early August, we may be able to offer some invitational type events. In an effort to organize this effort, we will need to:

- 1) Continue open communication between the leagues, district staff, and state staff.
  - We will create a collaboration micro-site to share ideas and information.
- 2) Get a clear picture as to when most of the leagues will start a season.
- 3) Get a comprehensive list of leagues/teams interested in pursuing some type of trail once a rec season has commenced.
- 4) Figure out who can host.

With that in mind, we have put together a questionnaire - <https://bit.ly/PABabeRuthQuestionnaire> – which we will use to track those details.



The priority is to get back on the field. According to the PA Parks & Rec guidelines (in next slide), organized sports are not allowed in the Yellow phase. But we need to start planning now, as some counties are in the green or will be going to green soon. Our goal will be to have our young athletes playing this summer. If we do that, we can consider the summer a success. If we get to Step 3, and are able to offer some type of invitational district tournament, that will be a bonus.

# CONTACT SPORTS

## Baseball, Fastpitch & Softball

Physical Contact	Ratios & Groups	Scheduling	Hygiene	Equipment	Minimizing Contact	Player Areas	Signage	Spectators
<b>Yellow Phase</b>								
Organized team sports are not permitted.	Same household members may play pick-up games on open fields.	NA	Game ball(s), benches and bleachers are disinfected before and after every game and practice.	Sharing of equipment is strongly discouraged.	Players do not huddle together; no hand slaps. Sportsmanship continues in touchless manner.	NA	Signage encourages hand washing, healthy practices, and rule adjustments. Staff empowered to enforce. One-way signage and/or tape used to limit player and patron interactions.	Consider removing bases and bleachers from public access.
<b>Green Phase</b>								
No restrictions	Each diamond is managed to not exceed gatherings of 90	Games and practices scheduled with 15-min buffer between to prevent overlap of participants. Stagger start times so no more than half of the complex is changing over at a time. Games may be played to completion.	Game ball(s) are disinfected before and after every game and practice. Bleaches and benches are disinfected every 4 hours.	Sharing of equipment is strongly discouraged.	Players do not huddle together; no hand slaps. Sportsmanship continues in touchless manner.	Batting team may have half of the team in the dugout, utilizing 6 ft distancing. The other half is outside the field, keeping 6 ft distancing.	Signage encourages hand washing, healthy practices, and rule adjustments. Staff empowered to enforce. One-way signage and/or tape used to limit player and patron interactions.	2 spectators per person allowed. Vulnerable populations should stay home.
<b>Phase Out</b>								
No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Sportsmanship will continue in a touchless manner.	No Restrictions	Signage will be displayed encouraging hand washing/healthy practices.	Vulnerable populations should be asked to stay home.

The chart shown here was extracted from the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society Reopening Guidelines, dated May 23, 2020. We are fully aware that the leagues will have to be creative in a lot of areas in terms of starting a season. Leagues will have to do what is necessary, within reason, to organize their teams, assign field space, allocate equipment, etc. Take player safety into consideration when making those decisions, and you should not have a problem. If you are unsure of anything and would like guidance, please do not hesitate to contact your district or state commissioner.

## Concessions & Complexes

Staffing	Menu	Payment	Hygiene	Customer Lines	Restrooms	Gate	Signage
<b>Yellow Phase</b>							
1 staff person per concession. Extra maintenance staff available for additional cleanings.	Food is made to order or a limited menu is available. No self-serve options. Condiments upon request.	If possible, employ cashless and preorder options.	Hand sanitizers made available for staff and public at registers. Disinfect registers before and after each shift. Service counters and other high touch areas disinfected frequently; hourly at a minimum. Workers wear masks and gloves.	Ground lines display 6 ft distancing. Patrons expected to comply.	Restrooms shut down and sanitized every 2 hours, or every other game. If possible, install portable sink or sanitizing station with portable toilets.	Gate collections not allowed	Signage encourages hand washing, healthy practices, and rule adjustments. Staff empowered to enforce. One-way signage and/or tape used to limit player and patron interactions.
<b>Green Phase</b>							
3 staff people per concession allowed. Extra maintenance staff available for additional cleanings. All wear masks and maintain appropriate distancing.	No self-serve options. Condiments upon request.	If possible, employ cashless and preorder options.	Hand sanitizers made available for staff and public at registers. Disinfect registers before and after each shift. Service counters and other high touch areas disinfected frequently; minimum every 2 hours.	Ground lines display 6 ft distancing. Patrons expected to comply.	Restrooms shut down and sanitized every 4 hours, or every 4 games.	Gate collection allowed with precautions. Hand sanitizers available for workers and public at gate table.	Signage encourages hand washing, healthy practices, and rule adjustments. Staff empowered to enforce. One-way signage and/or tape may be removed.
<b>Phase Out</b>							
No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Hand sanitizers made available for staff and public at registers. Disinfect registers before and after each shift. Service counters and other high touch areas disinfected as needed.	No Restrictions	Restrooms shut down and sanitized midday or as needed.	Gate collection allowed with precautions. Hand sanitizers available for workers and public at gate table.	Signage encourages hand washing, healthy practices.



## Recommendations

- Waivers/Hold Harmless
  - Check with your legal representative
  - Guidelines are available from Babe Ruth
- Streaming of Games
  - This would be a good opportunity to set it up!
    - Bandwidth at the fields is a must
    - Tony/Bryan have expertise from World Series on how to design/install
  - GoPro Hero8
    - Looking at opportunities via sponsorship

Babe Ruth has published a recommendations and guidelines document – linked here [http://www.baberuthleague.org/media/317863/BRL.CV19%20PLAN\\_5.15.20.pdf](http://www.baberuthleague.org/media/317863/BRL.CV19%20PLAN_5.15.20.pdf) – which will assist you in the planning of your season. Special “COVID-19” release waivers must be completed by all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires and/or regular spectators of program activities.

This is also an opportune time to consider streaming of games. This gives families and friends the opportunity to actively watch yet keeps everyone safer. We have knowledgeable volunteers to assist you in the design and implementation of a streaming solution. We are actively engaging with sponsors and potential sponsors around offering plug-n-play kits and implementation services. More to follow on that.



## Chartering

- If you intend to play a rec season:
  - Charter as normal
- If you do not intend to play a rec season:
  - Still charter 1 team per division
  - Credit towards 2021 season
- If you already chartered but won't be playing:
  - Credit towards 2021 season

Visit the Babe Ruth reopening guidelines -

[http://www.baberuthleague.org/media/317863/BRL.CV19%20PLAN\\_5.15.20.pdf](http://www.baberuthleague.org/media/317863/BRL.CV19%20PLAN_5.15.20.pdf) – for more details.