



## Guidance for PHASE 4:1: Incarnation Baseball 2021 Season

On March 22nd, 2021, Massachusetts advanced to Phase 4, Step 1 of the state's Reopening Massachusetts plan. Since moving to Phase 4, Step 1, the Baker administration has continued to update its safety standards and operating procedures for [youth amateur sports activities](#). These standards were most recently updated on May 17th, 2021. The Incarnation Baseball Board of Directors has reviewed the updated standards and procedures and incorporated any applicable updates into the below Incarnation Baseball 2021 Spring Baseball implementation plan.

The Incarnation Baseball 2021 Spring Baseball implementation plan is designed to provide families, coaches, umpires, and spectators with information necessary to participate in competitive baseball. This document will be shared with all coaches and parents of Incarnation players, will be available on-site during any Incarnation activities, and will be posted online. The Incarnation Board takes our responsibilities to ensure the safety of players, coaches, families and the entire community very seriously. We are proud of the 2020 summer season that was played at the Inc and will strive to achieve the same levels of safety and fun for all participants throughout the 2021 spring season.

The Board will continue to review all applicable safety standards and will adapt the implementation plan as appropriate.

### General Guidance for All

- All individuals including players, coaches, family members, umpires, and officials should closely monitor their health and stay home if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or have recently had close contact with an individual displaying Covid-19 symptoms. All individuals are expected to follow the Commonwealth's regulations for quarantine and testing following possible exposure or out-of-state travel.

### Guidelines for Players / Parents

- **Come to the field prepared.** Bring your own water bottle and glove. Players are encouraged to bring their own equipment (helmet, bat, etc) and should not share any personal equipment.
- **Arrive on time.** Players should arrive at the park *no earlier* than the time recommended by their head coach and *never* more than 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- **Leave promptly after the game.** Unless a sibling / household member is playing or coaching on another field, players should leave the Incarnation Church premises promptly after the conclusion of the game.



- **Limited spectators.** To comply with state restrictions limiting outdoor gathering sizes to 150 individuals, we ask that families limit the number of spectators at each game. If the Board feels that we are approaching capacity limits, we reserve the right to limit spectators to a certain number per player.
- **Spectators should adhere to state guidelines.** Spectators should follow state guidelines regarding social distancing.
- **Spectator zones:** The Incarnation Board of Directors suggests the following locations to watch games:
  - **Field 1** – The fence running from third base to the left field corner. The center field fence. The right field fence.
  - **Field 2** – The fence running from third base to the left field corner. The outfield fence from left field around to right center field. The backstop behind home plate.
  - **Field 3** – The backstop behind home plate. The fence running from behind third base to the left field corner. The fence / seating area in left field.

## In Game Guidelines

- **Shared equipment will be sanitized prior to use.** All shared equipment (catchers gear, team helmets, etc.) must be sanitized prior to the game and following the game. The league provides sanitizing spray for this purpose.
- **Arrive *no more than 30 minutes* prior to a game.** Coaches shall instruct teams to arrive *no more than 30 minutes* prior to a game.. Coaches should encourage players to leave the premises promptly after games.
- **Benches.** Coaches shall ensure that equipment is not piled up and players maintain distancing.
- **Time limit.** No inning may ***start*** more than 1 hour and 45 minutes after the first pitch. If the game is tied at that point the result will be a tie. Majors may play extra innings, provided that a full six innings is played within 1 hour and 45 minutes. This rule shall not apply to any playoff games.