

Welcome Back to Shirley Povich Field

A Guide to Keeping Our Fans & Players Safe in 2021



Montgomery County officials have approved the 2021 Return to Play Plan submitted by the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club (BCBBC) to allow up to 250 fans at Big Train games at Shirley Povich Field this June and July. Our plan was developed in close coordination with our colleagues in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League so that our fans can be assured that all teams are abiding by the same health and safety protocols.

We are pleased to be able to bring the fun back to Povich Field after the difficult fourteen months we have just endured. The excellence of Big Train baseball on the field will continue. Many aspects of the game night experience will change as the health and safety of our fans, players, coaches, staff, and volunteers will be our top priority. We are counting on everyone in the Big Train family to take responsibility for helping to maintain the health and safety for all of us. The purpose of this document is to provide our fans with a thorough description of the 2021 Big Train experience.

The Bethesda Community Base Ball Club is committed to making the fan experience at Povich Field among the very best in all of baseball. If you have a question or concern not answered here or a special need, please contact us at faninfo@bigtrain.org.

Bethesda Big Train 2021 Season Schedule

Frequently Asked Questions About the 2021 Big Train Fan Experience

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Digital Ticketing & Seating

- ⚾ Attendance will be limited to 250 fans – one-third of the Povich Field capacity of 750 – at each game.
- ⚾ All tickets will be available in pods of two, three and four with social distancing of six feet between each pod. [View the Bethesda Big Train 2021 Seating Plan.](#)
- ⚾ No fan will have other fans seated in the row in front or behind the seats in their pod, and no fan will have fans seated to either side of the seats in their pod. To ensure there is six feet between each pod, every other row will be blocked and there will be three empty seats between each seat pod.
- ⚾ Season pass holders and host families will be given priority for reserving seats two days prior to seats being released for sale to the general public. Season passes for pods of four are on sale now for \$175 and pods of two for \$100. [Buy a 2021 Big Train Season Pass.](#)
- ⚾ Individual game night tickets will be on sale to the general public [online here](#) for \$10 per ticket starting at 9 a.m. on the following days:
 - **Thursday, May 20** for June 5, 6, and 9 games;
 - **Thursday, June 3** for June 12, 13, 15, and 19 (DH) games;
 - **Thursday, June 10** for June 20, 21, 24 and 27 games;
 - **Thursday, June 24** for July 2, 3, 6, and 9 games; and
 - **Thursday, July 1** for the July 11, 12, 17 and 21 games.
- ⚾ Fans interested in securing tickets to individual games in advance of these windows may do so by reserving a picnic for groups of at least four fans (see **Food & Beverage** on page 4).
- ⚾ All tickets will be sold online. There will be no walk-up ticket sales in 2021.
- ⚾ Fans will receive an email with a QR code that will be scanned upon arrival. Fans will be expected to have their mobile ticket ready to be scanned to help expedite entry into the ballpark.
- ⚾ Tickets will be in a designated pod. Fans may not move to other seats or join other groups. If people want to sit together, they must have pre-purchased tickets in a single pod or two adjacent pods.
- ⚾ Seating for people with disabilities and their companions will be available. Please email tickets@bigtrain.org.
- ⚾ Gates open at 6 p.m. for 7 p.m. games and one hour before other games. Your ticket will indicate whether you are to use Entrance A (main entrance for Third Base Grandstand and Home Plate Grandstand) or Entrance B (side gate entrance for Davis Family Picnic Pavilion, First Base Grandstand, or Right Field Bleacher). There will be a separate Exit only gate behind the Third Base Grandstand.





Fan Health Promise

-  If you are feeling sick, please stay home. We will provide you with a ticket to a game once you are feeling better or a refund.
-  No fan who has tested positive for Covid-19 or other communicable disease or been identified as a potential carrier of Covid-19 or other communicable disease within 14 days prior to the game shall attend a Big Train game at Povich Field.
-  No fan who is experiencing symptoms commonly associated with Covid-19 or other communicable disease shall attend a Big Train game at Povich Field.
-  No fan who has been in close contact (*i.e.*, 15 or more minutes in a 24 hour period) with any person confirmed or suspected of being infected with Covid-19 or other communicable disease within five days prior to the game shall attend a Big Train game at Povich Field.







Protective Masks

-  All fans ages two and above, staff, volunteers, players, athletic trainers, and coaches must wear protective masks covering their nose and mouth at Povich Field, with the exception of players who are actively participating in the field of play (*i.e.*, on the field, on deck, or warming up in the bullpen) or fans while actively eating or drinking in the picnic area or in their seating pods.
-  Big Train staff will provide masks for anyone entering the ballpark who does not have a mask. After one warning, fans who refuse to comply with the Big Train mask policy while at Povich Field will be asked to leave the ballpark. Refunds will not be given to fans asked to leave the ballpark for non-compliance with the mask requirement.



Sanitization/Restrooms

-  Hand sanitation stations will be provided at each concession stand and outside each restroom with one outside the auxiliary restroom and one at each entrance and exit.
-  Staff will clean each restroom before and after each game, as well as once every hour during each game.
-  Only one stall/urinal/sink will be open in each bathroom at Povich Field.
-  There will be a staff member at the entrance to each restroom to allow one person to wait to use the restroom and to offer the option of using the larger restrooms just 130 feet from the ballpark, exiting through the Exit gate behind the Third Base Grandstand and returning through the main entrance (Entrance A).



Food & Beverage

- ⚾ The Big Train will utilize a mobile ordering platform to eliminate crowded concessions lines and decrease person-to-person contact.
- ⚾ Fans will be able to pre-order food and pick it up on their way to their seats without interacting with staff. Pre-ordered food will be at tables near the appropriate entrance gate clearly marked for pick up.
- ⚾ Fans will also be able to order food and have it delivered to their seat without standing in line.
- ⚾ Food, condiments, and utensils will be individually packaged and distributed with the food order whenever possible.
- ⚾ Eating will not be allowed in common areas. Eating will be allowed only in the designated picnic areas and the seating pod to which the fan is assigned.
- ⚾ The picnic pavilion will be open at less than fifty percent capacity to provide for tables spaced at least six feet apart. Fans may only take their mask off while they are seated and actively eating. Fans may not move between tables during the course of their picnic.
- ⚾ Fans may secure tickets for any game during the season by reserving a picnic for at least four people. To reserve your picnic, please email bruce@greaterwash.org.
- ⚾ For fans who choose to go to the concessions vendors in person, signage on the ground will promote social distancing. Staff members will be present at the hot dog cart, ice cream stand, and main concession stand to ensure fans waiting in line maintain social distancing.
- ⚾ No beer or alcohol will be sold or allowed to be consumed at Big Train games.
- ⚾ Smoking is prohibited at all times at Povich Field and in Cabin John Regional Park.



Other New Practices and Protocols for 2021

One of the guiding principles of the Big Train's health and safety plan is to separate on-field baseball operations – players, coaches, athletic trainers, bat kids, and umpires – from fans and game night operation staff and volunteers. To achieve this, we need to institute these protocols for the 2021 season:

- ⚾ There will be no congregating outside the ballpark prior to or after the game.
- ⚾ There will be no player autograph sessions.
- ⚾ There will be no fan interactions with players and coaches before, during, or after the game.



Other New Practices and Protocols for 2021

- 🏆 There will be no on-field promotions and activities.
- 🏆 There will be no raffles.
- 🏆 Players may not throw or give balls, bats, or other equipment to fans at any time.
- 🏆 All staff-fan interactions (such as front gate entry, food sales, merchandise sales) will be contactless and physically distant whenever possible.
- 🏆 In the case of rain or other weather incident that halts the game, the public address announcer will direct all fans to leave on a staggered basis by seating area and return to their cars. Fans will not be allowed to shelter in the picnic pavilion or the main entrance. Staff will direct fans to use all entrances and exits as exits.
- 🏆 All fans will be required to leave the ballpark within 15 minutes of the final play of the game.

We thank our Big Train fans for understanding that these new practices and protocols have been carefully designed to protect everyone in our Big Train family and our visitors. We recognize that these practices and protocols might seem complicated. Please check back often for updated information, as practices and protocols are subject to change throughout the season, especially as county, state, and federal officials issue new guidance.

BCBBC appreciates a generous grant from Community Radiology Associates that allows us to have the signage, protective equipment, sanitizers, and ballpark modifications necessary to implement our 2021 Return to Play Plan.



For additional general information, please go to www.bigtrain.org. For specific questions about tickets, please email tickets@bigtrain.org.

Play ball. Roll Train!

