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April 2, 2020

To The Parents/Guardians of the Solon Stampede Baseball Program:

This past Monday, Governor DeWine lengthened the closure of schools in Ohio, aligning with the social distancing order of President Trump, through May 1. This puts our program, as well as all baseball programs in the state, in limbo, as our season has officially now been delayed.

After talking with our 8U-12U coaches via conference call, it was voted upon unanimously that we would slightly alter from past policy: rather than using school closure as our determination on whether or not to return, we will use Governor DeWine's and Dr. Acton's decision to end social distancing in Ohio. Once the state ends social distancing, our staff will meet to determine our course of action for resuming activity; the decision for this was based primarily on the fact that with baseball being outdoors, as well as the fact that less of our kids would be together, and under more direct supervision, than in a school building.

We are also aware that our teams are somewhat at the mercy of a number of different entities, such as: the city of Solon, independent and sanctioned tournaments, the Buckeye Baseball League and Northeast Ohio Baseball League, and other programs in those respective leagues. One thing was clear, and I'm sure many of you share the sentiment: we want to get outside and watch our kids play!

When we have the all clear to play, one of the items discussed in our conference call was continuing to ensure the safety of our kids, both in regards to COVID-19 and baseball activity. We will be enacting a number of policies to protect our kids, including things such as mandated pitch counts our first 3-4 weeks back that are well below national guidelines, as well as limiting the sharing of things such as gum and sunflower seeds. Those are just a few examples; when we resume activity, we will put out a more detailed list.

Lastly, your coaches either have, or will shortly, survey each team to determine items such as out of town travel and lengthening the season beyond what is currently scheduled. Our goals this summer are to keep our kids safe, and play as many games as possible. We appreciate your flexibility and patience during this international pandemic, and hopefully sooner than later we will get to hear "Play Ball".