



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Kevin Legge, President, Baseball NL

Date: April 24th, 2020

RE: Baseball NL – updated response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Baseball NL Membership,

As you are all aware, the updates concerning COVID-19 are becoming more and more a part of our lives. With each day that passes, the cases of COVID-19 in Canada are increasing, more activities and events globally are being postponed or cancelled, and day-to-day life is changing as we know it. Even though it has only been one week since our initial announcement, we have been monitoring and updating everyone as much as possible and appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work through this unprecedented situation.

Following a teleconference call of the Baseball Canada Board of Directors on April 22nd, 2020, the 2020 Baseball Canada National Championships have been cancelled. While this was a tough decision understanding the impacts on everyone involved, it is also a decision that we fully support given the circumstances that we are currently dealing with. Safety of everyone involved with a National Championship – players, coaches, parents, officials, volunteers – is paramount. Given these safety concerns, as well as the current travel restrictions and unknowns around a resumption of unnecessary travel, the decision to cancel these Championships was the only logical decision to reach. All provinces were in unanimous agreement that this was the best approach to take.

This decision to cancel the 2020 Baseball Canada National Championships DOES NOT mean the cancellation of the 2020 baseball season in Newfoundland and Labrador. We are continuing to gather information and monitor updates from health and government officials with regard to the resumption of activity. We are continuing to plan and prepare for whatever a potential baseball season will look like. As more information becomes available concerning a resumption of activity we will update as quickly and timely as possible.

With that in mind however, we also realize that there are updates that need to be made with respect to the April 30th deadline and the resumption of in-person activity. In continuing to ensure the health and safety of anyone associated with Baseball NL-sanctioned programming, we have made the decision to **suspend all Baseball NL-sanctioned in-person activity until May 31st**. This continues to include any upcoming Provincial Team tryouts, Provincial Team training, coaching clinics, umpire clinics and meetings. If this suspension is forced to extend into the summer months, we will update at that time with respect to on-field activity, including the Provincial Championship season. Please understand that any potential cancellations to the summer season and on-field activity will be made as a last resort and with the understanding that no other appropriate alternative was an option.

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The decision to suspend any club-level training or programming continues to remain at the club level and will be assessed within their jurisdictions on a case-by-case basis by club-level officials. If you or your child are involved with club-level training or programming, please contact your local club for more information on those specific events.

As we look to offer alternatives to the traditional pre-season preparation, we are pleased to offer online coaching courses via Adobe Connect that will be on April 30th. Information on these clinics has already been communicated to the local association in your area, and been shared on our website and social media platforms. Please head to www.baseballnl.com for more information.

In addition to this, final details are being worked on with respect to the online delivery of umpire clinics that will replace the traditional umpire clinic program. We are working with our provincial partners in Ontario to make this possible and hope to have more information out in the next couple of weeks.

Again, thank you for your cooperation & support as we continue to work through this very unprecedented situation. For the time being, continue to stay safe and practice the proper public health precautions to ensure we are all able to get back on the field – and back to day-to-day life – as quickly and safely as possible.

Kevin Legge
President
Baseball NL