



**2020 MONTANA/ALBERTA BASEBALL SEASON**  
**APRIL 25, 2020**  
**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**CHAT FEED**



00:35:29 Ron Edwards: Test message

00:43:30 Ron Edwards: Hi Jeff

01:33:50 Ron Edwards: Welcome

01:34:39 Paul McGhay: yep

01:55:53 Cody Wood: virtual practices? teleconferenced workouts and drills?

01:56:01 David Swecker: Who has reached out to their city parks and received approval to practice already?

01:56:50 Kyle Pryor: Custer County public health is not allowing us to start Monday.

01:57:13 Jeff LeProwse: Butte is ok with us starting Monday

01:57:45 Tony: I have sent an email to the county health department waiting to hear back

01:57:45 Brian Jenkins: I think we should stick to 10 or less period. at least for one week or so. If people start seeing parks full of kids it is not going to matter how much separation there is.

01:58:27 Denny Puszkar: Lethbridge diamonds are closed until May 31.

01:58:41 Coach Burnett - Helena: Ron, so we need to be phase 2 before games can actually begin, correct?

01:58:55 Carl Hennell: Yes, Coach Burnett.

01:59:49 Kyle Pryor: I have requested to be part of the rest of the public health board meetings to help find a way to participate

01:59:55 craigs@intermountain.org: Brian's comment makes sense at least to start with

01:59:59 Tyler Scully: if Bitterroot Bucs are cleared we will only allow 10 players at the field at once

02:01:17 Adam Hust: 10 or less is good. City of Billings is not issuing user permits for any other user groups in Billings. Not sure where we stand with having our field under a separate contract.

02:02:54 Russell's iPad: Ron do you or do I reach out Matt Kelly the Gallatin County for permission to start.

02:02:59 Carl Hennell: That's good to hear, Coach Noble and Hust, about the Bucs and that you are being accountable instead of trying to find loopholes. One misstep across the state could end it for all of us.

02:03:09 Brian Jenkins: Ron what do you want for documentation for the approval to begin

02:05:03 Garrett Schultz: We are hoping to practice in groups of 10 or less in Bozeman as well. I sat in on the Gallatin County Fair Board's meeting last week

and let them know we planned to get rolling soon. I am going to reach out to the county for a formal approval Monday, and hope to start small group practice Wednesday.

- 02:05:58 Mike Street: Medicine Hat is in the same situation as Lethbridge.
- 02:06:07 iPhone: there is really no way we could start Monday! we still have to talk to our respected health departments!
- 02:07:23 Carl Hennell: Ron: Maybe a poll question: Should we halt all practices until everybody has permission to practice, so things are equal?
- 02:09:20 Tyler Scully: would games have to be played without fans during phase 2?
- 02:09:24 Wacy Arndt: Phase 2 allows larger gatherings but has the same guidelines as phase 1, which includes social distancing, how does that work for games with dugouts and traveling by bus and other situations where close quarters are required?
- 02:10:39 Paul McGhay: Garrett has reached out
- 02:11:20 Scott Sparks: I think logistically waiting on all counties and provinces for approval to practice is not practical
- 02:11:29 Carl Hennell: Scully, that is something we are looking... no fans during games, but needs to be discussed... I think it is on the agenda for a little later
- 02:11:31 iPhone: There are many things that need to be considered before we start practicing
- 02:12:06 Adam Hust: where is the poll?
- 02:12:35 Brian Jenkins: Were discussing in Havre, Leaving travel up to the parents. No buses
- 02:14:23 Brian Jenkins: Maybe the experts on streaming games already can share some how to
- 02:14:29 Russell's iPad: in Belgrade our parents can park behind the homerun fence and watch
- 02:14:55 Scott Sparks: Each venue has to be creative. Our county has 0 reported cases. Our ballpark has an outfield that most of our fans occupy with fans. The rest of our facility can be manipulated to allow as many fans as we can deem acceptable and allow for social distancing
- 02:15:04 iPhone: Logistically this could be a nightmare for the next 3 to 4 weeks!
- 02:15:32 Cody Wood: gonna need to chalk more batters boxes for people to stand in. ha!
- 02:17:07 Paul McGhay: Is there a fee?
- 02:17:19 Brian Jenkins: Chris can you provide info on what gear to use. Thank You MPSN, THAT IS AWESOME
- 02:17:48 Coach Burnett - Helena: no my understanding is Jay is not back
- 02:18:35 Adam Hust: Cost? Already having issues with raising money.
- 02:20:53 Paul McGhay: Awesome.. Great job being creative!! really appreciated

02:23:47 Tyler Scully: Bucs are looking in to portable hand washing stations in our dugouts, wipes to wipe down balls and hopefully hand sanitizer

02:24:05 Brian Jenkins: rotation of buckets of balls

02:24:08 Coach Burnett - Helena: No team water jugs...no sharing in the dugout of cups

02:24:20 Adam Hust: Pie

02:25:44 Adam Hust: Pitchers lick fingers several times each inning. Saliva goes directly to the balls, then to another kids glove and hands. Monitor this.

02:26:05 Scott Sparks: one year rule of no hands to the mouth

02:26:40 Coach Burnett - Helena: going to have to have players chase foul balls out of park or cost will be huge

02:27:36 iPad: no sunflower seeds "spits"

02:27:44 Brian Jenkins: I like the no hand to mouth rule.

02:28:09 iPhone: I really think Monday is too soon to start! We need to come up with a plan before we have the practices! We should have had this meeting and then practice starts May 4th! We still cannot cross state borders without staying home for 2 weeks!

02:28:17 Scott Sparks: North district could be a mess. Canadian teams plus Tri-County in a hot spot

02:29:18 Paul McGhay: No way can we put 4 kids in a room.. going to be expensive

02:29:29 Scott Sparks: Eliminating overnight travel will help with reducing team expenses which are going to be an issue with fundraising challenges this year

02:30:09 trevor: iPhone sounds like they want no part of this season

02:30:41 David Swecker: Agreed on reducing nights out to help keep people safe and also help with fundraising issues.

02:32:04 Coach Burnett - Helena: we could look at possibly hosting triangular conference games in centralized cities if we want to reduce travel and overnights.

02:32:33 David Swecker: We already canceled our out of state tournaments and are not playing at Dehler to help with fundraising.

02:33:31 Jeff LeProwse: we anticipate at least 50% reduction in our fundraising

02:33:46 Brian Jenkins: I think there needs clarification of tournaments.. is that district /state, or are you referring to the non legion tourneys that are non conference? if we are playing in these non legion tourneys it is still eyes on legion

02:33:50 Scott Sparks: Our parents are ok with the travel, but from a budgeting standpoint we are now behind the 8 ball on making sure the funds are there for the overnight travel especially with the unknown into phase 2.

02:34:37 David Swecker: I agree with waiting until May 4th start practicing in small groups gives everyone time to get permission to play at their fields.

02:36:27 Paul Mrazek: Ron, what is the latest start date to get conference games in to allow for Districts and State?

02:36:31 Garrett Schultz: Most our overnight travel is scheduled for June/July. It is possible we are in Phase 3 by then, and health departments would lift social distancing requirements, Meaning hotels would be within health guidelines.

02:36:36 Ginger: Coach Hathaway has a comment, can he unmute?

02:36:53 Ginger: Chat is not working for him.

02:37:03 Scott Sparks: We have the governor's approval to start Monday and with May 15th a target date I think if your county and city give you the thumbs up we get rolling

02:37:36 Kelly Morford: Libby applied for and received a Headwaters Go! grant. Super easy to apply for, tool line 20 minutes. Its a Western Montana thing...Butte West I think. Might be worth some teams looking into. it was \$5000.

02:38:26 Coach Burnett - Helena: we didnt have any "start date" for practices prior to this. If a certain program has approvals and can begin on Monday, they should be allowed to. Full disclosure, Helena has not talked to the City yet and we do not plan on starting Monday.

02:38:52 Jeff LeProwse: no restrictions on when teams can start practicing every other year why now? usually Butte is a few weeks later due to weather & that doesn't stop others from practicing

02:39:10 Scott Sparks: The key is for constant communication between the state and the programs. 2 week or weekly increments might be worth exploring for us to gather for conversation

02:39:18 trevor: should be able to start if you have the option

02:39:38 Scott Sparks: great point Jeff!

02:40:30 Brian Jenkins: What about saying later May start date for conference games. Were flexible with state now, right?

02:40:52 Carl Hennell: Agreed with another big meeting in a couple weeks.

02:41:43 Paul Mrazek: Ron, can i unmute?

02:41:57 Carl Hennell: go ahead a unmute and jump in

02:42:54 Carl Hennell: Kevin, mute yourself when not talking

02:43:55 Adam Hust: June 1 start date for games. Start practice when your city or county says it ok.

02:44:51 Scott Sparks: My biggest concern with a conference schedule for the north is the status of the Canadian teams

02:45:37 Jeff LeProwse: Butte is not planning on playing until May 30

02:46:01 Ginger: Agreed that another meeting in a couple of weeks would be beneficial for making some of these decisions. If we can start practice for a few weeks think through some of the logistics we'll be better able to go forward.

02:46:33 David Swecker: My first conference games are June 12th

02:47:34 Scott Sparks: Instead of date just give the teams the option to play when we move to phase 2

02:47:41 iPhone: We are still on 14 day quarantine if we travel over state borders and we can not start games until we are in phase 2

02:47:57 claire studiner: June 1 start date works for us

02:48:10 claire studiner: for games

02:48:27 Scott Sparks: Ultimately the governor is going to determine our start date

02:48:46 trevor: what about Memorial Day tournaments ?

02:50:01 David Swecker: I agree with June 1 start date

02:50:14 iPad: Budgets need figured by start date.

02:51:01 iPhone: I agree with June 1st start date

02:51:05 Kevin's iPhone: when phase 2 starts we

02:51:10 David Swecker: Are we still thinking Aug 5th for start date on state

02:52:01 Kevin's iPhone: when phase 2 starts we should play games

02:52:03 Adam Hust: We are talking about less than 30 games over the course of two months. All of the programs in Billings will need to reschedule due to the use of only one field.

02:52:57 Scott Sparks: We can come up with dates for whatever we want, but ultimately phase 1 says we can start small group practices Monday, we won't have a clue as to when phase 2 begins so why worry about things we can't control at this time

02:53:14 Coach Burnett - Helena: same as Hath, we host our big B tournament Memorial.

02:54:02 Scott Sparks: stay flexible and make the most out of a schedule once we know more regarding phase 2

02:54:10 Brian Jenkins: is everybody in the association in agreement to allow overnight tourneys? this reflects on us all

02:54:18 Tyler Scully: if NC tournaments are a go later in the summer and anyone lost an out of state tournament Bucs are still planning to host if any needs to fill

02:54:23 craigs@intermountain.org: Governor will guide some of this. It is likely premature to have a definitive date at this time. Seems like we this could also be under the same influx as being able to start practicing. Probably will still be left to county governments and juristictions.

02:55:13 Johnny: How does lodging work for the Memorial Day Tournaments?

02:56:05 arlette.knouse: It does not matter what date you start if the border is close we cannot play the teams in the

02:56:24 Scott Sparks: Great point Carl... wait on game dates until we know more

02:56:30 Jeff LeProwse: how do you host a tournament with under 50 people?

02:57:44 Kelly Morford: I think we should be grateful that we can practice this early and if we can play by June 1, I would be happy. Especially if you would have offered that two weeks ago. Let's not get greedy with trying to play too early and hosting tournaments, etc. Let's take what we can get and not push it. I say that as a program that makes a significant portion of its income from tournaments with teams from Canada, WA, ID, and CA.

02:58:41 iPhone: With all of these restrictions, this season will not be too much fun if we have enforce all of this!

02:58:59 Scott Sparks: Just leave phase 2 as your target dates. We can all currently practice by phase 1 in some capacity. So let's try and meet weekly to see where we are at.

02:59:04 Kelly Morford: to clarify, I think we play as soon as we can appropriately do so. I just don't want us to get greedy

02:59:57 Adam Hust: You need 3 weeks to get pitchers arms ready for games. Pushing forward for a May start date could result in some injuries if not done correctly.

03:00:26 Paul McGhay: We have 2 weeks to see where things go!

03:01:43 iPhone: I am all for another meeting in two weeks!

03:01:47 Coach Burnett - Helena: we still need to get teams selected which should be interesting with us keeping it under 10. I am good with getting that done and beginning practices and then touching base in a couple of weeks.

03:02:30 Coach Burnett - Helena: Keith Sell in Helena over 4th of July

03:03:29 Scott Sparks: agree with Garrett

03:07:02 Kelly Morford: What are these "tryouts" you all speak of?! :)

03:08:00 Scott Sparks: Do we really want to set a games dates at this time? We are the mercy of the Governor

03:08:12 David Swecker: Sunday evening works great for me

03:08:16 Paul McGhay: works

03:08:23 Scott Sparks: Sunday nights are good

03:08:26 Ginger: Sunday evening works.

03:08:34 iPhone: Sunday nights are great

03:08:37 Scott Wolf: Sunday night works

03:08:38 iPad: Sunday evening is best

03:08:42 craigs@intermountain.org: Sunday is good for me

03:09:20 Scott Sparks: 6:00 or later works

03:09:26 claire studiner: Sundays work

03:09:39 Scott Sparks: agree with Adam

03:10:01 Garrett Schultz: agree, break out conferences/classes for next meeting

03:10:03 Coach Burnett - Helena: yes agree with adam

03:11:42 craigs@intermountain.org: If you have break out meetings please include leadership from our state umpire associations so we can make sure our members no what is happening.

03:11:57 Carl Hennell: gotcha Craig

03:12:00 craigs@intermountain.org: Know not no

03:14:19 Scott Sparks: In class A that's pretty damn tough to do

03:14:52 Carl Hennell: CClass A could be split up in regions for first rounds...

03:15:18 Brian Jenkins: I think overall we need to be on the same page though as well. I would hope everybody would focus on conference play and quit worrying about tournaments that are outside the conference structure. It is putting a huge target on all Legion teams, not just the ones that participate or host that event. This season, I would be thankful to have A SEASON but talk of bringing in teams from Washington and Idaho and overnight stays are going to negatively effect the group as a whole and people will be gunning for us to shut down completely. Just my opinion and I hope MAALB does not promote that at ALL yet. We are the state A host and would love nothing more than for that to happen, but we are also in favor a no overnight travel commitment and do a high seed host post season. IF we as a group don't have these questions answered going into next week, we will be shut down. We would appreciate the opportunity to host next year and play a respectful limited contact season this year.

03:15:59 Tyler Scully: play the first rounds however we can, 3 game series between final 2?

03:16:48 Scott Wolf: Agreed, play the district and states at the higher seed

03:18:08 Luke Stajcar: agreed Brian

03:18:19 iPad: agreed

03:18:36 Johnny: Seeding tricky @ state for A as we don't seed. Made up of conference champs and runner-ups.

03:18:48 iPhone: agree

03:18:56 Kelly Morford: ^ What Brian said

03:19:26 David Swecker: I like that idea Tony

03:19:44 Jeff LeProwse: agree Brian I'm guessing Butte will make decision on Monday to not play invitational tournaments this year our board will make final decision tomorrow

03:22:10 Scott Sparks: what about Glacier?

03:24:11 Carl Hennell: Glacier is No. 2 on that list

03:27:46 Scott Sparks: unless you are in the north

03:27:47 craigs@intermountain.org: except for east

03:29:48 Brian Jenkins: I think we need to define the goal for this week in regards to teams have now been given the go ahead to practice if: an insurance form needs to be signed and turned back in, guidelines that are consistent across the state and required by all teams need to be formed and agreed upon. Once we accomplish that then we move to a goal for next week. I don't think anybody should practice until that is all accomplished. we are hoping for Wednesday.

03:30:17 craigs@intermountain.org: Carl I voted as well

03:30:35 Carl Hennell: thank Craig

03:33:38 Kelly Morford: I will call balls and strikes from our dugout. I see them really well from there. Haven't

03:33:50 Kelly Morford: missed a call in 15 years

03:34:02 Adam Hust: Robots Craig!)

03:34:05 Cody Wood: ha!

03:36:57 Cody Wood: go Braves

03:37:34 Kevin's iPhone: go braves

03:37:59 Scott Sparks: Ron so the biggest thing we need to take from this meeting is that we can start practicing in small groups with approval from our county officials on Monday. Correct? All other dates, decisions will be discussed more next week. Sorry I don't have a mic that is working to ask this question. Thanks

03:38:43 Carl Hennell: Correct Scott

03:38:57 Scott Sparks: Thanks Carl

03:44:44 Scott Sparks: One of my assistants is the chief of police so we are good

03:47:28 Kevin's iPhone: thanks ron

