



## **BAYLAND PARK LITTLE LEAGUE**

May 17, 2020

Dear BPLL Families,

Never did I imagine at the start of 2020 that I would be writing a letter to the league about a virus and the effect that it would have on our little league organization. I hope this letter finds all our families healthy and safe. From the moment we received word of the stay at home orders from the city, county, and state authorities along with Little League we suspended play, this covered both practice and games. We then began working to try and understand the massive amounts of information that began pouring in pertaining to the virus and what we could do to mitigate it when we tried to resume playing baseball. The goal is to ultimately return to play baseball safely and add some amount of normalcy to a way of life that has been turned upside down. Unfortunately, I must inform you that the Board has voted to change the status of the Spring 2020 season from suspended to cancelled. This decision was made on the side of extreme caution. We would rather forego playing the balance of our season over putting our players, their families, and our umpires in harm's way. There is just no way to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone by coming together now or any time soon to practice or play games. I have personally attended several tele-conferences held by the District 16 Administrator to discuss the many restrictions that are in place and how to handle a possible restart to the season once they have been lifted. To date the county is still not allowing any organized team activities on the fields at Bayland Park. The Governors ban on team activities with more than four participants is not scheduled to expire until 05/18, and restriction on team practice will expire 06/01. With this in mind, the Board felt that anything we do try to do will not really resemble the practice and game time atmosphere that most of us enjoy and are accustomed to.

What's Next.

We will set a date or couple of dates in the next couple of weeks that will allow us to hand out pictures, the practice jersey's, and booster club yard signs to everyone. I know a lot of you have been asking about the pictures. I finally received them on Saturday 05/16. The processing lab has been closed since early March and just re-opened. The league is set to have its annual membership meeting later this month or early next month. The Bayland Park Community Center will remain closed through June so we will have to find an alternate place to hold the meeting. Once the new Board members have been selected for the 2020-2021 year, we will set a date to open Fall registration. Fall sports in general are not a given and this would also include little league baseball. I

think it is the hope of all of us that life will have settled down, school can safely start and then we might be able to consider playing baseball. I want to thank everyone for their patience with us as we try to navigate through this together. Keep an eye on the website and social media for information and updates. You may also email me with any questions or concerns you may have. I will be happy to talk to you.

## Refunds.

The biggest challenge we have wrestled with is refunds. BPLL incurs expenses year-round primarily in the form of continual field and building maintenance. As each season begins a large percentage of the money brought in from registration fees and sponsors is spent on uniforms, new equipment and capital improvements. This money is spent well in advance of the first game played on opening day. At this time the league has no plans to refund money for the spring season. We are asking our families to understand the situation we find ourselves in pertaining to this. The board works very hard to provide a quality baseball experience at a very affordable cost to everyone. We have never and will never turn a child away from this league over the cost of registration. When you compare our league's fees to our neighboring leagues and our inter league partners, we consistently rank at the bottom of the list in terms of cost. When compared to three or four of these leagues the gap is over a couple of hundred dollars just in registration fees alone! This league exists solely on the time, energy, and effort that all of us voluntarily give to continue providing a quality baseball experience for our youth. If anyone wishes to discuss this further, please email me at [rcolley60@gmail.com](mailto:rcolley60@gmail.com) or Kevin Matakis at [kevin.matakis@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.matakis@gmail.com).

I look forward to getting everyone one back on the field and enjoying the camaraderie that exist while watching our children compete and grow into superior citizens through the lessons that sports helps us learn. Hopefully that time is soon.

Thank you,

Reid Colley

President – Bayland Park Little League.

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Board members

Kevin Matakis

Robert Hastings

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