



# BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Kevin Legge, President, Baseball NL

Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

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Dear Baseball NL Membership,

Over this past weekend, the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development released guidance for team field sports to resume activity. In addition to this, Baseball NL has also been working on its own guidance documents in addition to the recently-released government documents that are specific to baseball. These documents – we hope – will give more clarity and information as to how baseball specifically intends to resume activity in a way that is safe for everyone involved. In the coming days, these documents will be sent to our membership, outlining what our season will look like from a health and safety perspective, as well as changes that are going to be made to traditional gameplay in order to abide by health and safety measures that are a part of Alert Level 3 (and Alert Level 2 once that commences). Please understand that these changes are being consistently seen across the country and that they are necessary if we want to resume any form of baseball activity this summer.

With this new information in hand, as well as the development of our sport-specific guidance documents, **Baseball NL is lifting its suspension of in-person activity, effective Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. This decision falls in line with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's reopening plan, when "team field sports" can resume activity as part of Alert Level 3. We want to thank our membership for their cooperation since mid-March as we have worked to this point to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. It admittedly has not been easy, but your cooperation has made the process much easier than it may have otherwise been.

With this decision, however, there remains work to be done. We are now engaging with our many municipalities across the province to determine when they can open their respective facilities and baseball fields. Please understand that while Baseball NL has lifted its suspension of activity, **baseball facilities across the province remain closed** as work must now be on getting facilities ready for use. The process to reopen facilities is one that our municipalities must be a part of and therefore we ask that all members **remain off all baseball fields until we are given notification by the municipality that their facilities are ready to operate**. We would also ask that our membership understand that each municipality is different in terms of their timelines and ability to get facilities ready. To that end, some associations may be able to resume activity sooner than others. Municipality workers have several outdoor fields to get ready and are working as hard as possible to ensure this happens effectively. Please bear with them as they move through the process of getting work done.

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## **BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

As we continue to progress deeper into June, these updates will likely come more frequently as we receive more information as to the work being done in respective municipalities. We are very much operating with a sense of fluidity that will allow us to restart programming across the province as soon as we are given the directive to do so by each municipality. With that in mind, please keep close eyes to our website and social media for more information.

Thank you for your cooperation & support as we continue to work through this very unprecedented situation. As the weather has turned, we are getting closer and closer to what would normally be our traditional baseball season. Please be assured that we are working toward getting our programming back up and running as soon as possible. The cooperation and support since March from all of our membership has been noticed and very much appreciated, especially since the weather has started to look more “summer like” in recent weeks.

As new information becomes available we will work to update and inform membership as soon as possible, especially those in areas where facilities become operational. Until that time, please continue to do your part so we can get back to programming across the province as soon as possible. Your cooperation will go a long way in ensuring municipalities can get the necessary work done to allow for programming to resume as soon as possible.

Kevin Legge  
President  
Baseball NL