



# BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

From: Kevin Legge, President, Baseball NL

Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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

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Dear Baseball NL Membership,

As we have progressed since March, daily updates around COVID-19 have become more and more common. Each day we are learning something new about the virus and its impacts not only on sport, but on our day-to-day lives.

As we have continued to gather information and get a better understanding on the impacts COVID-19 has had on sport – specifically ours – we have put together and submitted a proposal to government outlining our return-to-play guidelines and criteria that we feel will make our sport safe once we resume activity. We are hoping to have a better understanding and more information in the coming days, but please understand that we are waiting on the directives of government. There are countless other sports, groups, or businesses that are in the same restart phase as we are, and all are waiting on government directives and guidance before reopening.

With that in mind however, we also realize that there are updates that need to be made with respect to the May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 June 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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.

In addition to the continued suspension of Baseball NL-sanctioned in-person activity, we unfortunately are also making the decision to, in conjunction with Baseball Canada, Little League Canada and the Jays Care Foundation, cancel the in-person 2020 Challenger Baseball season. This decision was not easily made, but our Challenger athletes are part of the “high-risk” group that continues to be monitored very closely. With safety being the sole decision maker, we are deciding this with the utmost caution for these athletes. We are looking at alternative ways to

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offer a Challenger program for the 2020 season, which could include virtual Challenger sessions. We will be sending out more information on virtual sessions as we evaluate this possibility.

As we move toward June 8<sup>th</sup> and progress deeper into June, these updates will likely come more frequently as we await a decision from public health and government officials. We are very much operating with a sense of fluidity that will allow us to restart programming as soon as we are given the directive to do so. 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.

We would ask everyone to continue to adhere to these measures for a little while longer until we are given the clearance to resume activity – it will make it better for everyone in the long run. As we continue to wait for government clearance, 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.

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