

May 15, 2020

## **Back to the Diamond Update**

### **A collaboration of Statewide, Community-Based Baseball and Softball Organizations**

As we navigate through this fluid situation, we would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as our organizations continue to work toward ***safely*** returning youth baseball and softball athletes to ball fields in 2020.

As many of you know, the Gopher State Baseball League, the Metro Baseball League, and Minnesota Softball have come together to create a unified voice for youth baseball and softball in Minnesota. One of our main priorities through this collaboration was to author the “Safe Play: Back to the Diamond” guidelines. These guidelines and supporting documents were constructed to inform policymakers how we can safely start playing baseball and softball in Minnesota by creating a template for our leagues and others across the state. Those efforts have allowed us to become a leading voice within a statewide task force created by the Governor and led by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission with the goal of getting many different youth sports restarted in a safe and healthy manner, as soon as possible.

Each day this week, we have met virtually with the youth sports task force. The goal of the task force is to formulate a universal **return-to-play scorecard** that all sports would use to create guidelines specific to their sport. Those sport-specific guidelines will then be evaluated by the Governor’s office and the Minnesota Department of Health as they make decisions about which sports can safely reopen.

The task force and statewide youth sports organizations are in the process of finalizing the scorecard and, early next week, will present it to state officials for approval. Once the scorecard is accepted, our Safe Play: Back to the Diamond guidelines will be quickly modified, if necessary, and submitted immediately for consideration.

<https://www.startribune.com/youth-sports-walz-administration-working-toward-return-to-play/570481072/>

***Based on what has transpired, here is our **proposed** Minnesota youth baseball and softball timeline:***

- **May 26 - Begin BB and SB tryouts and practices following CDC, MDH and Safe Play: Back to the Diamond guidelines (State of Minnesota may push this back to June 1)**
- **June 15 - League games with spectator traffic and distancing guidelines in effect and managed**