

To: Minnesota Legion Baseball Managers & Coaches

As you all know, due to the current national health situation, earlier this week, National announced that it has cancelled the eight Division I Regional Baseball Tournaments, as well as the World Series. (Other National Legion events and programs, such as its annual National Convention, have also been cancelled.)

In addition, the Minnesota American Legion has cancelled its own annual District and State conventions (set to be held in July and August), as well as other youth programs (such as this summer's Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp.)

While participant safety is of the utmost concern to us, because Governor Walz's current Executive Order continues through May 3rd, we felt that it was premature to make a final decision on the fate of the 2020 Legion Baseball season at this time. Therefore, following extensive discussions with the leadership of Minnesota's American Legion, we (the Minnesota Legion Baseball Committee Board) have successfully deferred any further decision-making about the 2020 Legion Baseball until at least May 9th -- at which time the status of any Executive Orders and health directives can be reviewed.

As a result, the 2020 Legion Baseball season is suspended, effective immediately, though the date of our next Minnesota Baseball Committee / Board meeting in May.

So What Does This Mean?

We all have received numerous phone calls, emails, and texts -- as well as seen social media posts by players -- lobbying for a normal start-up of the Legion Baseball season. While we have all of the same passionate feelings and hopes about making a season work, unfortunately, such pleas will not change the situation in which we ALL find ourselves currently.

Below is a link to the Governor's existing Executive Order, covering the Stay-at-Home directives, as well social distancing requirements, even when outside. We would encourage you to review it, especially pages two through five.

<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-33.pdf>

Because of this directive and the temporary suspension of our Program for the time being, teams may NOT hold tryouts, organized practices, engage in any games, etc. To do so could create liability issues for your team and your Sponsor, and possibly jeopardize the safety of your players -- and it would be a violation of the law. It also means that you would forfeit your ability to be refunded your insurance payment in the event Legion Baseball is cancelled in Minnesota. Therefore, your compliance during this period of temporary suspension of the 2020 Legion Baseball season is mandatory.

Administrative Issues

We just received a communication from National, covering certain administrative issues.

1. National Registration & Administrative Fees; Insurance Premiums

- Because the Regionals and World Series have been cancelled, the \$50 (Sr.) & \$25 (Jr.) National registration fee (used, in part to fund these tournaments) will automatically be refunded to teams that have already paid it. It will simply be returned to your debit or credit card account. (We do not know how long this process will take.)
- For those teams that have not yet paid the \$50/\$25 fee, you will notice that, in your team's account within the registration system, the National Fee is now listed as ZERO dollars.
- Because the \$35 Administrative Fee covers such things as National's costs to maintain the registration system, National WILL NOT be refunding this fee. (Teams that have not yet paid registration fees will still see this as a chargeable amount in the "Pay Fees" portion of their accounts.)
- IF the season should have to be cancelled (which we hope does not happen), insurance premiums will be fully refunded by K & K insurance -- as well as the State Registration fee.

If you have not yet completed these transactions within your account, you might wish to wait until after our next review of the situation. Please be aware, however, that, if we are able to proceed with a 2020 season, you will be required to QUICKLY get these things completed. (We will be seeking to extend the stated deadline to purchase insurance and pay fees beyond the normal May 15th deadline, without the standard \$200 financial penalty to teams. Once this has been accomplished, you will simply see the new deadline date displayed within your team account in the registration system.)

2. Background Checks & Child Safety Training

If you, as a coach / staff member have not yet completed your Background Check and Child Safety Training, we are specifically asking that you WAIT TO PROCEED with such until after our May situation review. Again, at that point, you would need to get those items finished VERY QUICKLY.

3. Concussion Training / Certification.

All coaches should CONTINUE TO PURSUE new or renewal certification as quickly as possible. And, certificates should be submitted ASAP. We are in an administrative crunch -- more so than in prior seasons, due to the circumstances this year -- so we need your help in "scratching these off the list" as quickly as possible!

Communications / Going Forward

We are trying our best to keep you as up-to-date as possible in these trying times. We also, however, need your help in making sure that thorough communications are occurring throughout your own team organization.

- As stated above, please make sure that you communicate the current suspended status of Legion Baseball to all those on your staff -- to ensure that no one is missed -- even coaches who you might not yet have added within the registration system.
- In addition, it is very important that you also are communicating regularly with your individual Post (or Outside) Sponsor's designated Baseball Liaison -- to prevent any confusion with respect to the status of this year's 2020 Legion Baseball season.

After reviewing the situation again in May, assuming that we will be able to proceed with some type of a season, many other details and prospective policy issues will need to be addressed, depending upon what type of season we might be able to have (for example, a season that might start later and end later?, because of the cancellation of Regional tournaments.) We have been working very hard on a wide-variety of various options and scenarios for the season -- and will continue to do so during this period of suspension.

We appreciate your patience during these trying times, and look forward to your cooperation as we try to make things work, with the safety of Legion Baseball participants being the factor of utmost importance.