

# TAYBS

TOWNSEND ASHBY YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

[www.taybs.org](http://www.taybs.org)



## 2020 OPENING PLAN

Updated May 19, 2020





Hello Parents,

We are excited to announce our 2020 league opening plan! TAYBS is extremely proud to still be able to put on our programs for our family of players. We truly believe that it is important for our kids to start to get back to some assemblance of normalcy, and what better way to do that, than with America's favorite pastime.

Our board has spent a significant amount of time consulting with outside organizations to ensure that our opening will be made as safe as possible for all our players and their families – our “TAmily”. Our fields are almost ready, and our coaches are itching to get out on the field with the players and bring our favorite sport back into everyone's lives.

We understand there is a lot of material in this presentation, but we do ask that you read through it, so that you understand what the plan is, what to expect from us and what is going to be asked of you. If you have any questions, please email [info@taybs.org](mailto:info@taybs.org)

Thank you,  
TAYBS Board of Directors



# MASSACHUSETTS REOPENING



On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Governor Baker released the reopening plan for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After carefully reviewing all the available documentation available at [mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening) we have determined the following:

- **Phase 1 – May 18<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup> \***
  - Ballfields are now open (except dugouts) for same household groups of 10 or less only. *There will be no organized events from TAYBS during this phase.*
- **Phase 2 – June 8<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup> \***
  - Youth Sports can open to team practices in groups of 25 or less only – no games allowed.
- **Phase 3 – June 29<sup>th</sup> \***
  - Youth Sports can open for games – spectator capacity at fields will possibly be limited.

*\* Based on the data trends that are occurring today, there is an estimated time of three weeks per phase. If the data trends for COVID19 start to trend in the opposite direction, the phased dates will get extended. These dates are controlled by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker.*

For more information on the Massachusetts reopening guidelines for athletic fields and youth sports, please visit:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs-eea-covid-19-guidance-documents>



# SAFETY OUTLINE



We want to ensure your families safety while attending our practices, games and events. Our board has reviewed guidelines provided by the National Babe Ruth organization, the state of Massachusetts, and even Major League Baseball, and put together the precautions that what we believe is in the best interest of our players.

If you have any questions, or concerns about our safety guidelines, or see an unsafe condition at one of our practices, games or events, our dedicated contact for parents is:



**Jason Vettese**  
TAYBS Umpire in Chief  
Babe Ruth District Commissioner  
[safety@taybs.org](mailto:safety@taybs.org)



# SAFETY GUIDELINES ...



- Before heading to the field, we are asking that all parents take their child's temperature and check for any other symptoms. If they are running a temperature of 100.0 or higher, we ask that you do not bring them to field.
- If a player is showing symptomatic signs during a practice, game or event, we will ask that the parents determine if they should be taken out. Our coaches are not medical professionals, and we will not ask them to make medical decisions.
- Upon arrival at the field, all players must sanitize their hands in the presence of their coach. We are encouraging all players to bring their own supply of sanitizer. If you forget or are unable to bring sanitizer, each coach will be supplied with some that can be made available to players.
- Players should not wear batting gloves during the *entirety* of a game as cloth surfaces tend to collect bacteria more easily and cannot be cleaned at the field.
- While we do not yet have final guidance on face coverings, at this point in time our plan is to *recommend* that players wear face coverings when not active on the field. Players who wish to wear coverings on the field are welcome to. As we get further guidance from the state this could change.
- Shared catchers gear will be spray sanitized by an adult between players wearing the gear. Players who are more dedicated catchers, we will recommend that you get your own gear – but this is not required.
- All personal equipment, including bats & helmets will not be allowed to be shared between players.
- At the conclusion of a game, instead of the traditional shaking hands, players will line up along the foul lines (at least 6 feet apart), say “good game” and a simple wave to the other team. We do not want our players to forget that sportsmanship is important.
- There will be absolutely no eating in the dugouts this year by players or coaches. This includes candy, gum and sunflower seeds.
- Coaches will be asked to *minimize* any mound visits this year to avoid intentional close contact.
- Catchers and Umpires will be asked to space out a little more than traditional positioning.



# SAFETY GUIDELINES ...



- The dugouts will be CLOSED during practices. When players arrive, they should set their gear up along the fence at least 6 feet apart.
- As we get closer to Phase 3, and the start of games, we will reevaluate what the current guidance is for dugout usage.
- We will be asking that all our coaches at the Minors level and above use GameChanger. [GameChanger](#) is a free service that allows a coach to broadcast a game in a “GameCast” format live. This will help with those who are unable to attend games and want to cheer on their players.
- We are recommending that spectators try to watch the game from the outfield when possible, including at Craven. Over this past winter, we cleared about 20 feet around Craven, and we do spray for mosquitoes. To allow for space for those who may find it difficult to walk to the outfield, we ask that you limit the usage of the spectator areas around home plate to those who need it most.
- We are recommending that players minimize any handshaking/celebrations, including high fives, fist, elbow or chest bumps and team celebrations. We understand that these are kids, and kids will be kids.
- At the conclusion of a game during the team meeting, we will be asking the players to spread out, so they are at least 6 feet apart from each other around the coach.
- Prior to the game, instead of a pregame conference between coaches and the umpire, the umpire will directly speak to each coach individually and ask if they have any questions on ground rules.
- Coaches will no longer be issued cash to be able to pay umpires. The league will handle paying all umpires directly.
- Our snack shacks will be open with the following precautions:
  - We will be installing plexiglass barriers at all serving windows.
  - Gloves will be provided to all volunteers working.
  - There will always be 2 people working in the snack shack, one to handle money, and one to handle food.
  - There will be nobody other than assign volunteers allowed in the snack shacks. The exception is at Craven, where you need a third person to run the scoreboard.
  - We are requesting that everyone pay with credit cards instead of cash when possible. Our league is also setup for contactless payment using Venmo (@taybs) or PayPal (paypal@taybs.org).
  - Masks will be provided for all volunteers working in the snack shacks.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Every year TAYBS puts on numerous optional events for our families. While we hate to consider cancelling events, most have had to be rescheduled. Here is where we stand today on our upcoming events.



- **Townsend Memorial Day Parade**
  - Unfortunately, we will not be able to participate this year in the parade. We plan to return next year.
- **Opening Night Celebration at Patriot Pizza**
  - Normally held at the beginning of the season as a kickoff event, we are postponing this event to the later end of the season as more of a finale event.
- **Golf Tournament**
  - One of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We are still planning this event, dates coming soon!
- **Scout Night**
  - A night that we can celebrate and help raise funds for our local scout organizations. We are still planning on this event, dates TBD.
- **Hit a Thon & Picture Day**
  - Our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year. This will be scheduled for some time in July.
- **Movie Night on Craven Field**
  - Bring out the big screen, popcorn and blankets! We are still planning on this event, dates TBD.
- **Lawn Party & Band Concert**
  - We are waiting on word about the status of the weekly band concerts. We do still plan to host a night if the event is occurring. We expect this to be in early August.
- **TAYBS Night at the Ball Parks**
  - Everyone wants to head the big ball parks! We are waiting to hear from the local minor league baseball teams about their opening plans. We will be determining a night that we will have an annual league outings.
- **Annual Coach & Sponsor Appreciation Dinner**
  - Unfortunately, due to the unexpected costs that have occurred this year as a result of the COVID19 situation, we have decided to cancel the event for this year.





Our T-Ball season will continue to be run in two groups of teams, one being on Sunday & Wednesday, the other on Tuesday & Thursday.

- The season will start the week of July 5th and go through the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Practice/Games will be one hour long, and go from 6pm to 7pm on weeknights, and from 1pm to 2pm on Sundays.
- The first 30 minutes of each day will be a practice, followed by a 30-minute game with another T-Ball team.
- Team will likely be shuffled a little bit to account for number of players being changed. We are still anticipating 8 teams of about 5 players on each team.



# ROOKIE BASEBALL



Our Rookie Baseball program will continue as a combined league with the Pepperell and Shirley baseball programs.

- Practices are allowed during phase 2, which tentatively starts on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Official team practices will begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (two weeks before games).
- At their own discretion, coaches can schedule optional practices prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Practices will be twice per week during the preseason.
- Games will begin the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> and go through the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Games will be twice per week, and practices will be once per week
- Team rosters will likely be shuffled a little bit to account for number of players being changed. We are now anticipating 3 teams of 11 players each (down from 4 teams)



# MINOR AND MAJOR BASEBALL



Our Minor & Major Baseball programs will continue to participate in the regional [Macintosh Baseball League](#).

- Practices are allowed during phase 2, which tentatively starts on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Official team practices will begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (two weeks before games).
- At their own discretion, coaches can schedule optional practices prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Practices will be twice per week during the preseason.
- Games will begin the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> and go through August.
- Games will be two to three times per week, and practices will be one to two times per week at the coach's discretion.
- We are still anticipating a single Major 60 team and a single Major 70 team.



# SENIORS BASEBALL



Our Seniors Baseball programs will continue to participate in the regional [Central Mass Baseball League](#).

- Practices are allowed during phase 2, which tentatively starts on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Official team practices will begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (two weeks before games).
- At their own discretion, coaches can schedule optional practices prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Practices will be twice per week during the preseason.
- Games will begin the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> and go into August and possible September.
- Games will be two to three times per week, and practices will be once to twice per week at the coach's discretion.
- Due to the latest player count, we are expecting to only have a single large team. As a result, we will likely move to a game-based player pool, which should ensure all players will have about 15 games this season.



# SOFTBALL



Our Softball programs will continue to participate in the regional [North Central Mass League \(NCMS\)](#).

- Practices are allowed during phase 2, which tentatively starts on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Official team practices will begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (two weeks before games).
- At their own discretion, coaches can schedule optional practices prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Practices will be twice per week during the preseason.
- Games will begin the week of July 5<sup>th</sup> and go through August.
- Games will be two to three times per week, and practices will be once to twice per week at the coach's discretion.
- We are still expecting a single team for each level of softball play.



# NORTH MIDDLESEX ALL STARS



Each year, TAYBS and Pepperell combine to form the North Middlesex All Star teams. These teams then go on to compete in the national Babe Ruth tournaments.

We have been informed from Babe Ruth, that while they are anticipating some sort of tournament this year, it will likely be delayed and smaller in scope.

They have advised all leagues that the “normal season” should be the priority for this year, and to not account for the tournament dates in season planning.



# SUMMER PROGRAMS

Unfortunately, as our spring programs this year will be delayed and extended into the summer months, we have decided to cancel our normal summer programs. This cancelation includes all levels in both baseball & softball and includes the Summer Sandlot league that TAYBS hosts annually.



# FALL YOUTH PROGRAMS

At this time, we have not yet decided if we will be providing a youth fall program this year. Once we know the final dates for reopening phases, we will be able to provide better guidance.



# FALL ADULT PROGRAMS

Last year was our first time running the coed adult softball league, and it was an amazing success. We do plan on running this program in September and October. At this time we do not yet have details about the program, including which days or times. We will update these details as we finalize plans.



# WINTER CLINICS

Our winter clinics are some of our most popular programs. Last winter more than half of all our players participated in our winter clinics. While it is too early to tell what restrictions the schools will have, it is our intention to be able to put on the winter clinic program again. We will share more information about our plans as they come more into focus.





# REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

Did you play in our past summer or fall programs, and are looking to play again this year? Do you know of a family member or friend that is interested in playing? We have decided to reopen our registrations for the next two weeks to give those who did not originally plan to plan in spring an opportunity to still play in our modified 2020 season.

We have the following programs available:

- T-Ball (Ages 4-6)
- Baseball Rookies (Ages 6-8)
- Baseball Minors (Ages 8-10)
- Baseball Majors (Ages 11-12)
- Softball Minors (Girls, Ages 8-10)

If you are interested in playing in any of these programs, please visit <http://register.taybs.org> to sign up today!





# TAYBS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Like many small businesses, the COVID19 pandemic has financially hit our league hard. With anticipated fundraising now cancelled or forecasted down, and player withdrawals, our league is working hard to ensure that we can provide our program this year and for future years. Our league has made significant (and expensive) improvements at the Spaulding Baseball field this year and we had committed to those projects before the pandemic became our new reality.

Each year with all our sponsors, fundraising and player registrations, our league brings in just enough money to cover all our expenses (including projects) and each year, we try to carry over enough to cover our offseason and early season expenses. At this time in order to get to that important carry over number, we have cancelled numerous events, projects and offerings that we provide.

We believe that with these cuts, we will be able to fully support all our programs this year and allow us to go into next season as expected. For more details about our finances, please reach out to [billing@taybs.org](mailto:billing@taybs.org)



# WITHDRAW AND REFUND POLICY



We understand that not everyone will be comfortable with coming back to the ballfields at this time, or able to adjust to the delayed schedules. To help with that, the TAYBS board of directors has determined that we will adjust our player withdrawal and refund policy for the 2020 spring season.

Please note that upon a player's registration, we make several non-refundable purchases on their behalf. These include national charter fees, accident insurance, liability insurance, player uniforms, etc. The average costs for these items for the 2020 season are \$70 per player.

- **The deadline to withdraw your child for the 2020 season is Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, by emailing [register@taybs.org](mailto:register@taybs.org). After that time, we will be unable to issue refunds or credits.
- If you are planning on withdrawing, the following options are available:
  - The full registration fee can be donated back to the league.
  - The full registration fee can be applied as a credit to the 2021 Spring Season.
  - A direct refund to you is available for the amount you paid, minus the \$70 non-refundable costs outlined above.





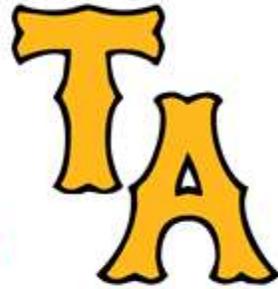
# THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to read through our opening plan. We hope that it provided you with the information you needed so that you can make your plans for the 2020 season. We are excited to be able to bring baseball and softball back to the youth in our community. We cannot wait to get back on the field and play ball again!

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to [info@taybs.org](mailto:info@taybs.org)

Thank you,  
TAYBS Board of Directors





# SHOW YOUR TAYBS PRIDE

**SQUAD  
LOCKER**



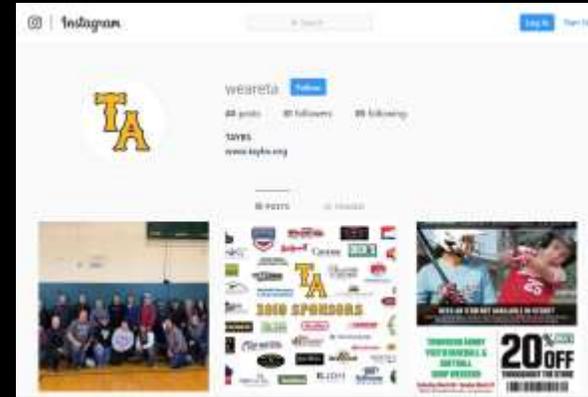
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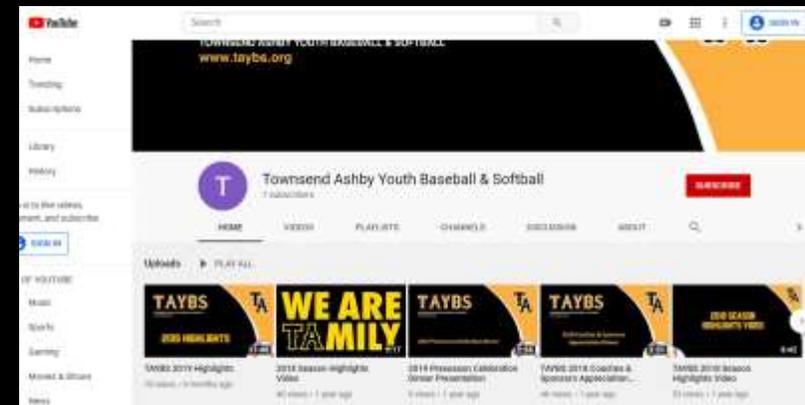
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