

## 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Junior League Roxborough – Philadelphia, PA

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents, Coaches, & 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Community:

We wanted to provide you with an important league update as it relates to the **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**. Like most of you, we are glued to the news, monitoring the rapid changes happening across the globe and in our local community due to the Coronavirus. We share your feelings of concern, interest, and uncertainty. As you deal with the impact of school closures or virtual school, changes to your work life, and managing these disruptions to your daily routine due to this pandemic, we realize youth baseball & softball may not be the first thing on your agenda. As such, we wanted to share a couple of important announcements as it relates to the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Junior League's Opening Day & 2020 season.

We have made the difficult decision to cancel our Opening Day Ceremony on April 4, 2020. Our hope is that maybe the games themselves can go on, but we do not feel it is in anyone's best interest to gather 1,000+ people in close proximity for our celebration, given the rapid spread of this virus. We know this may come with disappointment, and we share that with you. But for us, this decision is a no brainer.

Given how fluid this situation is, and the pace at which things are changing, we are closely monitoring every development. We have **not** yet made any immediate decisions as it relates to changing or canceling the upcoming season. We have begun work on contingency plans in the event we do need to change course with our season schedule. The wellbeing of our players and our 21<sup>st</sup> Ward families is our priority. The league remains in close communication with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken officials and our city government. We will follow any guidance or directives related to extracurricular activities issued by our local government or the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

In the near term, we still plan to select teams this weekend and complete our lower-level roster breakdowns shortly thereafter. After that process is complete, we will advise your children's coaches about the status of when practices and games may be able to start. In lieu of an Opening Day Ceremony, our goal is to host a 21<sup>st</sup> Ward Family Fun Day at a future (safer) date where we can publicly recognize our award winners and share in the fun and excitement that usually comes on Opening Day.

We appreciate your commitment to getting your children involved in youth sports. But we cannot emphasize the importance of your health and the wellbeing of your children at this time. Thank you for your continued support of our organization and we wish that you all stay in good health in the days and weeks to come.

Sincerely,

**21<sup>st</sup> Ward Junior League Executive Board**

**Brian Sannicandro**  
Commissioner

**Nick Rosley**  
Deputy Commissioner

**Mike Rex**  
Treasurer

**Joe Monahan**  
Secretary