



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Kevin Legge, President, Baseball NL

Date: July 31st, 2020

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

Dear Baseball NL Membership,

On Monday, July 20th, 2020, Baseball NL submitted a letter to the Department of Health and Community Services requesting consideration in allowing our Minor Provincial Championships to take place as scheduled. In submitting this letter, Baseball NL outlined a plan that we felt met any and all public health guidelines currently in place, while also allowing for a fitting wrap-up to an unprecedented summer of baseball. We also requested that, if Provincial Championships could not be played, consideration be given to allowing for regional tournaments to be played under the same considerations that were outlined for the Provincial Championships.

On Thursday, July 30th, 2020, Baseball NL received communication from Dr. Janice Fitzgerald outlining that the Department of Health and Community Services recommends that provincial championship games not be held in 2020. With this information, Baseball NL is left with no other alternative but to officially announce **the cancellation of the Minor Division Provincial Championships for the 2020 season.** While we are disappointed in receiving this information, we fully understand the concerns outlined in the response, especially knowing the health and wellbeing of everyone potentially involved in a provincial championship was paramount for all decision makers. Much like the Department of Health and Community Services, Baseball NL wants nothing more than the continued health and safety of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians as we continue to collectively navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank the Department of Health and Community Services, especially Dr. Fitzgerald, for reviewing the request considering the unimaginable number of requests they have received over the past number of months.

As mentioned above, Baseball NL did request that holding regional tournaments be given consideration (under the same guidelines outlined for provincial championships) should the decision be made that provincial championships were not possible. While we do have to unfortunately cancel provincial championships in the traditional format, **permission has been given to allow for regional tournaments to be played.** Please understand that these tournaments still need some modifications – time between games, number of teams, number of venues, etc – but Baseball NL has been assured that the guidance documents will be reworded to reflect this update to regional tournaments.

While we are disappointed with the cancellation of the Minor Division Provincial Championships, Baseball NL is encouraged that regional tournaments have been approved to resume. With this in mind, Baseball NL is more than willing to work with any and all regional

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contacts to set up regional tournaments to ensure everyone gets the most out of what is remaining of the 2020 baseball season. In defining a “regional” tournament, we must remember our three main regions of baseball in the province – Avalon, Central and Western – which also coincide with the Eastern, Central and Western Health regions, respectfully. Teams involved in any regional tournaments must come from the region in which they are playing. In short – teams cannot leave their region to play in a tournament.

In order to ensure that any and all public health guidelines are met or exceeded, Baseball NL does request that, at minimum, all schedules for any regional tournaments be sent to Ryan Garland at the Baseball NL office for review and approval before being distributed to teams participating. This will ensure that all regional tournaments are being played under the same guidelines, and that Baseball NL is meeting or exceeding expectations with respect to regional tournaments. As mentioned above – other modifications need to be made with respect to the setup of the regional tournaments, and Ryan is more than willing to assist with this, as well. Baseball NL wants to ensure the necessary changes meet or exceed what is expected of us during a regional tournament, and – to reiterate – are more than willing to work with local associations to ensure the necessary changes are made and work for everyone involved.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation & support as we continue to work through this very unprecedented situation. This summer has been a summer unlike any other. As much as this summer has been challenging, it has also been rewarding in knowing that associations have resumed programming and that, in the end, our athletes have been able to get as much out of the season as possible under these unique circumstances. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Kevin Legge
President
Baseball NL