

Dixie Youth Baseball, Inc.



March 24, 2020

National Board Members,

I hope you and your families are doing well.

I wanted to take a moment and update you on the status of the 2020 Dixie Youth Baseball season. As you know our country is currently dealing with a historic pandemic – COVID-19. We have strongly encouraged all of our officials and leagues to stay in contact with their local governments and health departments for news about this rapidly evolving situation.

This season will be vastly different than any other season in our previous 64 seasons. It may be that we have to think outside of the box with our tournament structures and do some things that we have never done before.

Currently we have recommended to our leagues that they delay/suspend all activities until further notice. The U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the President's Coronavirus Guidelines have both advised that all events of 10 or more people should be postponed for the next 8 weeks. Those guidelines were issued on March 16th so we would be looking at May 11th as the earliest date we could begin activity, if nothing changes.

We have already moved our Franchise Renewal deadline from April 1st to May 1st and our Regular Season Player Roster deadline from May 1st to June 1st. I have no doubt that we will be making other administrative adjustments to our timelines going forward. For the 2020 season we will also suspend the rule on Player Eligibility Requirements that require a player to participate in a minimum of eleven (11) games to be eligible for tournament play.

Over the last few days, we have had a conference call with the Executive Committee and with the State Directors to discuss our 2020 season. I thank everyone for their participation on the conference calls and their valuable input on this situation. The consensus on both of those calls is that regular season play should be our #1 priority.

At this moment we are hopeful that we can begin play in the month May. In the conference call with the State Directors I encouraged them, if they had not already done so, to make plans for their state tournaments to be in mid-late July. This scenario would still allow for us to have our World Series in Laurel, Mississippi as scheduled. I have attached a calendar of our probable 2020 season based on the latest information.

I think the key for us at this point in time is communication. I encourage each of you to keep your state, national and district officials in the loop. Once your state has formulated your plan within our probable calendar, I think it would be a great idea for your district directors to contact each of their leagues and let them know that at this moment we still intend to play baseball in 2020. We need to let our leagues know that we are monitoring the situation and working on possible scenarios for the season.

Thanks for all that you do in support of our youth. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William Wade'.

William Wade
Commissioner