

June 2, 2020

## Announcement by MYAS/Gopher State Baseball & Metro Baseball

Over the course of past 2-½ months, we have continually evaluated this fluid situation by creating a unified voice in youth baseball/softball with the Gopher State Baseball League, the Metro Baseball and MN Softball all coming together. Collectively, we worked to create the Safe Play: Back to the Diamond plan, gained guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and adjusted timelines, programs, and events, while always keeping the youth athletes our #1 priority to be able to provide meaningful, fun, and above all safe opportunities this spring/summer. Those efforts allowed us to become a leading voice within a statewide task force created by the Governor and led by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, with the goal of getting many different youth sports restarted in a safe and healthy manner as soon as possible.

These efforts led to a large win as we were able to enter into Phase 2 on June 1. This meant that as a state of baseball and softball, we are now able to get back out onto the diamond to practice under the MDH released [Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports](#). With the success of the Safe Play: Back to the Diamond plan, there is much optimism that phase three, which will allow games to be played, is right around the corner. We also know the difficulty this creates for associations with the unknown and the possible quick turnaround when we do get the green light.

We were notified by Commissioner Tomes yesterday, that Baseball/Softball should receive the green light for games, sometime in the next 7-10 days. He also made it clear that a green light will only be possible if the MDH and the state of Minnesota sees compliance and adherence to the Phase II Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports. When that is evident, the dial will be turned to Phase III for games/competition in Baseball/Softball. Therefore, in an effort to provide closure to baseball association leaders and the youth baseball families, we came to the conclusion that it is best to move into other programming options that will be made available starting July 6.

As a result, the MYAS/Gopher State Baseball & Metro Baseball has made the difficult decision to **cancel** league operations for the 9u-19u community-baseball programming during the month of **June**. We delayed making this decision as we had made tremendous progress with the MDH and Commissioner Tomes over the past few weeks with our Safe Play: Back to the Diamond guidelines related to our portion of the plan about games/competition. However, as you might imagine, the events that have taken place over the past week in Minneapolis and surrounding areas have turned the entire administration's attention and resources to those situations.

To create a more unified voice for community-based baseball, our organizations have created the **Baseball Alliance of Minnesota**. This is a collaboration of MYAS/Gopher State and Metro Baseball, the two largest statewide, community-based baseball organizations.

The July-October programming for the Baseball Alliance of Minnesota, powered by GSBL & MBL, include:

- Baseball Alliance of Minnesota (9u-19u): A six-week season with a 12 game-guarantee will be held **July 6-August 14**. Association teams (\$350) and Open teams (\$400) are eligible. There will be multiple levels of play.
- A hybrid Gopher State Tournament of Champions/Minnesota Baseball Tournaments & various 4-8 team tournaments (July-September)
- Gopher State Fall Baseball League & Metro Baseball Fall League (September-October) with Fall State Championships
- **New!** MYAS Rising Stars Baseball Academy: Advanced player development beginning June 16 and Development/Game Play beginning the week of July 7 following MHD guidelines.

Thank you for your time and dedication to youth baseball and softball! We look forward to providing programming opportunities, services, and solutions as restrictions continue to loosen and the state of Minnesota advances to new phases of the Stay Safe MN plan for "Organized Youth Sports".

**Resources:**

- [Safe Play: Back to the Diamond Guidelines](#)
- The MDH [Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth Sports](#) released on May 22, 2020
- [COVID-19 Resources](#) for your association

