



Office of the Commissioner

Connecticut Wiffleball League

10 Whitney Ridge Terrace, North Haven, CT 06473

2020 Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Start of 2020 Regular Season To Be Delayed By At Least One Week; First Week of Spring Training Cancelled and Second Week Postponed By One Week As of 12:00pm (EST) Today; All In-Person Events And Activities Cancelled Or Postponed Until Further Notice; CTWL Will Continue to Evaluate The Ongoing Situation and Effects on 2020 Scheduling

March 31, 2020

Players, Managers, Officials, Sponsors, and Fans:

As everyone is probably aware, life as we know it is on the backburner currently due to the ever-dangerous public health threat that is COVID-19, or more simply, the coronavirus. Despite the current sheltering of all life, wiffleball is no exception. With schools and fields closed across the state, there is no ability to play even if one compelled him or herself to do so anyways. Troubled by the likelihood that schools will remain closed for the foreseeable future, the Clubs are now left scrambling to find places to play in an environment that endangers the health and lives of many people, young and old alike.

Following a conference with all three Clubs and the Commissioner Benjamin Fiore, the Connecticut Wiffleball League will delay the start of the 2020 season by at least one week in response to the guidelines given out by public health authorities. This decision was made in order to best protect the health of our teams, volunteers, officials, and the local communities where our teams compete. The 2020 regular season was originally scheduled to begin on May 9-10, but due to the aforementioned delay the regular season will start on May 16-17.

As of 12:00pm (EST) today, the first week of Spring Training games, originally scheduled for April 25-26 and changed via delay to May 2-3, will be cancelled.

The second week of Spring Training games, now scheduled for May 9-10, will remain on the schedule and be played as originally intended. In addition, all in-person events and activities, including Media Day have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

The CTWL will continue to evaluate the ever-changing situation leading up to the start of Spring Training. Guidance related to daily operations and workouts for teams and their respective players will be relayed to the Clubs as soon as possible.

The CTWL and its Clubs are currently working on a variety of contingency plans for possible rescheduling of the 2020 season in the event that scheduling conflicts are created due to this postponement or a prolonged postponement of the season. The CTWL will announce any further season schedule updates at the appropriate time and remain as flexible as events permit. The CTWL hopes to make changes that will allow everyone to return to the field as soon as possible.

During this difficult time, we ask that everyone --our players, managers, volunteers, officials, and fans --follow proper precautions and practices outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your state and local health departments to play your part in both remaining safe and preventing the spread of this dangerous virus.

Very few things are more important to us than the game of wiffleball, but in the event of crisis and public danger it is our responsibility and duty to protect the lives of everyone involved. We send our thoughts and prayers out today and every day to everyone in the CTWL community, including all friends and family, as well as all those currently affected by COVID-19. We also send our thoughts to everyone in the extended wiffleball community across the nation that have been affected directly or indirectly by this horrible tragedy.

A new game is upon us. Together, let's "Play Ball" and do our best to win the biggest prize of all: a healthy, prosperous future with the ones we love and the game we love all the same.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Fiore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "F".

Benjamin Fiore

Commissioner, Connecticut Wiffleball League