

KAU Little League

KAU Families,

I hope this message provides some good news and direction about our upcoming Summer Season. On Friday, June 5th, Chester County will move to the Yellow Phase of the Governor's reopening plan. Even though youth sports are still not allowed to practice or play during this time, this does open up the opportunity to begin planning our Summer Season once the county moves to the Green Phase. In fact, several counties are already in the Green Phase and we anticipate being Green in early July.

Assuming we move to the Green Phase at or around this time, we are planning to start the season on Monday, July 6th, and run through August 23rd. We expect to play a minimum of 10 games and have playoffs for the divisions that follow this format. Given these adjustments, we need to know if your child/children will be participating. To this point, you will be receiving an email within the next couple days from either your Division Commissioner or Coach asking for this information. Based on the participation numbers, we will determine if teams need to be adjusted or re-drafted to ensure fairness and balance across the divisions.

We will also re-open registration as we expect there may be additional players who want to join since most other sports activities are cancelled and baseball is designated as a lower risk, non-contact sport. Registration can be found on our website: [KAU Baseball & Softball Registration](#). [KAU Baseball & Softball Registration](#). Please share with your friends!

Your safety is our main priority and we will be implementing many precautions that comply with the CDC recommendation for youth sports. If you would like to read their message please, it can be found here: [CDC Youth Sports Guidelines](#).

KAU safety measures will include:

- Game times will be staggered on each field to minimize car and foot traffic around the complex.
- Extra time will be allocated between games to avoid dugout area congestion.
- Each player will have a designated area that is at a minimum of 6 feet from each other to place their gear.
- Each dugout will have a garden sprayer with 1/3 cup of bleach and 1 gallon of water and all high traffic areas (benches, fence/entryway on/off field) will be sprayed every inning and between games.
- Hand pump sanitizers will be provided in each dugout and each coach and player will sanitize their hands every half inning.
- Coaches will be required to wear masks while in the presence of their team.
- All trashcans will be removed from the complex and we ask that you use the carry in/carry out policy and use the dumpsters located at the fields.
- No sharing of equipment and you must use your own bat, glove and helmet. If you do not any of these items, please contact your coach and the league will arrange for loaner equipment.
- We will not utilize catchers for Tee Ball and Machine Pitch divisions. For all other divisions we strongly encourage you to use your own gear if you have it. The league will provide 1 full set of equipment and one extra catcher's mask for each team. All catchers gear will be disinfected after each use.

- No high fives or fist bumps will be allowed; we will follow a post-game protocol of lining up after each game to show good sportsmanship with the classic “Hat Tip”.
- The snack shack will be closed at all times. No food will be allowed in the dug out or player designated areas. This also includes no chewing gum or sunflower seeds.
- All spectators are required to follow CDC recommendations for Social Distancing.

Additionally, if you or your child has any symptoms that would be considered consistent with Covid-19, please do not come to the fields. You can visit the [CDC Website](#) where it contains a self-checker which should be observed. The self-checker contains geographic and age specific information relating to symptoms. Any player, volunteer or spectator should review this prior to the start of the season and observed before attending a KAU Little League event.

Lastly, I want to address refunds. As most families are aware, KAU is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. As such, our cash flow is very thin and each year the league spends virtually all the money that we collect in registration fees by the end of our fiscal year. The vast majority of our expenses are extended immediately prior to the start of the season for uniforms, equipment, insurance premiums, field prep work and capital improvements. Unfortunately, these expenses were incurred prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and cannot be recouped by the league. The Board has done its due diligence but does not qualify for stimulus money. We will continue to investigate potential grants for our league but will not secure any within the next six months to help with this year. In short, the league is not in a financial position to issue full refunds to every family.

The Board has reviewed its current financial position and has determined that for those families facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus, the league can refund a portion of registration fees. The league must deduct from each player's registration fees costs that have already been incurred. For those families that do not wish to participate, but are in a position to do so, we ask that you consider donating your registration fee to the league as a charitable donation. Any family making such a donation will receive a letter from the league confirming the total amount of their donation for income tax purposes.

The Board is doing all we can to make sure we weather this storm and is here for our kids for the years to come. We understand and respect that this is a personal choice. We also believe it is important to provide an outlet for children to have some sense of normalcy back in their lives. We're committed to offering and fun and safe activity for the community this summer. If you have any questions or recommendations, please feel free to contact me directly at (610) 613-8558.

Be safe, be well, and soon... Let's Play Ball!

Matt Patterson