

May 8, 2020

Hello Holmen Youth Fast Pitch Families,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these times. I encourage everyone to continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the Governor so that this pandemic can pass quickly and we can start to get back to “normal.”

I wanted to take a few minutes to share some information with you concerning our 2020 season. At this point, the status of our season still lies in the hands of local and state government officials. If, and when, the “Safer at Home” restrictions are lifted it is HYFP’s full intent to proceed with summer softball. I am optimistic that your daughter(s) will have an opportunity to play in 2020. With that in mind, I would like to assure you that the Board and League are continually looking at ways to make this season as safe as possible. We will continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations to reduce the potential of exposure to COVID-19. That being said, here is some information that I want to share with all of you. (some of which you may already see if you have a child playing baseball)

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

The safety of our participants is our primary concern. As a result, we’ve been brainstorming ways we can reduce potential exposure to illness during our 2020 season. Here are some changes we are anticipating for the 2020 season.

1. **Catcher’s Masks** – We have identified the sharing of catcher’s masks as one of our top exposures for summer of 2020, especially in our younger groups. As a result, we will be purchasing additional catcher’s masks to eliminate the need to “share” masks during a particular game. These masks are quite expensive, but it will be our goal to provide 3 masks per team. This will limit the number of players that can play this particular position during a game (or day for a tournament). We are exploring the best method of disinfecting this equipment after each use. We will be welcoming additional guidance from the league, and other softball organizations on how best to accomplish this task.
2. **Sunflower Seeds** – Unfortunately in 2020, HYFP is prohibiting sunflower seeds in all league-sanctioned activities. This policy applies to ALL players and coaches.
3. **Helmets** – Currently there is no evidence that Covid-19 spreads through perspiration. As a result, Holmen Youth Fast Pitch will still provide helmets for participants to use as needed. Here too, we are exploring the best method of disinfecting this equipment after each use. With that said, we strongly encourage participants to use their own helmets if possible.
4. **Social Distancing** – In general, softball is a sport that fits well with social distancing. We will make every attempt to continue to support social distancing in dugouts and on the field as much as possible. We ask that families and fans do the same when they are spectators at games and practices.

## **TOURNAMENT UPDATES**

At this point, I have only been notified that the Winona Winstars Stars and Strikes Tournament has been cancelled. I am anticipating that more June tournaments will be cancelled. With that, we will continue to monitor and register for as many tournaments as possible this year. The Board has discussed and will also monitor the availability for hosting our annual Classic, especially for the younger groups in July.

Age group /coordinators/coaches are responsible for scheduling tournaments for each team for the summer. In some cases, this may involve travel and overnight stays for some teams. Much of the work involved in scheduling tournaments begins in January. Due to the circumstances involved with Covid-19 we have asked each age group coach to limit the number of travel tournaments requiring overnight stays for the 2020 season. We are not prohibiting overnight tournaments, but we are simply asking that the number of overnight tournaments be reduced. Once teams are determined, individual coaches can work with the families to determine how teams will ultimately proceed with the tournament season.

## **LEAGUE UPDATES**

### **Per Coulee Region Sports League Update – May 4<sup>th</sup> – CRSL Facebook Page**

As we continue to wait and hear updated news on the covid-19 pandemic we remain optimistic that baseball/softball awaits us this summer. We know how organized parents are with their schedules and although we wish we could give concrete dates and deadlines that is just not possible at this time. The day we can release confirmed league deadlines and dates we will do so. It is our hope organizations can start to meet with their players in late May and/or early June (other than HS softball-July 1). Once we have these dates secured, we will give you 2 weeks to register your team(s). Our goal is 10 days after league registration closes games will begin. We have been InTouch with several other youth baseball, softball, soccer, and other youth sport leagues in Wisconsin these last few weeks and most remain confident the Midwest will play youth sports this summer.

It is important to us to get back to some normalcy asap. We must do this in the safest and smartest way possible. We will continue to look toward our leaders to make the best decision we can make as a League. Once we have any information, we will relay it to you right away. If you have any questions don't be afraid to email us @ crsportsleague@gmail.com.

Next week we will post our new mandated 2020 covid-19 game play guidelines. Everything from umpires, handshake lines, dugout cleanliness and much much more. Thank you everyone for your support and we are all in this together.

## **FUNDAMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**

This year HYFP is excited to introduce a fundamental development opportunity for our younger, rising star athletes. The program is for individuals not of age 8 as of January 1, 2020 or any other participant that feels this may be more beneficial to the development of your daughter(s). The program is designed to teach the fundamental aspects of throwing, catching, hitting, and just the game in general. For any of the younger players enrolled in 10u already and wish to participate, please respond by May 15<sup>th</sup> so that HYFP can get a count of the number who which to participate.

## **UNIFORMS**

The Board met on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and decided that with the uncertainty of the length, if any, of a season, we would be working with Games People Play to cancel the uniform orders and issue refunds. You should see a credit to the same card you used for purchasing.

The Board also decided that to keep some uniformity if we get some sort of a season, to place an order for a racer-back style t-shirt that would be used for games and tournaments. We realize that we may have a mixture of pant types and colors, but we felt this was the best way to make sure that a cost burden would be minimized if we do not get any sort of a season.

If Games People Play is able to provide this shirt the refund for the complete package would be less the cost of a shirt. If Games People Play is not able to provide shirts, we would ask that the cost be paid when everyone is able to meet for their first or second practice. Unfortunately, we do not have pricing yet, and I anticipate the shirts would cost between \$10-15 each.

I understand that it is hard to predict what this season will offer our daughter(s) - I ask that you stay positive and patient.

I also understand that there may be some families that may not feel comfortable with their daughter(s) playing this year, even with the social distancing guidelines and safer at home orders lifted. If you wish to withdraw your daughter(s) for the 2020 season, I ask that you respond by May 15<sup>th</sup> and a full refund will be given. After this date, teams will be selected and rosters will be given to coaches to start scheduling for what I hope is a great season. As we have more updates, we will provide them. Please stay safe, healthy, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,

Chadwick Hawkins  
President  
Holmen Youth Fast Pitch