



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

March 25, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Tennessee American Legion Baseball Season

1.) I, Chuck Johnson, the Tennessee American Legion Baseball State Chairman, regret to inform everyone associated or involved in American Legion Baseball, that our State will not be participating in the 2020 American Legion Baseball season. The Tennessee Department Commander, Lou Holsonbach, and I considered this very difficult but necessary decision based on several factors. The factors involved in the decision making process were robust, to include recommendations from National, State and Local agencies. We have been monitoring this crisis extensively and hoped that the trend lines would break in our favor. We have seen no evidence that this is the reality of the situation. Furthermore, I am listing below the four major reasons which the Commander and I weighed in making this very tough decision. .

- a.) Health and Welfare: We value everyone and will always err on the side of caution when it comes to the health and welfare of our fellow citizens. If we are not 100% certain that we can provide this program without someone getting this virus, it is our responsibility to cancel the program until this global crisis is over. Any loss is unacceptable and safety is our top priority, above all else.
- b.) Family Financial Burdening: In the state of our economy where people have lost their jobs, fighting to make ends meet and trying to just get by, we feel that this will cause a financial burden on families for a program that we can't guarantee will happen.
- c.) Team Management: Programs will need to raise money by fees, sponsorship and donations. The money going out will be spent on uniforms, equipment, tournaments, registration and insurance fees. In the event the season is cancelled at a later point and after this money is collected and spent, we can't guarantee all moneys will be refunded. This will not only cause more family financial burdening, it will also cause a negative impact on the community.
- c.) Legality: In the event that National, State and Local agencies recommend an extended timeframe for the social distancing and other preventive measures, the baseball program will run into legality issues. If any person were to fall ill due to the participation in meetings, functions, practices or games against those recommendations, it's unacceptable and the program can be held accountable.

2.) In closing, we truly regret this decision but we believe it's the right one. For any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, text or email me. American Legion Baseball will live on, just next year!

Best Regards and Stay Safe,

Don C. Johnson

Baseball Chairman, Tennessee American Legion

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