



Office of the Commissioner

Connecticut Wiffleball League

10 Whitney Ridge Terrace, North Haven, CT 06473

2020 Season

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2020 Regular Season Will Start As Early As June 20th; Participating Teams Are Advised To Begin Private Practices As Soon As Possible; CTWL Will Continue to Evaluate The Ongoing Situation and Effects on 2020 Scheduling

June 2, 2020

Players, Managers, Officials, Sponsors, and Fans:

When the last correspondence was sent over a month ago COVID-19 was continuing its savage run throughout the State of Connecticut, infecting hundreds of citizens every day, and killing many others. From the lack of large advances made in the fight against the invisible enemy, it was fair to say that the chances for a season in 2020 were getting smaller by the minute. However, a month later, as many hoped, things have gotten better: infection rates have been declining for several weeks, testing and contact tracing capabilities were rapidly improving, and the measures of social distancing and mask-wearing were showing major signs of decreased transmission. As local and State governments, as well as the State's citizens, remained committed to eliminating the virus, the State has reached the point where things can slowly return to the way it was not too long ago. And of these things, sports, like wiffleball, are on the verge of making their long-awaited return.

Today, the Office of the Commissioner would like to share some incredible news. Following a third conference with all Clubs and the Commissioner Benjamin Fiore, the Connecticut Wiffleball League has decided to hold the 2020 season, with the first matchup of regular season games to begin play as early as June 20th. This decision was made based on the data and reports from public health officials and agencies across the state, region, and nation; as well as the guidelines for the phased reopening of the State of Connecticut as outlined by Governor Ned Lamont.

In order for all Clubs to be in proper athletic and wiffleball condition by the start of the season, we ask that all Clubs ask their players to begin to practice as soon as possible, either individually or in small groups of no more than three (3) players. While many schools, as well as local and state parks and fields continue to remain closed, we advise that all team practices are held on private property until further notice, especially if the practices are held in the aforementioned small groups. Practices that are not with just an individual player should be done per social distancing and mask-wearing policies wherever possible. The CTWL does not endorse or support any practices or games that do not adhere to social distancing and other protective measures.

Despite the reopening of the 2020 season, all in-person events and activities outside of the games played will continue to be canceled or postponed until further notice if they cannot be conducted electronically via conference call or similar methods.

Due to the prolonged discussion by all Clubs and the Commissioner, the proposed team practice/workout guidelines that were originally meant to be sent by mid-May have been delayed. An official set of detailed guidelines for practices and workouts will be sent out within the coming days. The CTWL will continue to evaluate the situation and its circumstances.

The CTWL and its Clubs are finalizing the plan for the rescheduling of the 2020 season. The CTWL plans to share the reformed schedule as soon as possible.

As we continue to push through these uncertain times, as life begins to resume in some areas, we ask that everyone --our players, managers, volunteers, officials, and fans --continue to follow proper precautions and practices outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your state and local health agencies if you have not done so already.

As always, we continue to 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 has been affected directly or indirectly by this horrible tragedy.

We would like to thank everyone – in the CTWL community or not – for your enduring courage and determination in the fight against COVID-19. Because of your willingness to adhere to guidelines, practice social distancing, and work on the frontlines to protect those lives that are most vulnerable, we are now able to do what we have been waiting to do for over two months. For all that you have done to give us this great opportunity, we would like to give it back in an exciting, competitive, and exhilarating season of wiffleball by all of our Clubs, players, and managers; as well as all those

working behind the scenes to make this season a reality. You will forever remain in our thoughts as we enter this 2020 season and beyond.

In conclusion, as has been done with these releases over the past few months, there has been a mention of a "game" we have been playing against COVID-19. In March, when the game began, we all had no idea what we were about to endure. But despite our fears as people we have dug deep and fought hard, doing our best to win this game at all costs. In April, we began to take a decisive lead against the opposition, as the first true signs of progress were being shown to us. Now, as we pass May and into June, it feels as if we might have just about won this bout. But even as this game ends, let us all be reminded that in baseball and wiffleball, there is more to a season and a career than just one game. Despite the loss, COVID-19 will be rearing at our backs, hungry to get revenge and bring upon terror and chaos once again. We are now entering another game, where this time we are the favorite to win. Do not take this lightly. As this new game begins continue to work as hard as we all have done over the past few months so that the opponent, COVID-19 – the novel coronavirus as some people call it – has no chance to ever compete with us ever again.

The CTWL, as well as myself, cannot wait to see everyone get back out on the field, even if it is a little bit different, on June 20th and throughout this summer. God Bless everyone.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Fiore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Benjamin Fiore

Commissioner, Connecticut Wiffleball League