



innovative *by* nature

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor

Dear Ballfield Rental Partners,

7/22/2020

City Council

Stephanie Morita
District 1

David J. Blair
District 2

Susan M. Bowyer, Ph.D.
District 3

Ryan J. Deel
District 4

Dale Hetrick
At-Large

Theresa Mungioli
At-Large

David Walker
At-Large

We are glad to be able to provide ballfield rental in a safe manner during this challenging time. However, we have now observed and communicated problems with social distancing regularly in all leagues. Teams have been observed not spacing out in dugouts nor wearing masks. This is a violation of every covid-19 operations plan submitted to us for you to rent the fields, but is also a violation of the Governor's executive orders. More importantly this increases the risk of playing to an unacceptable level.

As a reminder, the requirement in the dugouts is to either space out 6 feet away or wear a mask. We are not looking to stop an occasional bunching up for a good play, or two people briefly talking to each other without masks. We will be concerned about sustained, blatant disregard of these standards.

Because of these breaches of the rental contract, but also wanting to allow play to continue, we are putting the following enforcement rules in place starting the week of July 22nd:

1. Our Department Staff will be randomly observing during different times and will be documenting activity. They may be observing from afar while doing other items, or they may approach the area. We may also have secret observers present in the park not wearing identifying city clothing.
2. Major dugout problems with social distancing will be logged, but will not be addressed directly with the team. Communication will occur via email to the League representatives as soon as possible, with a target to notify the League the day after the problem occurs.
3. Because we have already identified recurring problems, Leagues will be given ONE strike. Once the League has received one warning, consequences will be enacted for each additional violation.
4. Consequences will be put in place as follows:
 - a. ALL League games will be cancelled two days after the notice has been given. For example, if a violation occurs Thursday night, notice will be given Friday and league games would be cancelled for Sunday.
 - b. In the event there are not games two days away from the notice, the next game day following will be cancelled. The notice will contain the day and date of the cancellation as well as the observed field in violation.
 - c. The first violation cancellation refunds/credits will be provided to the League
 - d. If a second or additional violations occur NO refunds or credits will be given.
5. This enforcement system applies ONLY to dugout social distancing issues, any other issues observed may be addressed with the team directly and are not subject to these consequences.



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6. There will be no dispute arbitration for this matter and any complaints should go to the Department Director.
7. Leagues desiring not to continue renting the fields this season under these rules are welcome to put in the request to cancel for a full credit of games left (or partial credit if only some teams wish to drop). Once a documented warning has occurred, partial or no credits will only be provided per contract and Department policy.

I understand this is a difficult situation for you to enforce, and we are hopeful that this system will get compliance quickly by expressing the seriousness of the consequences. We understand that it might only be some teams causing problems, however we ultimately need the whole League to follow the approved plan, keep people safe and follow the Governor's executive order.

This is hopefully a once in a lifetime situation that we will get through together. In the event this does not work we will be looking at cancelling the remainder of the season and perhaps not allowing field rentals until the virus is under control, as some other Parks and Recreation entities have done nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Elwert". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ken Elwert, CPRE
Director
Parks and Natural Resources