

# *Sparks Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.*

---

Parents, Managers and Coaches,

During this extremely difficult situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19), nothing is more important to Sparks Babe Ruth baseball, Inc. than the health and safety of you, our community. We would like to thank you for your patience during this most challenging time. We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the pandemic and are committed to being responsive to the needs of our parents, managers, coaches and of course, the children as the situation evolves. As a direct result, we are sending out this new correspondence to further communicate our goals, efforts and challenges at this time in order to better serve each of you.

As a volunteer organization committed to our youth we originally decided to pause the start of the 2020 Spring season with the hope that we can revive and salvage some degree of sports activity down the line giving our children and parents a brighter outlook on a bleak horizon. That said, we are at the mercy of several entities beyond our control...namely, COVID-19, respectfully the Governor of our state and Sparks Parks & Recreation (SPR). The below excerpt is taken from a recent communication sent to all sports organizations from the City of Sparks Parks & Recreation:

---

*"I have the unfortunate task of informing everyone that I just received notice that the City of Sparks fields will remain closed through the month of May to practices, rentals and games. The City of Sparks did not take this decision lightly, but with the current information we have it is the best decision for the safety of the residents of Sparks, especially the children.*

*I am sorry this notice was not sent earlier but we wanted to wait as long as possible in hopes that things would drastically get better but unfortunately the fluid situation has not gained enough ground to make it safe to open the fields and go back to the way things were.*

*If things change in the coming weeks, I will surely let everyone know immediately.*

*In conclusion all City of Sparks fields will be closed to all sports activities, practices, rentals, and games until June 1st at this time. Please let your players, parents, and coaches know. "*

---

In order to remain compliant, yet fully transparent to you, our community the Sparks Babe Ruth board has discussed the issue in depth and decided that though Sparks Little League (Centennial) and possibly others have decided to cancel their seasons, we have not, yet. We have received assurances from SPR that if necessary, we would be permitted to use the fields into July 2020. As a direct result, we are awaiting a final edict from both state and local government to determine our final position. If we do not have field access by June 1st, we will be canceling the season outright and begin planning for fall baseball. If cancelled, we will begin issuing refunds immediately following that decision. Please keep in mind the following:

1. If we receive the go-ahead to occupy the fields effective any time in May or up to June 1st, we will have social distancing measures in place and will incorporate these procedures during training, in practices and game play within reason. This will be explained in a follow-up email to all parents soon.
2. We will issue refunds by request (case by case) if parents do not want to wait until June 1st. We completely understand that some families may be experiencing financial as well as physical difficulty at this time and we would want to help as much as possible, if needed. Because of our costs and expenses, all monies refunded may be impacted to a small extent.

Sparks Babe Ruth Baseball league understands this to be an evolving situation however nothing is more important than the health and safety of our community. As always, the well-being of the parents, children and staff in our community are of paramount concern. We are in this together. Let's hope that we have the chance to play baseball, experience the competitiveness of the sport and learn in the process. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Cc: Donny Kimpel  
Bob Bailey  
Elisha Zayas  
Kay Curran