

On behalf of the Connecticut Elite Baseball Association, the League Committee and I wanted to let everyone know that we had our first known positive case of COVID, and wanted everyone to understand how it was handled.

Around 11:15AM this past Saturday (7/11/2020) we were notified that an assistant coach with the Hamden 17U tested positive for COVID. While he was not showing any symptoms, everyone at his workplace routinely gets tested every week. On their own, Hamden shut down both their 17U & 19U teams pending their investigation and further guidance from the league, and notified their Division Director of the problem.

Within a couple of hours, the league cancelled all remaining games for the weekend involving Hamden, and with an abundance of caution, anyone who either directly played Hamden, or who played anyone who played Hamden after a certain date - and starting notifying any affected umpires.

While certain details are not being shared with you today because of privacy issues, please understand that we do not know of anyone else (player, coach, etc...) who has tested positive at this time. In fact, a number of people have actually tested negative.

To get some clarification on how this situation should be handled by the league we contacted the COVID Hotline at Hartford Hospital (1-833-621-0600). They told us that because playing baseball outdoors in the summer is considered "low risk" the following health guidelines apply:

- a) The coach, if he exhibits any symptoms, should be self-quarantined for 14 days, and at least 3 days after the symptoms go away. If he continues to not show any signs of COVID his quarantine period could be shorter.
- b) Anyone, on any of the affected teams throughout Division 2, who show signs of possible COVID (cough,

shortness of breath, or any two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell) should stay home and be tested themselves.

- c) The only people not showing any possible signs of COVID that should self-quarantine and be tested because of this positive test, are anyone who spent more than 20 consecutive minutes within 6 feet of this coach when masks were not being used.

Obviously, as in everything health related, each parent and player can and should continue to make their own assessment, in consultation with their doctor if preferred, of any health risk in playing baseball this summer.

As of this morning (7/13/2020) all teams in Division 2 have been given official league approval to continue practicing and playing games. Two of Hamden's 17U coaches will be self-quarantining and will not be with their team again until they meet the health protocol.

The league would like to thank Hamden and all the other affected teams in Division 2 for their prioritization of safety this weekend, including the teams that cancelled games even after they were at the field ready to play and teams not originally identified by the league that had possible exposure and cancelled games on their own initiative.

All the teams in Division 2, and throughout the state, should take some time to reflect on the opportunity all of our players and coaches have this summer to play the game they love, the importance of continuing to prioritize safety, and remember that what one team does or doesn't do, can affect the health of the players, coaches and fans on another team.

As a reminder here are our current COVID Health Related League Rules / Requirements:

- 1) All players & coaches not in the game (i.e. on the bench) must stay 6 feet or more apart 100% of the time - or they must wear masks. If it rains, you must either continue to follow this rule or go home - you can't then put your entire team in your dugouts (unless your dugouts are over 100 feet long). 1B & 3B coaches must wear masks unless they can stay 6 feet or more apart from the next nearest person 100% of the time.
- 2) Any coach who comes onto to the field to talk to an umpire, their pitcher, or another one of their players must wear a mask.
- 3) A coach can't meet with more than 4 of their players during any trip to mound.
- 4) Any team having players sit in their dugouts, must (clean) disinfect the dugout before different players or coaches can use the same space. So you can't have the starting pitcher or catcher in the dugout, for example, unless you are going to clean before their replacement takes over that sitting location.
- 5) All fans (families) must either stay at least 6 feet apart or use masks.
- 6) Players should not be touching anyone else's equipment. When a coach touches a player's bat or other equipment, it must be disinfected before it is used again.
- 7) All players, coaches, umpires & fans must do a daily health self evaluation, and not come to any game or practice if they have a cough, shortness of breath, or any two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell.
- 8) All game balls must be disinfected after each game or practice.
- 9) Hand sanitizer must be readily available and used during each game and practice.
- 10) All teams must keep an attendance log for all games, practices and any other team events.

- 11) Coaches and players should not be making contact with each other (high 5's, fist pumps, etc...) since that would break the 6 foot social distancing.
- 12) All teams must follow the governors "travel advisory".
- 13) Any team using a bathroom at their field, must clean (disinfect) the bathroom at least every couple of hours while in use.