

Date: August 28, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Brent Dennis, Director Parks, Recreation and Marine, 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Establishing Outreach and Safety Protocols for Youth Sports to Reopen**

At its June 16, 2020 meeting, the City Council requested the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) to work with the Long Beach Health Officer to conduct outreach, draft safety protocols, and discuss and enact related strategic planning initiatives with youth sports leagues in preparation for reopening our parks to youth sports activities, as allowable by the State and City Health Orders.

On March 15, 2020, per the Health Order issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the City of Long Beach (City) closed sports fields for use due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. PRM immediately contacted all youth and adult sports and user groups (see attached list) to advise that the fields were closed for all activities. At the end of March, the City Health Order was extended through May 15, 2020, and all groups were, again, contacted to advise of the extended closures. In early May, the Health Order was, once more, revised to extend the order indefinitely. In mid-June, many of the user groups made the decision to cancel or postpone their league play.

On June 12, 2020, the CDPH issued day camp industry guidance protocols. At this time, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released the City's day camp protocols, which allowed for camps with a sports component to operate. It should be noted many neighboring counties and cities used this information creatively to allow their youth sports activities to reopen. On July 1, 2020, CDPH clarified that day camp protocols were not applicable to recreational team sports.

By early July, all of our youth sports leagues officially ended their seasons and worked internally to refund or credit their participants. Throughout the month of July, we worked with our user groups while they developed their Return-to-Play guidelines. On August 3, 2020, the CDPH released interim youth sports guidance. The DHHS used this guidance to develop Youth Sports Program protocols allowing for youth sports practices to resume in Long Beach. Immediately following the release of the revised Health Order, PRM staff notified all groups of the updated information.

Currently, the PRM team is conducting virtual meetings with leadership from each individual sports organization. In these meetings there is a thorough review of the Youth Sports Program protocols and the organizations Return-to-Play guidelines to ensure they are in compliance with the Health Order. Once these requirements are met, along with any required documentation, eligible organizations are issued a facility use permit for the available field(s)

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and or beach space. PRM is working on a quick-reference informational sheet to distribute to all organizations and their participants requesting use of fields. Protocols presently allow:

- Non-contact sports and contact sports may engage in activities including, but not limited to, training, conditioning, and skills-building.
- To the maximum extent practicable, players are encouraged to bring their own equipment (e.g., bats, golf clubs, rackets) to practice and not share equipment. If equipment must be shared, it is disinfected between uses by individuals to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Players and coaches should utilize hand sanitizer when there is a break in play (e.g., stoppage between period or innings), if the activity involves passing or throwing of the ball between players.
- All youth sporting events, including tournaments, events, or competitions are not permitted at this time. Practice games among players of the same team (e.g., intra-squad games, scrimmages, and/or matches) are allowed for non-contact sports only so long as the minimum physical distances can be maintained.

The complete Health Order pertaining to Youth Sports can be found [here](#).

We will also be utilizing the Community Ambassadors to distribute this information as they come across unpermitted field or beach use. Additionally, we are working with the Joint Information Center to produce additional signage and informational materials as part of our communications plan.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
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MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #20-0554)
DEPARTMENT HEADS

Youth and Adult Sports Leagues and User Groups

Youth Baseball and Softball

- Catholic Baseball
- East Long Beach Pony Baseball
- Heartwell Cal Ripken
- Heartwell Pony/Colt Baseball
- Lakewood Village Little League
- Long Beach Little League
- Long Beach Little League Senior Division
- Uptown Long Beach Youth Baseball & Softball
- Long Beach Pony Baseball
- Los Altos Youth Baseball & Softball
- West Long Beach Little League
- Tomateros Baseball
- Long Beach Heartwell Fastpitch
- Various Travel Ball Teams

Youth Soccer

- AYSO 114
- First Touch Soccer
- AYSO 177
- Greater Long Beach Soccer Club
- Cesar Chavez Soccer League
- Long Beach United Soccer League
- Deportivo Miguel Hidalgo
- Long Beach Youth Soccer Organization
- Various Travel Ball Soccer Clubs

Youth Football & Rugby

- Belmont Shore Rugby Club
- Long Beach Patriots Football and Cheer
- Long Beach Pop Warner
- North Long Beach Pop Warner
- Long Beach Poly Jr Athletic Association

Youth Volleyball

- United States Youth Volleyball

Adult Baseball

- Azteca Baseball League
- Torr- Dena Baseball League

Youth and Adult Sports Leagues and User Groups

Adult Soccer

- Independent Soccer League
- American Soccer League
- Long Beach Municipal Soccer
- Long Beach Women's Soccer League
- La Noria Soccer League
- Jaime Iglesias SCR

Aquatics

- Lakewood Aquatics - Swimming
- Rocketfish - Swimming
- Beach Swim Club - Swimming
- Shore Aquatics – Water Polo
- Azevedo Water Polo – Water Polo
- Wilson High School - Water Polo and Swimming
- McCormick Divers - Diving
- Athletic Performance Foundation - Swimming
- Morning Star - Swimming

Beach Permitting User Groups

- Great Officials
- Volitude Sports
- Sinjin Volleyball
- Dream in Gold Beach Volleyball
- A Better World Running
- Beach City Sports
- Belmont Shore Chalet
- Long Beach Community College District
- Charlie Alewine Racing
- High Line Volleyball
- Roller Derby

LBUSD

- Jordan High School
- Lakewood High School
- Millikan High School
- Wilson High School
- Poly High School

Catholic Schools

- Saint Cornelius
- Saint Cyprian School
- Saint Anthony High School