



MISSISSAUGA SOUTHWEST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

3195 The Collegeway, Mississauga, Ontario, L5L 4Z6

www.msbaseball.ca

June 13, 2020

Mayor Bonnie Crombie and Members of Council
City of Mississauga
300 City Centre Drive
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

Dear Mayor Crombie and Council:

Re: Liability for Amateur Sport in Reopening from COVID-19

As I have done before, I am writing to you on behalf of the Mississauga baseball/softball community.

I want to thank you on all of our behalf for the leadership which you have provided and continue to provide during this COVID-19 pandemic. It is comforting to see our governmental leaders working in alignment at the national, provincial and local levels. In particular, I want to congratulate you for the wise approaches which Mississauga is taking and the excellent, clear and prompt communication from you, Madam Mayor and Council.

I wish to bring to your attention a concern which I know the Mississauga baseball/softball groups share, but which is probably common to all community youth sports groups in the City, regardless of the sport: the risk of liability in reopening from COVID-19. I know in the case of baseball, our insurance provider has included a contagious disease exclusion when the insurance policy was renewed in the spring. As such, we will not have insurance to respond to any claim that someone attracted COVID-19 through our activities.

While I recognize this is not a municipal issue, I was hoping to solicit Mississauga's support in approaching Premier Ford and the Provincial Government in doing in Ontario what the British Columbia Government has done this week. In BC, their provincial government announced immunity for amateur sport from COVID-19 litigation. Here is a link to reporting in the Vancouver Sun on the matter:

<https://apple.news/AJyiEfju9RAK8hP6DkQXTzg>

There are obvious health and social benefits to youth participating in amateur sport, but the various clubs only operate because of the thousands of hours of volunteer time invested across all of the sports. It would be a shame to see sporting groups unable to reopen – **once it is safe to do so and in a responsible manner** – because of fear of liability on the part of those coaches, officials and executives.

I am aware, through my involvement with Baseball Ontario, that it is lobbying the Provincial Government through other channels. We were hoping that the Mayor and City Council could express their well-known support for amateur sport in Mississauga by passing a resolution calling for the Province of Ontario to enact legislation protecting amateur sports groups in Ontario from liability for COVID-19 exposure. Any other measures in furthering this cause would also be most appreciated.

Our Mississauga baseball/softball community has commenced working with City staff on what reopening our sport might entail. We look forward to continuing those efforts to a successful conclusion and, when it is safe and reasonable to do so, resuming our enjoyment of sport in Mississauga. It would be wonderful if, together, we could remove the risk of personal liability against the volunteers as an obstacle to this reopening.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in



reaching out to me.

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cc: Paul Mitcham, City Manager & CAO
Shari Lichterman, Commissioner Community Services
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