

## PRESS RELEASE

A collaboration of statewide community-based baseball and softball organizations



### **A Unified Minnesota Baseball and Softball Community**

As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to progress over the past two weeks, the Minnesota Youth Athletic Services/Gopher State Baseball, Metro Baseball League/Minnesota Baseball Tournaments and USA Softball Minnesota/Minnesota Softball felt it was in the best interest of their stakeholders to create one unified voice for baseball and softball programming throughout the state of Minnesota. These organizations are solely responsible for administering the largest youth baseball and softball leagues and state tournaments on the ball diamond throughout the state of Minnesota each and every spring/summer for the past two decades. This joint effort will allow everyone involved in the youth baseball and softball community to be more connected.

This newly formed collaboration has been established to accomplish the following:

- A more unified front in community-based youth baseball and softball throughout the state of Minnesota – building a better state of baseball & softball!
- Clear, concise, and consistent messaging in order to eliminate confusion between leagues, tournaments, the participants, and the associations of youth baseball/softball.
- Joint COVID-19 health and safety guidelines that are intended to provide legislators and decision makers with information about how we intend to adjust youth baseball and softball in an effort to loosen restrictions, while implementing strict safe and healthy social distancing guidelines. The **“2020 Back to the Diamond”** guidelines have been and are being disseminated to Governors’ office, state leaders and local officials.
- Partner, when necessary, in order to provide the best possible experience for today’s youth baseball and softball players.

This collaboration is unprecedented and is a sign of the willingness to put perceptions aside and focus on what’s best for Minnesota’s youth baseball and softball players, coaches, parents, and the associations that serve them!

