



To: Kirkland City Council Members

Saturday, May 16th, 2020

Re:

Formal athletic field scheduling and rentals by organized sports leagues and programs - Section 10 in R-5424

From:

The Board of Directors from both Kirkland American & Kirkland National Little Leagues

Dear Kirkland City Council Members,

We reach out to you all today as representatives of over 2500 Kirkland parents, 1200 children and 250 board members and parent / coach volunteers from Kirkland American & Kirkland National Little Leagues.

As you discuss the "*Resolution implementing strategies for re-opening parks facilities*" and revisit draft resolution R-5424 in circulation, we respectfully ask you to consider our collective points, opinions and alternatives listed below...and create alternative and flexible language, specifically in section 10 that would allow organized play.

- **Be consistent & follow Governor Inslee's phase-3 directive vs. adding additional level of complexity.**
Preparing for Governor Inslee's proposed phase-3 directive, provides the guidance needed for athletic field usage and youth sports...and should be used as a guide. Prohibiting field usage until Sep 1 is an added level of complexity that is likely not necessary and adds additional challenges for children & parents.
- **Best utilization, for the most children - as it relates to fields historically used for team sports.**
We believe that organized / supervised youth sports (specifically baseball & softball fields - but also football, soccer, lacrosse, etc) provides far greater opportunities for the active participants in our community.
- **Organized youth sports provides safety and oversight in a COVID-19 world vs. non-structured play**
We believe that a non-structured, unregulated *free-for-all* type of use of some fields by children, who have been cooped up for months - would be a recipe for numerous safety & health challenges for many. Conversely, with the organized methods that we operate under - scheduled play, with adult trained volunteers, safety plans, best practice procedures for COVID-19, and insurance for contractual liabilities - makes for a far better experience as we all slowly introduce a new normal in organized sports to our youth.
- **Volunteers organizations responsible to organize, schedule and manage participants and sessions.**
Our youth organizations are ultimately responsible to organize all our volunteer parents, umpires, coaches, safety personnel and schedulers. Many of our volunteers have already gone through safety training for this season, and our coaches have been trained by City staff members for in-field maintenance for 2020.
- **A lower level of baseline service as we all adjust budgets and help augment costs with volunteers.**
We understand that all of our budgets have been decimated by COVID-19 issues, Both of our leagues have trained volunteers who are willing and able to take on some daily tasks that typically CoK hired summer staff would do. We ask council and parks to consider simply holding at the current minimal level of maintenance to help keep exhausted budgets from slipping further. We ask that our CoK trained league volunteers be allowed to hand drag in-fields daily, chalk base lines, dispose of refuse in our areas and apply and oversee our best practices COVID-19 procedures to our day to day activities with our members.

With nearly 70 years of volunteer history in Kirkland, we now need City Councils support to allow phase-3 play.

Thank you kindly for your consideration of our request,

John Rudolph - President, Kirkland American Little League

Cliff Harlow - President, Kirkland National Little League