

# RFYB and RFYS,

After much thought and collaboration with necessary parties, the River Falls Baseball Council is pleased to offer the following opportunities for River Falls Youth Baseball and Softball. Until school facilities open (tentatively planned for July 1st), we are offering First National Bank of River Falls Field as a structured practice and development facility for our local teams. It's important to note this is a unique situation in which the RFBC is making an exception for allowing practices. Moving forward, we will need everyone's help re-setting the norm that this is a game field only within the RFBC schedules and guidelines.

## **It is important to know a few things up front:**

1. Although First National Bank of River Falls Field was built and is operated by the RFBC, it is on city property and falls under all city policies and guidelines regarding COVID-19 plans and other city ordinances.
2. Any opportunities offered will be done with social distancing and sanitation guidelines in place.
3. Like most everything right now, this plan remains fluid as we move forward.

## **Youth Program Opportunities:** (through June and/or until school facilities open back up)

1. Each afternoon and evening (3-9pm most days) the facility will be utilized by the home tenants in small group settings (HS / Legion baseball, Fighting Fish, and Groupers).
2. Youth baseball and softball will have 3 hour daily time slots available for small group practice and development opportunities.
3. Time slots will be 9am-noon, and noon-3pm. Which program has which time slots will be determined when talking details with both organizations.
4. The two softball fields at Hoffman Park can serve as additional practice spaces since they also are non-school facilities. Those coaches who cannot practice between 9am-3pm can hopefully go in the evenings at Hoffman but that falls under city, not-RFBC, jurisdiction.

## **First National Bank of River Falls Field Guidelines:**

1. ALL PLAYERS AND COACHES will need to sign the "RFBC Return to Play" waiver before allowed to participate in any organized practice setting.
2. Any player or family member exhibiting any potential symptoms associated with the virus is an automatic DO NOT ATTEND as it puts our entire season in jeopardy.
3. Until further notice, spectators will NOT be allowed in the area around the field aside from being near their vehicle for pick-up or drop-offs. All parking should be in the left field grass space or in the main Hoffman Park blacktop lot.
4. Dugouts will be blocked and off limits until further notice. All personal equipment will be kept spaced out along the fence lines. For good reference, each fence post is 8 feet apart.
5. Any equipment other than baseballs will be shared ONLY if absolutely necessary. If that is the case, it will be fully sanitized between each use. Otherwise all players are expected to supply their own personal equipment.
6. Players are encouraged to wear batting gloves on both hands unless throwing or pitching at that time.
7. Masks will not be required, but can be worn if you choose.
8. Players should bring their own hand sanitizer to keep with their belongings to use as needed.
9. Players will wear tennis shoes or turf shoes, no cleats.
10. Absolutely no hitting into any fences.
11. All on-field batting practice hitting and pitching will be done from the provided portable turf mats.
12. Stadium lights are not an option to be used at this time.
13. All other turf rules apply as posted on the gates (with emphasis on no gum or sunflower seeds, water only allowed on any turf areas).

14. Until further notice, there is a maximum group size of 10 players and coaches at a time. However, we are able to split our facility into two parts; 1) on field and 2) batting cages. Meaning we can safely host two groups of 10 in our facility at the same time, as long as they stay separated. Example: if a team has 16 players and 4 coaches they could essentially practice at the same time ..... 10 people per area.
15. Please be extremely vigilant in making sure rotating groups are NOT in the same area at the same time. Groups exiting the field should do so through the 1B gate, while the other group enters through the 3B gate.
16. At no time (including any "team talk" times) should more than 10 people be congregated together.
17. Any announcements or cancellations will be communicated directly through your respective organizations.
18. With this new plan the field and cages will be booked solid most days. There will no longer be open availability for players to come and work out on their own.

Coaches and organizational leaders will need to be attentive and intentional with the expectations above. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in immediate removal from any current or future opportunities for your team this summer.

It's important to note that we are all walking a thin line with our facility being open and available while many cities around us have shut down their facilities for the summer. PLEASE BE 100% RESPECTFUL AND INTENTIONAL IN FOLLOWING AND ENFORCING ALL GUIDELINES. Aside from there being live view cameras covering the field and cages, the location itself makes First National Bank of River Falls Field the most visible park amenity in Western Wisconsin. It will not go unnoticed if teams are not following these guidelines. That has already been proven several times this spring!

## Example of a Monday Schedule:

### **9am-12pm Youth Softball**

- 9:00 - 10:30 10U Team 1 at FNBRF Field
  - 10:30 - 12:00 10U Team 2 at FNBRF Field
- \* optional time slots at Hoffman Fields as needed

### **12pm-3pm Youth Baseball**

- 12:00 - 1:30 12U Team 1 at FNBRF Field
  - 1:30 - 3:00 12U Team 2 at FNBRF Field
- \* optional time slots at Hoffman Fields as needed

### **3pm-6pm HS Baseball**

- 3:00 - 3:45 Group 1 on field - Group 2 in cages / bullpen
- 3:45 - 4:30 Flip flop groups 1 & 2 between cages and field
- 4:30 - 5:15 Group 3 on field - Group 4 in cages / bullpen
- 5:15 - 6:00 Flip flop groups 3 & 4 between cages and field

### **6pm-9pm Fighting Fish and/or Groupers**

Each day presents different opportunities to rotate groups / teams through. Between FNBRF Field and the two Hoffman Fields we should have enough opportunities to get each team a practice slot at least twice a week for the month of June. We will then take July when it comes based on how things progress with facilities and group size limits, and hopefully some game opportunities.

We will get through this together for the kids. Keep staying positive and respectful ..... the kids will follow our lead.