
THE OUTING CLUB

Woodward Park • OCIC Gym • Knights Hill Nature Park

Outing Club Supporters and Families,

We are monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic closely and are coordinating with State organizations and SAU 65 Administration to ensure the safety of Outing Club programs and participants.

In parallel to Kearsarge Regional School District and in conjunction with the Stay at Home order issued by the Governor, The Outing Club is postponing all activities until at least May 4th. We will re-evaluate based on information from KRSD Officials in coordination with State and Federal recommendations as new information is made available.

We are still hoping to offer our spring programs including Baseball and Lacrosse. If we are forced to cancel in the future, we would offer the following scenarios:

- Issue a credit in the amount of any registrations paid, to be used for future OC programs
- Use registration funds paid as a donation to The Outing Club
- Full return of registration fees paid, minus any processing fees.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic, please see the following resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/>

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>

Kearsarge Regional School District (KRSD): <https://www.kearsarge.org/>

Please refer to our website and Facebook page for updates as they become available. Please send any questions or comments to director@theoutingclub.org

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April 17, 2020

I hope this finds you all well and coping with the changes regarding COVID-19.

For those who may not be aware, our town is part of the Kearsarge Valley Cal Ripken League (KVCRL). The league also consists of Andover, Bradford, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner and Wilmot. We as a league have been receiving updates and guidance from the national offices of Babe Ruth League, which oversees Cal Ripken baseball. I have included links to their website below regarding their approach to COVID-19.

<https://www.baberuthleague.org/news/coronavirus.aspx>

I've copied from their website some information I believe will help you to understand our league's position.

- Per the correspondence released last week, we strongly advise that all Babe Ruth local league programs follow the safeguards set in place by their Local, State and Federal government agencies in regard to delaying/suspending league activities to protect the members of their community. **As such, we are supporting decisions to suspend baseball and softball activities until your Local, State, and Federal Government restrictions are lifted.**
- How long should your league delay or suspend your program activities? As new information becomes available, Babe Ruth League will continue to advise you with the best course of action to take to protect the members of your league and to meet the guidelines of Local, State and Federal government agencies.

Our 2020 baseball season has been and will be impacted by this pandemic. This is where we currently stand:

Governor Sununu issued a "Stay-at-Home" order on Thursday, March 26 and will stay in effect until Monday, May 4. Governor Sununu announced yesterday that the remainder of the school year will continue with distance learning. The Outing Club follows the SAU in regards to the scheduled closings and opening hours.

There will be no practices or games until that order is lifted. Once the order is lifted, we will then decide on how to proceed with the season. As a league we will do a three week look ahead and make decisions that are in the best interests of the families and the communities which our league covers. Our hope as a league is that there is some form of baseball for 2020. It may be a shorter season or perhaps a round robin tournament that occurs over a weekend. The league is also aware that the entire 2020 season may need to be canceled. That decision will be made if that is deemed to be best for our teams and community. The season typically wraps up mid-June, so there may be enough time to allow for some baseball, even if it is just for one game.

Along with all of you, I am eager to get things back to normal. However, during this time we are also having to close Woodward Park. This presents its own sets of challenges as I know some people are trying to take advantage of the nice weather and use the fields. But for the time being we are going to have to respect the closing of the Park.

I will send out another update in a few weeks with further information. The baseball directors meet every couple of weeks to try and present something that works to get us all outside and play some ball when it is safe.

Until then, stay healthy and play catch if you can.

Thank you,
Ben Drummond