



Shreveport – Bossier City Collaborative News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shreveport and Bossier Postpone Baseball During Phase One

Mayor Adrian Perkins and Mayor Lorenz Walker have decided that the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City will postpone baseball during Phase One. This decision is consistent with the LHSAA's unanimous decision to postpone all summer sports activities, including baseball, until June 8, 2020. It is also consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, which states, "Most organized activities and sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football that are held on park fields, open areas, and courts are not recommended during times in which individuals are encouraged or required to practice social distancing."

"Public health is my top priority, especially the health of our children. We need to do everything we can to ensure that Phase One is safe and that Shreveport does not see a spike in cases or hospitalizations that costs us lives or causes us to close businesses again," said Mayor Adrian Perkins. "I stand with Mayor Walker in postponing baseball during Phase One to protect both public health and our area's economy."

Mayor Walker says, "As Bossier City facilities begin to return to more normal operations under Phase One, our Parks and Recreation Department will be working to make sure the ball fields are ready for anticipated play in early June."

Baseball requires using a shared ball, as well as shared helmets and bats. It also creates social distancing concerns for spectators and players alike. Offensive and defensive players are frequently required to share a base. While direct physical contact is minimal among older baseball players, younger children tend to pile on one another in pursuit of the ball. Since children can be asymptomatic carriers of the virus, the prudent decision is to postpone baseball until at least June 5, 2020.

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