

MEDIA RELEASE

#AWC2020 POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, UPDATES ON LITTLE LEAGUE EVENTS TO FOLLOW

The 2020 Australian Women's and Youth Women's Baseball Championships have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Baseball Australia, in consultation with key stakeholders and based on advice from the government, today confirmed they have decided to postpone the dual-tournament slated for Canberra from April 10-17.

Chief executive Cam Vale said it was a tough decision but one that needed to be made.

"The past week has shown fluidity of the situation surrounding coronavirus but also the seriousness of it," Vale said.

"Based on the advice we have on hand and the increased restrictions put in place over the past week we believe postponing the championships is necessary.

"The health and welfare of players, staff, officials and fans is paramount and not something we are willing to risk."

Vale acknowledged the situation was changing hourly but said Baseball Australia wanted to make the decision as early as possible.

"Coronavirus has already created so much uncertainty and by making this early decision we hope it provides one less stress for our baseball community," he said.

"This presents an unprecedented challenge for our sport and we are making the decision we believe, based on the advice, is right."

COVID-19 has caused a mass shutdown of sporting leagues around the world with others going behind closed doors.

The Federal Government has advised against non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people.

Vale said Baseball Australia would not lock in a new time for the championships until there was more clarity surrounding the situation.

Decisions on the four Little League events have not been made.

Baseball Australia will provide an update on the Australian Junior League Championships next Monday

An update on Senior League will follow on March 30, followed by Intermediate League on April 6 and Little League on April 13.

Baseball Australia is currently working with state and territory baseball associations and Little League International on the progression for teams if the state or national championships do not occur.

This process will be circulated if further events are cancelled.

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