

**From:** carlton.thompson@yahoo.com <carlton.thompson@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2024 3:35 PM

**To:** Hollas, Melanie <MHollas@StamfordCT.gov>; Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>; Murray, Kevin <KMurray@StamfordCT.gov>

**Cc:** Joe Kantrowitz <joe@jkantrowitz.com>; Brenda DeGruttola <bdegruttola@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** An update on the Stamford Bombers

Ms. Hollas et al.,

I hope this email finds you well. We want to provide you with an update on two important matters: our experience as a sanctioned league and to share some thoughts on the proposed moratorium for sanctioned leagues.

### **Sanctioning Update**

As you likely recall, the Stamford Bombers were temporarily sanctioned for one year at a Special Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission on March 6, 2024. Following the decision of the Commission, we have worked with the Parks & Recreation Department to become familiar with the process of accessing fields. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Kevin Murray, Megan Gearhart, and Pete Stokes for being very helpful and accommodating to the Bombers during this process.

This summer, the Bombers have seven teams playing (2 9u teams, 1 10u team, 1 12u team, 2 16u teams and an 18u team). The Bombers were able to begin playing on city of Stamford fields in June and have scheduled games for each of our teams at either Cubeta Stadium (16u and 18u teams) or the softball field at K Park (9u, 10u, and 12u). The ability to do this has significantly reduced the congestion on the field that the Bombers currently rent and has enhanced the experience of the families that play for the Bombers.

We anticipate having approximately the same number of teams in the fall season (September-October) and hope to continue working with the staff of Parks & Recreation to continue scheduling games and practices on city fields.

### **Our Views on the Proposed Sanctioned League Moratorium**

We recently learned that the Commission is discussing imposing a moratorium on approving leagues for sanctioning. Our initial and primary concern is how would this moratorium impact the Bombers' status as a temporarily sanctioned program. In addition, we would like to share our thoughts on the potential impact of a moratorium.

Regarding the proposed moratorium on sanctioned leagues, our concerns are as follows:

1. While the sanctioned leagues were able to participate in a survey regarding their field use, there does not appear to be any input by the general public or other interested parties who would be impacted by the imposition of a moratorium.
2. We understand the intent behind the proposal to pause the recognition of newly sanctioned leagues, which is due to a belief that there is not sufficient field space left for more leagues.
3. However, we maintain that this is not a material issue with regard to baseball. Please note that our experience is limited to baseball so we cannot speak to the level of demand for other sports and fields in the City.

4. There appears to be a belief that there are no available baseball fields in the City. We question this belief when, to our knowledge, there is no method or system in place to determine how often the fields are used and who is using them. It appears that the Parks & Recreation department is deciding based on the requests for field use submitted by the sanctioned leagues, however, there is no independent or neutral group to assess how much the fields are actually being used.
5. For example, the Bombers have attempted to create a calendar to track how much Cubeta Stadium is used this summer by sanctioned leagues. A copy is attached. Please note that the information on the spreadsheet was taken from schedules that are publicly available on the different sanctioned leagues' websites, however, not all the leagues have their schedules online. Despite this, a review of the spreadsheet indicates that there is still plenty of availability at Cubeta.
6. In addition, in a development unique to baseball, additional capacity has become available due to the opening of a new field at Stamford High. Of note, two of the sanctioned leagues (Babe Ruth and the Men's Baseball League) have scheduled games on the Stamford High field this summer, opening up additional time at Cubeta and other city fields. The Bombers have not been through the Board of Education's sanctioning process because we have been told that they are not seeking to add more sanctioned leagues.

As our temporary sanctioning period enters the fall, we will continue to provide updates. We are also available to discuss our experience as well as our thoughts on the proposed moratorium in further detail.

Regards,  
Carlton Thompson

# Cubeta Schedule

Date	Day	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM													
June 10	Monday	Stamford Travel Blue 14U D3																		
June 11	Tuesday	Bombers			Bombers															
June 12	Wednesday	Thunder 16U D2			Thunder HS/Legion															
June 13	Thursday																			
June 14	Friday				Thunder 16U D2															
June 15	Saturday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	Stamford Travel Blue 14U D3															
June 16	Sunday	9am ST PIRATES			Bombers			Thunder 16U D2												
June 17	Monday	Stamford Travel Blue 13U D1			Thunder HS/Legion															
June 18	Tuesday	Bombers			Bombers															
June 19	Wednesday	Stamford Travel Blue 13U D1			Thunder HS/Legion															
June 20	Thursday	Legion 17U																		
June 21	Friday																			
June 22	Saturday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM						
June 23	Sunday	Legion 17U			Bombers			Stamford Travel Blue 13U D1												
June 24	Monday	Stamford Travel Blue 14U D3																		
June 25	Tuesday	Bombers			Bombers															
June 26	Wednesday	Thunder HS/Legion			Thunder HS/Legion															
June 27	Thursday																			
June 28	Friday																			
June 29	Saturday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM						
June 30	Sunday	9am ST METS			Bombers			Thunder HS/Legion												
July 1	Monday	Stamford Travel Blue 14U D3																		
July 2	Tuesday	Legion 17U			Bombers															
July 3	Wednesday				Thunder HS/Legion															
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July 5	Friday																			
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July 7	Sunday	9am ST PIRATES			Bombers															
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August 4	Sunday																			

Stamford Travel and Babe Ruth  
 Stamford Mets and Pirates (Adult Baseball League)  
 Stamford Bombers  
 Stamford Legion

This sheet is an attempt to depict the schedule at Cubeta Stadium for the various sanctioned programs in June and July 2024. Each time slot assigned to a sanctioned league is indicated by a particular color. When putting this together, we did not have access to all the schedules for Babe Ruth. In particular, we did not have schedule information for the teams that play in the Fairfield County Travel League. If Babe Ruth or Parks & Rec is able to share the schedules, we can update the spreadsheet.

We would also like to propose that a similar spreadsheet be shared amongst the various sanctioned leagues. It would allow each league to see when the field is being used and make it easier to coordinate scheduling when necessary to reschedule games due to weather or other issues.

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