

Little League Alberta

Information

Q & A

Video

Connections



APRIL 30, 2020

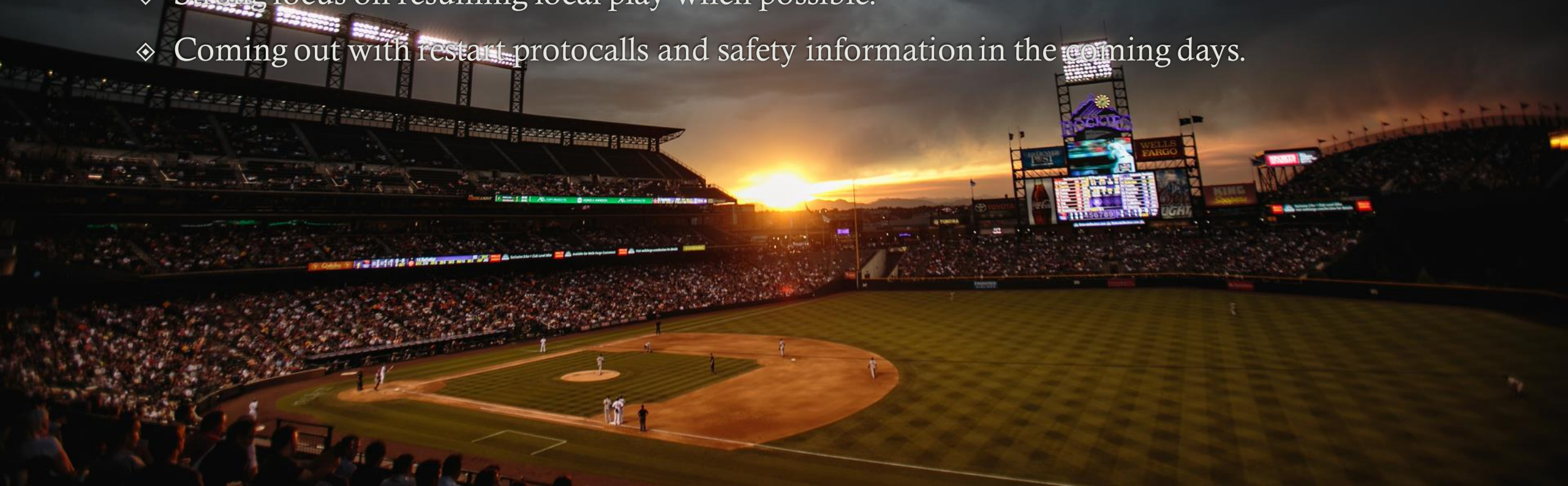
Updates

- ◇ Little League Inc.
- ◇ Little League Canada
- ◇ Little League Alberta/Saskatchewan
- ◇ Provincial Governments
- ◇ Municipal Governments



Little League Inc.

- ◆ World Series / Regional Tournaments (Canadian Championships) cancelled today by Little League.
- ◆ Strong focus on resuming local play when possible.
- ◆ Coming out with restart protocols and safety information in the coming days.



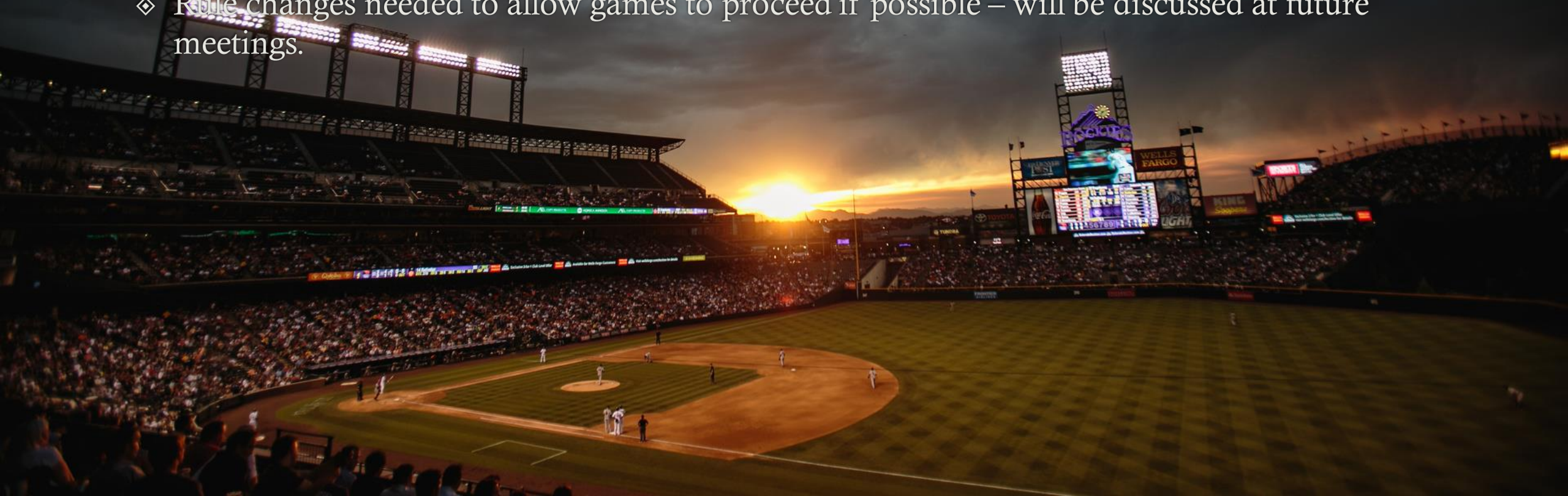
Little League Canada

- ◆ Working with various divisions to offer programs in 2020.
- ◆ Charter fees are deferred until we know if there is a season.



Little League Alberta

- ◆ Developing a relaunch strategy in line with provincial government strategies – firm guidelines and dates still pending
- ◆ Rule changes needed to allow games to proceed if possible – will be discussed at future meetings.



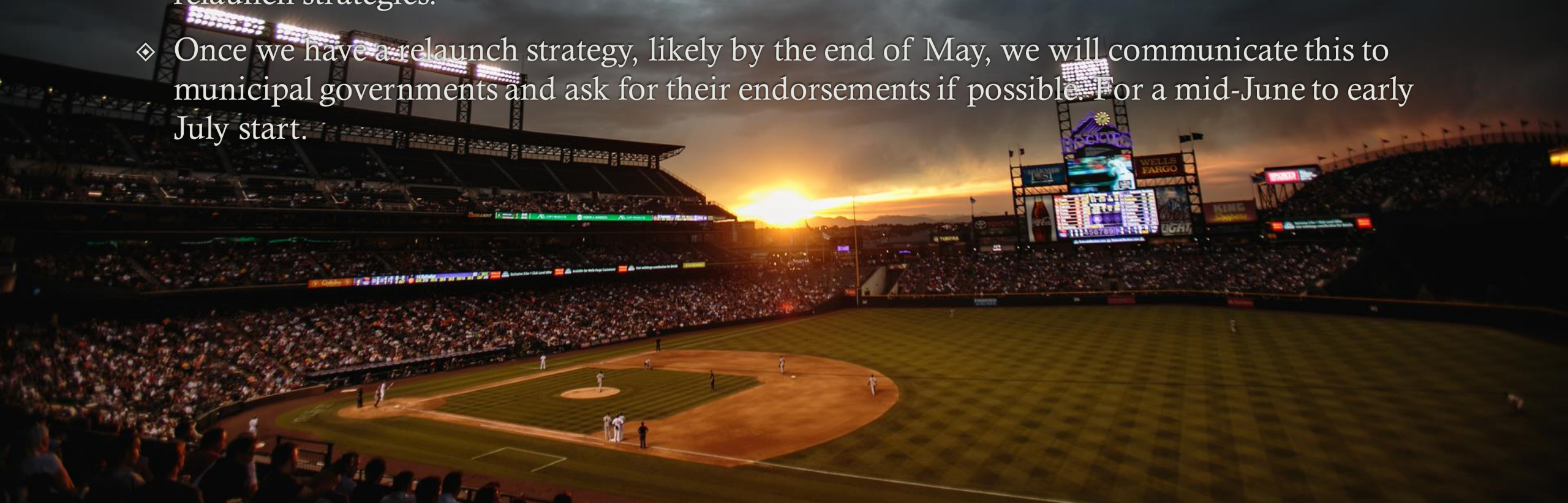
Provincial Governments

- ◆ Alberta and Saskatchewan both have staged relaunch strategies
- ◆ We are investigating where youth sports can fit into the strategies.



Municipal Government

- ◆ Various municipal governments are all over the map on dates and restrictions in place. We are hopeful that in most jurisdictions that they will fall in line with provincial government relaunch strategies.
- ◆ Once we have a relaunch strategy, likely by the end of May, we will communicate this to municipal governments and ask for their endorsements if possible. For a mid-June to early July start.



Desired Program Action Plans

- ◆ Regular Season play is priority
- ◆ Small Tournaments to be looked at once enough regular seasons programs are operating.
- ◆ Summer Baseball program is currently on hold but are looking at some form
- ◆ Plan to still hold the 2nd Annual Skins Tournament in Lethbridge on the Labor Day weekend.
- ◆ Looking at Divisional Championships as late as September this year.
- ◆ Investigating Safety Measures & Protocols as well as adjusting rules if necessary
- ◆ Continued and better communication
- ◆ Promote scheduling adjustments if cleared to play that would see Little League go into September if feasible.

Regular Season play

- ◆ The cornerstone of the Little League program is the regular season. It allows local play and activity for the youth of that community without a lot of travel. At this time in our history, with travel restrictions and other challenges facing people, Little League's cornerstone becomes even more important this year.
- ◆ Each League is being encouraged with work with other nearby leagues and their District organizations to plan to conduct a regular season for players in their boundaries once a clearance has been given by provincial and local governments and health authorities.
- ◆ Combined league and teams will be available to use of course. In addition, leagues may be able to include players who may be in nearby areas who have chosen not to operate baseball in 2020 for their area.

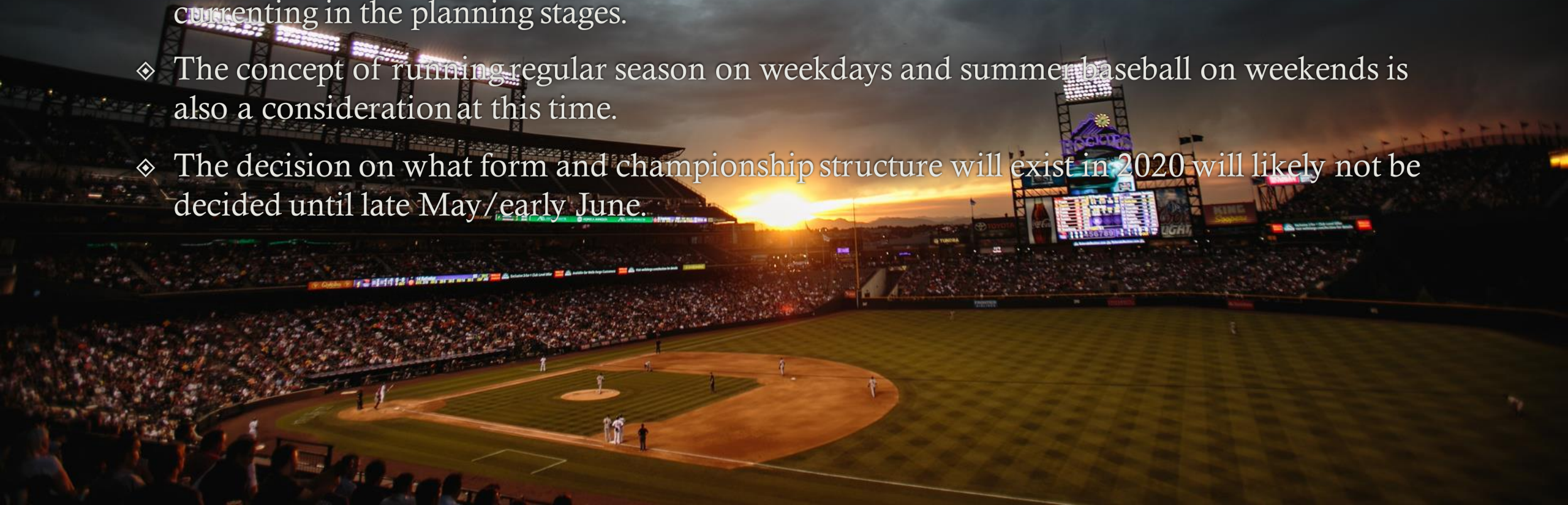
Small Tournaments

- ◆ When it is deemed safe to do so, authority may be given for Leagues/Districts to host some small tournaments with teams from other Districts. This may or may not be in conjunction with some form of Summer ball in 2020.
- ◆ We want the focus to be on the return to a regular season first and foremost prior to consideration of these type of events.
- ◆ This statement does not preclude a league from holding their own weekend event with regular season teams in a tournament format (include adjacent leagues as well).



Summer Baseball currently on hold

- ◆ The current format of Summer Baseball is on hold for the 2020 season.
- ◆ A revised format that aims to allow some weekend events in late July or August is currently in the planning stages.
- ◆ The concept of running regular season on weekdays and summer baseball on weekends is also a consideration at this time.
- ◆ The decision on what form and championship structure will exist in 2020 will likely not be decided until late May/early June.



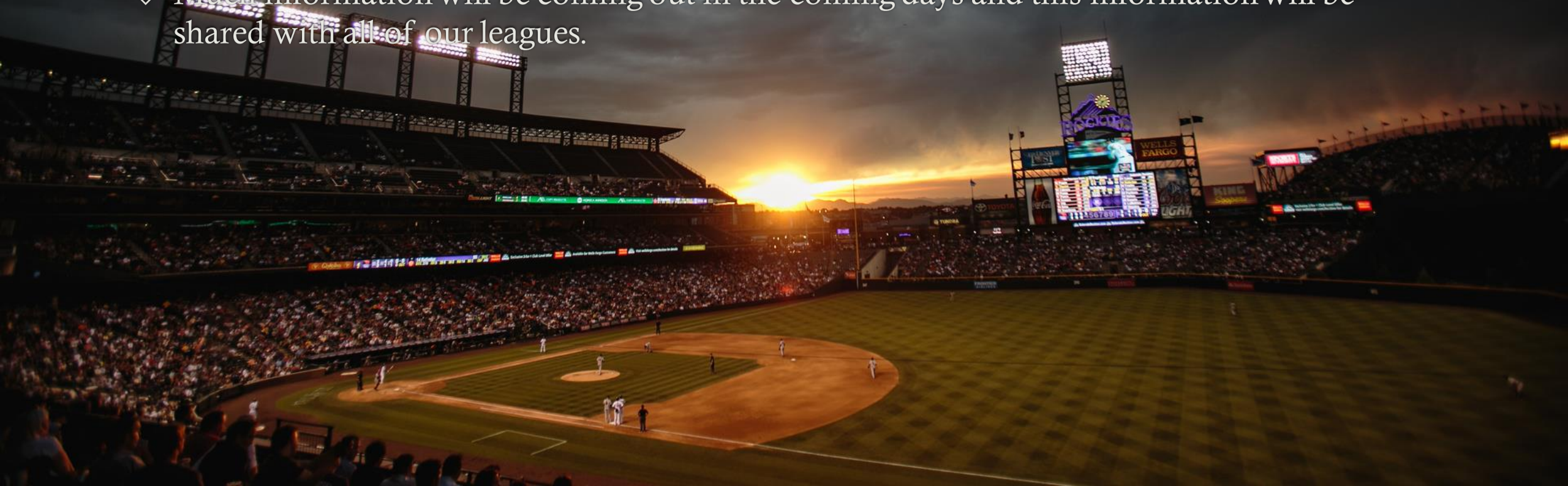
2nd Annual Skins Tournament

- ◆ Alberta District #1 and Lethbridge have confirmed their desire to still operate the 2nd Annual Skins Tournament on the Labor Day weekend in 2020.
- ◆ The event will be structured to be a fun, inspirational, and safe weekend of baseball in the unique format that Little League Alberta created in 2019.
- ◆ More information will be available once regular season and summer baseball plans start to come to fruition in the coming weeks.



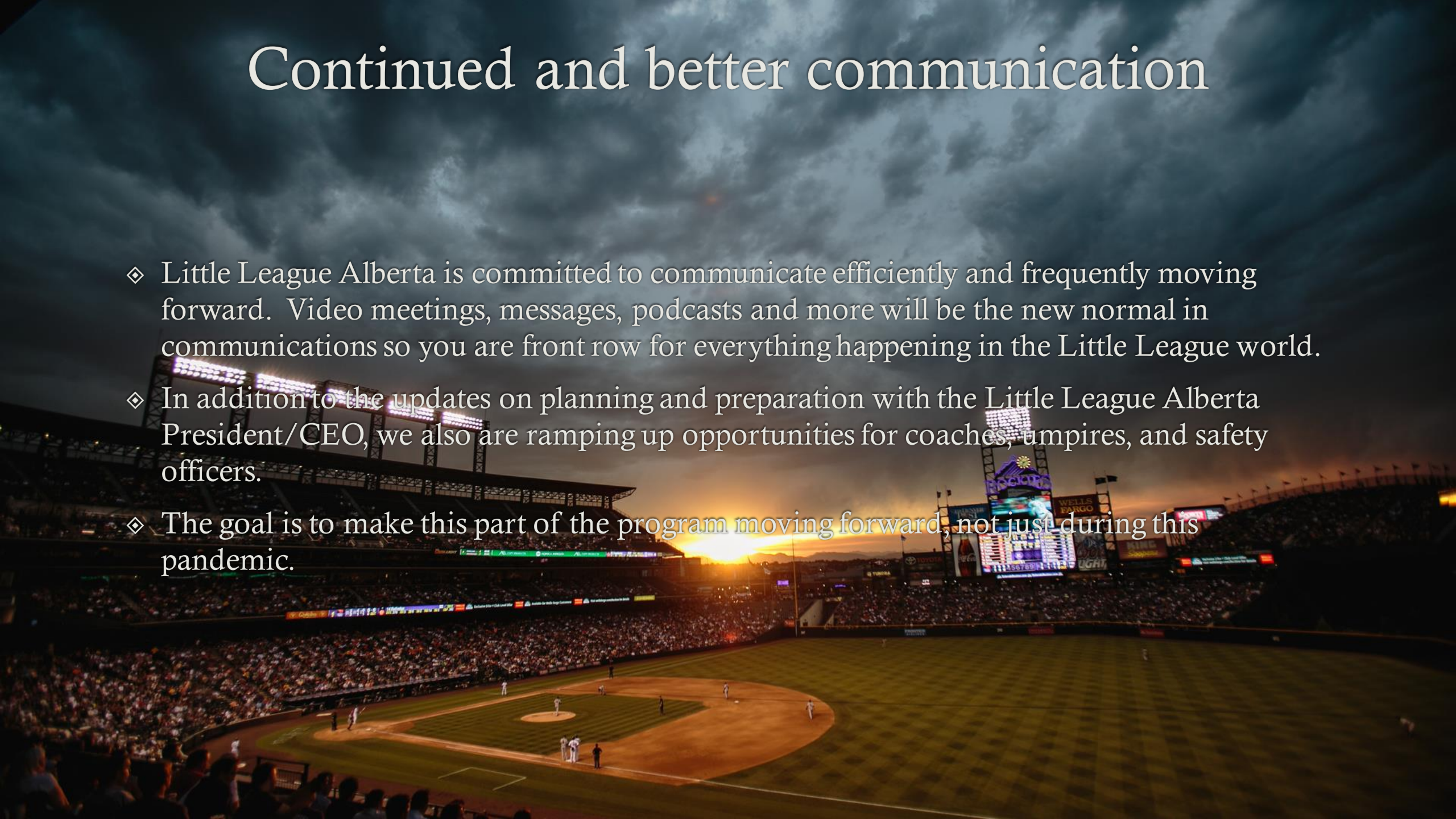
Investigating Safety Measures & Rules

- ◆ We are collaborating to look at what new measures and protocols will be necessary to ensure the safe return of Little League to our communities.
- ◆ Much information will be coming out in the coming days and this information will be shared with all of our leagues.



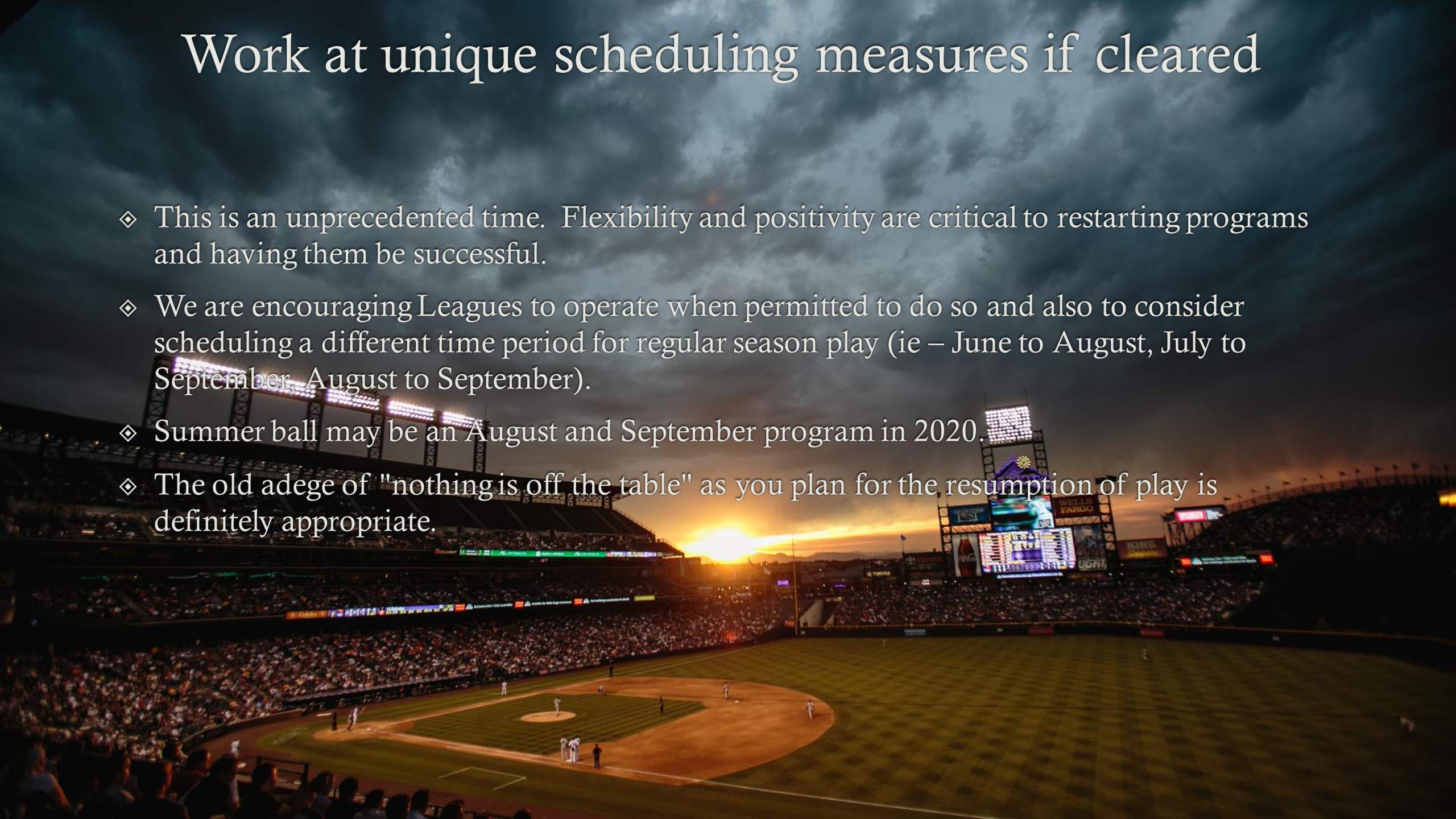
Continued and better communication

- ◆ Little League Alberta is committed to communicate efficiently and frequently moving forward. Video meetings, messages, podcasts and more will be the new normal in communications so you are front row for everything happening in the Little League world.
- ◆ In addition to the updates on planning and preparation with the Little League Alberta President/CEO, we also are ramping up opportunities for coaches, umpires, and safety officers.
- ◆ The goal is to make this part of the program moving forward, not just during this pandemic.



Work at unique scheduling measures if cleared

- ◆ This is an unprecedented time. Flexibility and positivity are critical to restarting programs and having them be successful.
- ◆ We are encouraging Leagues to operate when permitted to do so and also to consider scheduling a different time period for regular season play (ie – June to August, July to September, August to September).
- ◆ Summer ball may be an August and September program in 2020.
- ◆ The old adage of "nothing is off the table" as you plan for the resumption of play is definitely appropriate.

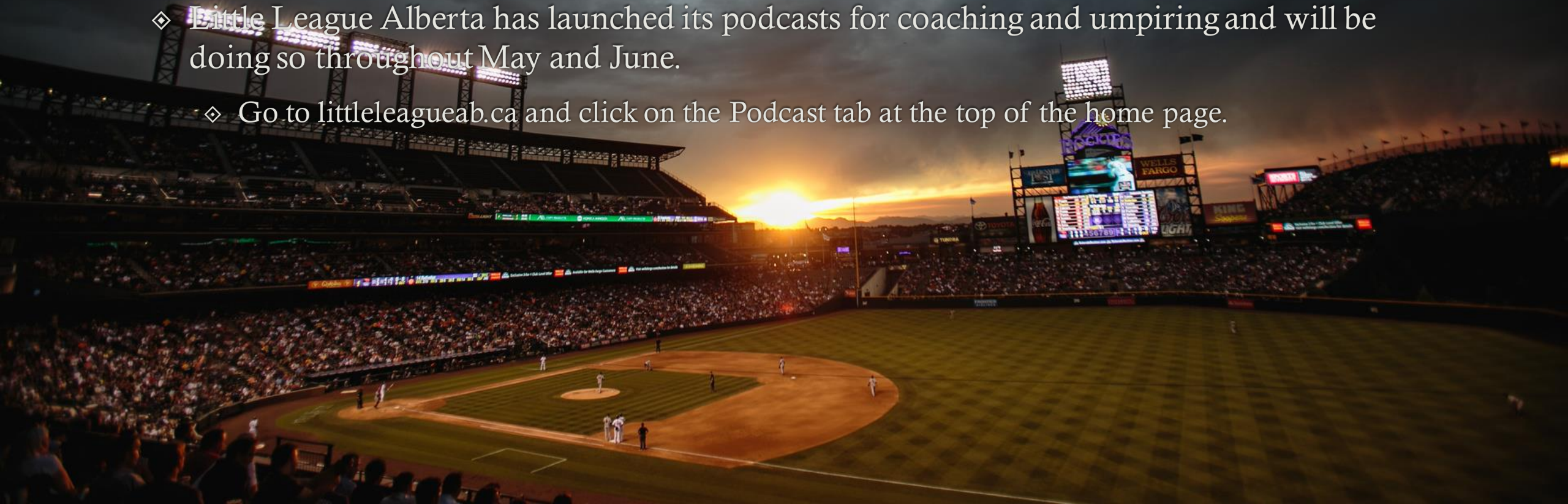


League Priorities

- ◆ Here are some of the recommendations that Little League has for our Leagues to perform during this delay on the actual season:
 - ◆ Regular communication with Members using modern technology
 - ◆ Share Little League International, Little League Canada, Little League Alberta/Saskatchewan messages
 - ◆ Engage the players & parents as much as possible
 - ◆ Ensure you are looking to prepare to update your Safety Policy/Plan
 - ◆ Check your insurance coverage to ensure no lapse in coverage
 - ◆ Fill out the survey coming out in May to offer ideas on a positive future for the game in the Prairie provinces.

League Priorities

- ◆ Connect with your volunteers and get them to assist in preparation for the start of the baseball season in this new environment. Building buyin from the volunteers so their voices are heard is important.
- ◆ Share as much information (news, podcasts, etc) with your membership.
- ◆ Little League Alberta has launched its podcasts for coaching and umpiring and will be doing so throughout May and June.
 - ◆ Go to littleleagueab.ca and click on the Podcast tab at the top of the home page.



Next Meeting

- ◆ The next Information Q & A Video Connection session will be on Thursday May 14 at 7:30 pm.
- ◆ The next Video Conference will have a focus on Social Media.
 - ◆ Discussion on engaging players, parents, and fans
 - ◆ Creating a network of Little League programs, parents, volunteers to increase our reach
- ◆ Updates will be provided on Little League Developments, Government news, Safety planning, and program plans in Alberta and Saskatchewan. League and District Safety Officers, Social Media Board Members, and other League/District Board members are welcome to join
- ◆ The event will conclude with a Q & A Session for anyone who has questions on any facet of the Little League program for 2020.

