**CHARITON CHARGER Athletics**



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| May 31st, 2020  Chariton Community, Baseball and Softball Spectators, Family and Friends,  As many of you know, Governor Reynolds recently announced that Iowa high schools would be able to start summer baseball and softball practices on Monday, June 1st. The Chariton baseball and softball teams will play their first games of the season at home on Monday, June 15th vs. Clarke, Osceola.  Iowa will be the first state in the country to resume competitive high school sports this summer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The eyes of the entire country will be on Iowa this summer as we work through unchartered waters to safely provide baseball and softball to our students and communities. It is imperative that we work together to ensure our students and spectators safely and successfully complete the summer season. Failure to do so could jeopardize the upcoming fall and winter seasons.  As we have seen with many local stores and businesses, we must adapt to the COVID-19 mitigation strategies that have been implemented. This summer season will be unlike any other season and we should be thankful that our student athletes get an opportunity to do what they truly enjoy doing. There are guidelines and regulations that our schools and athletes must adhere to, as outlined by the Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, the IHSAA, and the IGHSAU. Collectively, we are all working together to do what we can to keep our students, coaches, officials, and spectators as safe as we can. We are asking guests at our ballgames this summer to follow these regulations to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus:   * If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been around someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, please don’t attend the game * Concessions will NOT be available at the baseball field because it is a school facility. Guests may bring school appropriate food and drinks * A limited concession stand WILL be available at the softball field because the facility is not owned and operated by the school district. * No shared food or drinks. Players must provide their own food and drinks * Bleacher seating will be limited. We are asking guests to bring their lawn chairs and spread out * No admission will be taken. We will have a “free-will donation” box to help offset costs * Restrooms will be available * Social distancing is required. Please be responsible and space yourself at least 6 ft. from non-family members   We are asking you to remain respectful and compliant when you visit and cheer on our teams, and also when you visit other schools in the area. School administration and coaches who are developing and working through these requirements are doing their best to make decisions to create a safe and healthy environment for all. Please help us give our kids a great summer experience by doing “your” part. Spectators who refuse to follow the above requirements may be asked to leave the game.  We are fortunate to be able to return to the ballpark this summer, and we are confident that our success this season will lead to more opportunities for our kids to participate in extra-curricular activities in the future. The world will be watching…let’s lead the way and show them that we can do this safely and in a way that demonstrates Iowans’ reputation of being kind, respectful, and responsible.  We hope you’ll come out to the ballpark to help celebrate our players, teams, coaches, and schools. We are excited to be back on the diamond, and we can’t wait to see you there too! **Thank you in advance for your help this summer, Charger Nation!**  ***PLAY BALL!*** |