



**International League of Professional Baseball Clubs, Inc.**  
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July 7, 2009

**SENT VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS THIS DATE**

**BUFFALO BISON**

**CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS**

**COLUMBUS CLIPPERS**

**DURHAM BULLS**

**GWINNETT BRAVES**

**INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS**

**LOUISVILLE BATS**

**NORFOLK TIDES**

**PAWTUCKET RED SOX**

**ROCHESTER RED WINGS**

**SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE  
YANKEES**

**SYRACUSE CHIEFS**

**TOLEDO MUD HENS**

Kristen Rose, President  
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees  
235 Montage Mountain Road  
Moosic, PA 18507

Dear Kristen,

Even though most of the thoughts contained within this letter relative to the current issues with the playing surface at PNC Field have been expressed to you during our telephone conversations of the past several days, I feel it important to formally convey these in the form of this letter.

To begin with, I acknowledge that northeastern Pennsylvania has had much more rain in recent weeks than is customary. I also acknowledge that significant efforts have been made by the club to make the field playable during this period. This having been said, the situation we are now in due to the condition of the playing surface at PNC Field is unacceptable. To be canceling games on a field where rain has not fallen in 48 hours is not an acceptable practice within professional baseball. What we are now experiencing leaves no doubt that the drainage system at PNC Field is sub-standard for play at not only the Triple-A level, but at any level of professional baseball. All of us in Minor League Baseball have worked long and hard over the years to shed the "bush league" connotation, but the events of recent days are not only embarrassing to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre club, the New York Yankees' organization and the International League, it is a return to the bush leagues and that is not where we want to be.

Let me make it clear that my issues are not so much with the field during or even immediately after a rain, but are with what is obviously a lack of the field's ability to recover in a reasonable time. Again, to cancel games because of rain that occurs days before is unacceptable.

While talks of a new ballpark or the renovation of PNC Field have been on the minds of those involved with SWB Yankees, LLC since even before the formation of the entity, the League has for the most part stayed out of the picture. Even as the club has been dealing with other aspects of an aging facility that impacts its business operation, the League has left resolution of these type issues to the club and its landlord. The situation we are now dealing with is much different. Deficiencies are now having a major impact on visiting teams, player development and the ability of the League to function as necessary. Therefore, the League must now get more involved.



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Of immediate concern is the club's ability to finish the 2009 regular and post-season (if applicable) at PNC Field. It goes without saying that this office will expect the club to do all within its power to see that the home schedule can be completed. However, we will not repeat the day-to-day decision making situation experienced over this past weekend as all involved deserve to be able to plan further ahead than a few hours. To this end, until further notice I will expect to receive a telephone call by 10:00am on the day preceding the first game of every home series with notice of the club's ability or inability to play the following night based on current conditions. If the club is unable to play at PNC Field we will have alternative arrangements in place that will allow the visiting team to adjust travel arrangements and for your team to schedule travel to a back-up venue. The assessments made during these phone calls need to be accurate. If the club advises that we are able to play at PNC Field and we are subsequently unable to do so for any reason other than additional rain, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre club will be fined \$5,000 per occurrence. We do not want to be in a situation of traveling teams to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre only to have it determined at the last minute that the field is unplayable. This process is intended to address the immediate issues.

Now, for the more permanent corrective measures. The League must have assurances that the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees' field issues will be addressed prior to the 2010 season. We can not enter the 2010 season with the chance of repeating what we are currently experiencing. As you are aware, Article V – Termination of Membership – Section 1 of the International League Constitution states that “This League may terminate the membership of any member and forfeit to this league such member's franchise, and players' contracts and reservations, for the causes following:”

*(k) failure to provide and maintain or give reasonable assurance of providing and maintaining, 190 days prior to the scheduled opening of the championship season, suitable grounds, including necessary accommodations for spectators, for the playing of baseball games scheduled by this league, unless due to a cause beyond the member's control.*

During the week of August 3, I will be visiting PNC Field and will at that time expect to receive a preliminary written report detailing the off-season plans to correct current surface and subsurface playing field issues in the facility. This report should include information relative to the roles to be played by Scranton/Wilkes Barre Yankees, LLC, the Multi-Purpose Stadium Authority of Lackawanna County and any other responsible parties, including your landlord, in correcting the problems.

On or before September 1 this office will expect to receive a final written report (including a timeline) detailing the off-season plans to correct current surface and subsurface field issues at PNC Field. Should this report indicate any party other than Scranton/Wilkes Barre Yankees, LLC will have responsibility for any part of the corrective measures a written statement from such parties certifying their commitment should be included in the report.

As you well know the directors of the International League will meet on Tuesday, September 22 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Within the context of the Constitutional requirement stated above and based on the club's September 1 report to this office, club representatives may be expected to make a presentation to League directors on the status of the playing field during this meeting. Should the reasonable assurance required by this Article, Section and Sub-section not be provided to the satisfaction of the League, steps to terminate the International League membership of the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre club could then begin.

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Kristen, the content of this letter is not at all intended as a threat, but rather to provide direction to resolving the current issues and formally advising what could take place if these issues are not satisfactorily addressed. I will look forward to assisting you and the club in this process in any way possible, but time is of the essence. In the best interest of all concerned, a satisfactory plan must be pulled together in the days and weeks to come.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Mobley  
President

cc: Anthony Zaleski  
Jeremy Ruby