TRACK TALK

July 6, 2020

2020 SEASON

On Thursday afternoon (July 2) we routinely answered the phone and listened to a Sheriff's Department deputy ask if we had any events scheduled for the weekend. We're pretty sure he already knew we had two events but we responded affirmatively and were directed to contact Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services. We contacted them and were advised that local race venues fell under Executive Order 2020-133, the purpose of which is to enable professional sports leagues and teams to resume operations but without live audiences. We likely all took note of the Order when it was issued on June 25 as it received local news coverage as allowing the Detroit Tigers to batter up to empty bleachers.

While we countered that we did not feel that we were a professional sports league or team; officials did not agree with our position. Further we were advised that live audiences may not be on the premises anywhere: not in skyboxes, not in the grandstands and not in the pits. Previous Executive Orders permitted us to have spectators in the stands and the skyboxes and set a limit on the number of audience members we could admit. This was approved by local officals before we established the July 3 Season Opener and began selling tickets.

We know the 11th hour cancellation was frustrating for all of you; it was exceptionally frustrating for us as well.

Adding to the frustration was that County offices were closed on Friday making further conversation impossible.

We will be spending Monday speaking with various officials in order to launch our 2020 Season and ensure equal treatment of similar venues within Kalamazoo County.

Look for additional information later today concerning our Season Opener and refunds and/or rainchecks for July 3.

To all of you who offered up personal greetings of support and outrage, thank you.