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U SPORTS cancels 2020 fall championships due to COVID-19

Cancellation of fall term national championships for the protection of Student-Athlete health and safety; Eligibility regulations refined

June 8, 2020

TORONTO – U SPORTS, the national brand of university sports in Canada, announced Monday the cancellation of its six 2020 fall national championships and modifications to eligibility and scholarship regulations in response to the COVID-19 situation.

“U SPORTS has been working hard with the four conferences, our 56 member institutions and medical experts to examine the feasibility of delivering the fall national championships this season,” said **Lisette Johnson-Stapley**, U SPORTS Chief Sport Officer. “Taking into account the academic realities of university sport, we arrived at a point where a tough decision had to be made.”

The decision comes as a result of the on-going uncertainties with student-athlete health and safety, travel and public health restrictions that affect parts of the country and different curriculum delivery models being proposed on the campus of its 56 member universities.

“Although the Canadian sport system is working together to create evidence-based return to training, practice and competition protocols, it is not currently feasible or safe due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for U SPORTS to be able to offer fall championships given the academic realities of student-sport,” said **Dr. Taryn Taylor**, U SPORTS Chief Medical Officer and representative on the Own the Podium Return to Sport Task Force. “We continue to work with public health officials across the country to examine possibilities for return to play for the winter 2021 term.”

The affected championships include the sports of **women’s field hockey, men’s and women’s cross-country running, men’s and women’s soccer, women’s rugby and football** including the national semifinals (**Mitchell and Uteck Bowls**) and the **Vanier Cup**. The hosts of the cancelled fall 2020 national championships will have the opportunity to host in future years.

Since March, U SPORTS has been working with the four university sport conferences (**Atlantic University Sport, Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec, Ontario University Athletics and Canada West**) in order to identify ways to deliver university sport to Canadians in the COVID-19 environment. As a result, [AUS](#), [OUA](#) and [Canada West](#) made announcements today concerning modifications to their competition structures for the 2020 fall term, while the RSEQ continues to be in deliberations and will announce their plans in the near future. U SPORTS and the conferences continue work on a plan for the delivery of the 2021 winter season. An announcement about those plans is expected in the fall.



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As a national multisport organization that is based in an academic setting, U SPORTS made changes to exemptions and qualifications pertaining to **athletic scholarships (officially known as Athletic Financial Awards or AFAs) and eligibility**.

A full list of the Eligibility and AFA regulations for 2020 can be found in the COVID-19 section [here](#).

About U SPORTS

U SPORTS is the national brand for university sports in Canada. Every year, over 20,000 student-athletes and 900 coaches from 56 universities vie for 21 national championships in 12 different sports. U SPORTS also provides higher performance international opportunities for Canadian student-athletes at Winter and Summer Universiades, as well as numerous World University Championships.

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