



Western Province Hockey Union
P O Box 13
Observatory

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20 March 2020

Dear Chairperson

Re: Corona Virus Advisory #2

The Corona Virus has got a grip on us all and we find ourselves in unprecedented territory.

The Corona Virus (CONVID-19) pandemic has disrupted our daily lives and we all have had to adjust our behaviour in order to curb the spread of the virus.

We urge you to follow the recommendations of the WHO and our local public health authorities.

WPHU have been closely monitoring the current health situation and various advices from National & Local Government and SAHA. Sport is an important part of people's social interaction and contributes to both their physical and mental wellbeing.

We appreciate the concern within the community about minimizing the spread of the virus and the advices about social distancing. Further to our first communiqué on March 16 we have taken the decision to suspend all hockey activities until after Easter to see what unfolds. We appreciate that views differ in this space but we have taken a conservative approach.

At this stage we hope to be in a position to commence the season on the 2nd weekend of May and will review our position mid-April. **(See below more detail around potential league plan)**

All bodies continue to work together to achieve the best outcomes for our member Clubs, their players and for our Sport. We will closely monitor the unfolding health situation and are mindful of the financial impact on the associations, the Clubs and their players.

It is important that we support each other through this time and respect the decisions made.

Please direct any queries to manager@wphockey.org.za

Kind Regards

Feico Mulder
President



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FROM THE LEAGUE SECRETARY

Following the national state of disaster announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday 15 March 2020, and the announcement by the western Cape Provincial Sports Confederation regarding the suspension of sporting activities, there have been a number of enquiries regarding the impact on league activities.

An emergency exco meeting of the Western Province Hockey Union was held on 18 March 2020 and the following was agreed upon:

Should sporting activities be permitted to recommence after 14 April 2020, the earliest that winter league will commence will be the week of 4 to 10 May 2020 (identified as Week 5 in the fixtures). Fixtures related to Weeks 1 to 4 will be cancelled and a single round of fixtures will end in Week 13.

Should the season be delayed further, the 9-week single round will be moved accordingly. E.g. a Week 7 start would end in Week 15.

It is planned that the single round will be followed by split pools for a shortened second round, and the league will be regarded as having been completed for the purposes of promotion and relegation. The exact format will be determined once the season is able to formally commence, and it is known how many weeks can be accommodated in total.

However, should the season not be able to commence immediately after the mid-season break, making it impossible to complete a round of fixtures, the remaining part of the season will be completed as friendlies, with no promotion and relegation taking place prior to the 2021 season.

We trust that this will provide a bit more clarity around which clubs can plan. However, it must be noted that it remains subject to change and dependent upon any on further instructions received from government or federations.

Kind Regards

David Douglas
League Secretary