

Members of NVSUA,

By now you have heard that our perhaps greatest fear has become a reality, the cancellation of the High School softball is now fact as announced by the Governor earlier this afternoon.

Ironically, I had just emailed all the ISL DSA's 10 minutes prior to the governor's announcement. In his announcement he included all private schools as well so that takes care of most of the ISL. Shortly after the governor's announcement, the FCPS Superintendent sent out a message that confirmed all activities and sports were canceled for the remainder of the year.

Mayor Bowser of DC has already announced DC schools will be closed until Apr 24th, I suspect all private schools in the District will follow that lead.

So what does this mean to you?

1. Several local associations have been in communication with each other to develop a plan going forward with our clients in an attempt to get some compensation from them. The thoughts that are being put into this are: the time and effort that has been put in so far, the training, the fees associated with registration, clinics, insurance, uniforms and equipment, etc. Obviously, for some this is more than others but there has been an expense to nearly all spring sport officials. There will be several options presented to our customers.

2. NASO sent an email to its members earlier today calling for members to contact their Members of Congress. I will add the text of that message to the bottom of this email. Basically, they have already initiated conversation with congress to include sports officials in any stimulus bills they are drafting. We are a small business and independent contractors. Again, text of that is at the bottom of this email, it is also available for viewing on our Facebook back (NVSUA). If you feel compelled to contact a member of congress on your own behalf or you colleagues, I am sure that will be appreciated.

Not sure either of the 2 efforts above will get much traction but we can't be told no, if we don't ask the question. I know one of our members has already reached out to his members.

Speaking of NASO, it is time for our annual renewal and all members will get an email from Zandy Williams, the treasurer, for this years membership drive.

USA Softball: within the past hour of me sending this email, I received word that USA Softball of VA has cancelled all tournaments scheduled in the month

of April ONLY as this point. They viewed the governor's action of closing businesses for 30 days is keeping consistent with that message. The long pole in this situation is we may have teams that want to play and umpires ready to call the game but if the local parks authority continue to keep the fields closed, it doesn't matter.

SAFE Sport: given there is still a glimmer of hope for some softball this year, please take advantage of this down time to complete safe sport and complete by April 15th. With no high school season, it will be easier to assign only safe sport compliant umpires and not schedule those that haven't completed it. It's free and nearly everything on tv are reruns:)

As always, if you have any questions please let me or any board member know.

Bob

Bob Angeli
President, Northern Virginia
Softball Umpires Association
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These are unsettled and unsettling times. Gatherings of all types have been postponed and cancelled. There are no sporting events being held. That is in the best interest of all of our citizens. At the same time, these cancellations are having and will continue to have a dramatic impact of the men, women and young people who officiate amateur sports. Many, if not most of them rely on officiating to provide much needed additional income each year. Now, that will be lost.

The Federal Government in Washington is giving consideration to a Coronavirus Stimulus Relief Bill for self-employed individuals. NASO is doing all in its power to inform the legislators that sports officials, as independent- contractors, must be included in the pending relief bill. So very often we go unnoticed and NASO

wants to make sure we are part of the current stimulus conversation.

In that regard, early this morning NASO contacted its home-state Senator, Ron Johnson, to make him aware of the need we have in the officiating community. To drive the point home further, I believe it is critical that you, as an individual NASO member, contact the senators and representatives from your home state and add your voice to NASO's.

To help you with that, here are the links to contacting US Senators and US Representatives. Please scroll through and then send your voice to each of them.

U.S. House of Representatives

https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative?fbclid=IwAR0poyJGIJnmLuyUQj8SYe_Ef-qMkEaymHULFyH3NaPgWHBqIMSn7v7MS_4

U.S. Senate

https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR1tc7lvbq1ZDX_yG1fn6WiqHrxqiQQrdcO-0cjckoW39wK8dmWklSsQo-c

Feel free to include any wording from this letter. Remind your elected leaders that without sports officials, amateur sports cannot exist. I mean this most especially when it comes to high school, college, youth, club and recreational sports. Without us, all is recess. Without us, the rules are just ink on paper.

All we can do is try. All we can do is our best.

Barry Mano

Presiden