

Members of NVSUA,

I figured I would take advantage of some of my primary jobs down time and provide all an update of things going on in the world of softball umpiring since my last message 2 weeks ago.

1. Literally as I started to compile this message, the board was notified by Bill, the ISL has officially canceled the remainder of the season. They indicated some schools may try to arrange some games once restrictions are lifted but the season has been canceled. Not good :(

2. USA Softball of VA sent out an email very late last night stating they have canceled all tournaments until May 15th. They further explained they stopped at that date since the VA governor's executive order #55 requires the shut-down through June 10th but the governor stated the other day (Tuesday) that it is possible to move that date to the left based on the curve of COVID19. They expect to reevaluate again in 2 week. This is for fast pitch only, slow pitch is being handled by a separate staff. The determination whether National Tournaments will be played in July will be made no later than June 1st, Joe and I will work through our nominations this weekend and send the appropriate contracts to those we select.

3. VHSL Status: I did receive an update from VHSL on Monday of this week, the message in it's entirety is:

"I hope that you and your families are doing well. We have had many discussions among office staff regarding officials and registration fees. As part of the ongoing discussion, our office does have administrative fees that we do not think would be a part of a reimbursement. We have paid the NFHS for insurance, access to mandated sport tests, rules clinics and rules books. Our office has paid maintenance fees for Whistle and Paypal as well. We are still discussing how we will move forward with these issues. Our plan is for this to be an agenda item for the Executive Committee meeting in May. Please remember our governance structure requires these decisions to be reviewed and a recommendation for how to proceed will be made at that time.

Our office wanted to share the link below and we would encourage you send the link below to your officials. It outlines how an official could apply for unemployment aid if they choose to do so. They must be sure to apply as an Independent Contractor not an employee of the VHSL and/or officials association. Please note, that if an official applies for this aid, they would be ineligible for a refund from the VHSL if approved in May. "

<https://silbo.ai/coronavirus-stimulus-how-referees-and-umpires-can-get-unemployment-aid/>

4. National Federation: you may have received this note directly from NF offering free courses.

We know the work of a high school official isn't easy. It takes knowledge, preparation, common sense and, most of all, heart.

As our way of saying thank you for serving as an official, the NFHS Learning Center is offering FREE officiating courses until July 1. These same courses are perfect for those interested in becoming an official! Take advantage of this opportunity to sharpen your officiating skills without spending a dime.

Choose from 11 officiating courses available online right now. And they're all FREE!  
How many will you take? [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)

5.General comments and COVID19: I continue to have conversations with our customers, primarily the schools, about some type of compensation. This effort will be a marathon and not a sprint. As congress continues to pass rescue bills, etc and schools continue to look at the sources of their funding, etc. it will become clearer just how much money might be available. I believe our 2 major customers, FCPS and APSVA, want to show some level of good faith in how they respond to any request we submit. I previously stated we were working with about 8-9 other associations on this effort, since that time many have either made the decision not to seek any compensation or only fees for the assigner. In past emails I mentioned Mason Bishop has offered to assist anybody in understanding the CARES Act and how that may apply to any of us applying for unemployment as a result of COVID19, believe it can be up to \$600 a week...some may not qualify because they have a "full time job", me for example...while others depend on this income to keep the lights on, gas in the tank, cable connected and food on the table. If you are in a situation like this don't let your ego stand in the way of filing for a benefit that has been made available to you. If you are not sure if you are eligible or not sure how to get started, reach out to Mason. If you are a facebook user and don't follow NVSUA you may consider doing so as I often find interesting links, articles, etc and share them on our page.

Stay safe, stay in the house unless absolutely necessary and if you are bored and just want to talk about softball or anything else, call someone. I know Joe is often bored and he is very entertaining on the phone. Seriously, you can reach out to anybody on the board if you feel so inclined to talk if you need someone to talk to, I know I am struggling myself through this even though I am still working from home but I find time to reach out as I know others on the board are reaching out to some of you as well. The health and safety of our members and your families are important to us, we are a family and are here for one another.

Bob

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