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NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION

August 11, 2020

Dear Administrator and Coach,

Last month the NWCA DI Leadership group urgently suggested that wrestling impose a shift to the 2020-21 season as a result of ongoing complications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following up on that initial request from the LG group, the Division I wrestling membership has had the opportunity to meet (virtually) twice during the NWCA Convention, and participate in a recent meeting with Anthony Holman, Managing Director of Championships and Alliances for the NCAA.

In addition, the NWCA sent a survey to all Division I head coaches regarding a self-imposed delayed start to the 2020-21 season. With 92% of the responses in favor of postponing the start of the upcoming season, the Division I membership is largely in support of this model.

With this statistical support, the NWCA DI Leadership Group would like to proceed with the following amendments to best prepare wrestling for a truncated season, but more importantly ensure we have the very best opportunity to host the 2021 NCAA Division I Championships. Most importantly, these seasonal adjustments will best protect the welfare of our student-athletes, and preserve the longevity of our sport.

- I. A sport-imposed delay to the 2020-21 **competitive season**, starting on, or around January 1st, 2021.
 - a. The start of official practice will remain in place, or at the decision of respective state, institutional, or conference guidelines.
- II. If institution(s) decide to compete prior to the self-imposed start date, those matches should not create a competitive advantage over all those who follow the self-imposed start date. It would be the goal to not have matches prior to the self-imposed start date count toward the qualifying criteria for the 2021 NCAA Championships. (This would need to be supported by the NCAA DI Wrestling Committee as they address the new qualifying criteria for the 2021 NCAA Championships.)
- III. The NWCA Leadership group will reassess the trends, data, and models related to COVID-19 on a bi-weekly basis, so that if the environment were to improve and safety restrictions were reduced, the 2020-21 wrestling season could be restored to its traditional format.

On behalf of the NWCA DI Leadership Group, we appreciate your support and cooperation. These are perhaps the most challenging times in the history of NCAA Wrestling, and our goal is to ensure wrestling thrives regardless of the challenges we face this season, and beyond.

The NWCA DI Leadership Group

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Todd Beckerman- Brown University
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