



Dear Club, Member, Official, Volunteer and volleyball enthusiast

Monday 16th March 2020

This letter is to update you all and give you advanced notice of Scottish Volleyball's decisions regarding the current situation in relation to the Coronavirus and the impact it is having within our society.

Scottish Volleyball's main concern is the health and wellbeing of all its members and the people who make our sport as fantastic as it is. Nothing in life is more important than family and people's safety.

In line with the statement last week from Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, the SVA decided to go ahead with our National Cup semi-finals on Saturday 14th of March 2020. In response to this decision several clubs/teams were unable to participate in these semi-finals, due to coronavirus exposure and/or the concern of potentially becoming ill and infecting loved ones. The SVA therefore felt that there was no other option open to us as an organisation but to cancel this event. I apologise on behalf of the Association for any distress and issues this caused for you all.

Considering this SVA decision to cancel the National 2020 Scottish Cup semi-finals, a further decision has now been made by myself as Chief Executive Officer and the Board of the SVA to cancel all SVA indoor and beach events/competitions until the 1st of July 2020. This also includes all National Team programmes and events.

This is with immediate effect – 17th March 2020

*Please note that this date will be reviewed by myself and Board on a regular basis and we will inform you if there are any changes to the above decision.

The SVA staff are now working hard on individually contacting those who were to participate in School, College, University, Club, National/local competitions and events that involve facilities and external stakeholders. Further information as to how we are to move forward and solve/resolve the conclusions of the current competitions/events for season 2019/20 shall be communicated to you as soon as possible. Any decisions made shall reflect and be based on this on-going public health situation. These decisions are complicated and need time to be addressed properly, they shall also have to accommodate the impending beach and indoor events already planned for season 2020/21.

As CEO, I strongly recommend that clubs look to protect their club members and review their club programmes with consideration as to whether you as a club wish to continue with club training and volleyball delivery in these coming months. We are here to help and support you, so please do not hesitate to contact us in the SVA if you or your club need any further advice and assistance.

On a proactive and practical issue, the SVA office shall remain open for the remainder of this working week. From Friday 20th March 2020, the office shall close with all staff working remotely. This has been made possible by the SVA Business Continuity Plan and the newly implemented IT infrastructure. Your continued membership and personal support have been crucial in enabling the SVA to deal with this unusual, demanding and unprecedented crisis.

To everyone impacted by this decision I ask for your understanding in this matter. I refer to my above opening statement. *“Scottish Volleyball's main concern is the health and wellbeing of all its members and the people who make our sport as fantastic as it is. Nothing in life is more important than family and people's safety.”*

This decision was not taken lightly and affects everyone in our sport including our professional staff. I ask for your continued support and patience and wish to reassure you that we shall monitor, reflect and re-evaluate the above decision based on the ever-changing advice and circumstances that this health emergency has created.

We kindly ask you to keep following the latest developments of the situation on the Government's and NHS websites and SVA website, following the links below:

- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.scot/>

Please also follow the Scottish Volleyball website and our official social media channels to stay informed about future developments regarding this situation.

- www.scottishvolleyball.org

The SVA staff team is hardworking and passionate about ensuring that everyone who engages in volleyball in Scotland has a positive experience, and we will do everything in our power to return to normal delivery as soon as possible.

Once more my sincere thanks in your continued support in our great sport. I implore everyone to stay safe and healthy – we shall get through this!

Kindest regards,

Margaret Ann Fleming
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Volleyball Association.