

Dear Members of the USWRA,

The Board of Directors reconvened in December to reassess the benefits and risks of resuming game play this season. Prior to our discussion, we listened to the recommendations of the COVID-19 Task Force. The task force recommended that we do not return to play until next season. The USWRA Board of Directors, unanimously agreed with the recommendation of the task force. As a result, the 2020-21 rugby season has been cancelled. We know that this is likely an unsurprising, but still a disappointing announcement. As all of us are aware, cases of COVID-19 in the United States are skyrocketing and our nation's hospital system is showing the strain of such a large influx of hospitalizations. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The first vaccines were given this week, reigniting hope that we will see an end to this challenging time. Vaccine rollout schedules are still vague, and it is unlikely that all participants will have access prior to the end of our season. We understand your frustration with this announcement, and we commiserate with you. All of us involved with the decision to cancel the season, as athletes, coaches, volunteers, referees, classifiers and supporters of the league are missing the competition, the comradery and the friendships of a rugby season. It hurts to not have rugby in our lives, and you are not alone with that feeling. We know that to many of us, rugby is more than a sport; it something that is deeply engrained as a part of our identities. We know this and we are all disappointed.

We are hopeful for a return to typical regular season competition, in September of 2021. We hope that sooner than that, we will receive recommendations to return to some form of competition in smaller formats. We will continue to assess the potential return to sport and we will communicate that with the league. We also will be having our Annual General Meeting in the spring of 2021. Please look for details as they become available.

All of us are suffering a bit right now. It is all relative to each of us. The board is dedicated to helping anyone and everyone in our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [Secretary@usqra.org](mailto:Secretary@usqra.org) if you or your teams need anything. Feel free to ask for support, guidance or ideas for your team to get through this final stretch. Above all, continue to reach out to your rugby brothers and sisters, we still need each other – probably now more than ever. Please have a peaceful, safe and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

USWRA Board of Directors