



TO: Member Club Presidents & Representatives

FROM: Myles Spencer, Chief Executive Officer

CC: Rugby Ontario Board of Directors

DATE: April 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Rugby Ontario Statement on COVID-19 (April 3, 2020)

Dear Member Club Presidents & Representatives,

I am writing to you in relation to the nationwide suspension of sanctioned rugby activities. Today, Rugby Canada has announced that its Board of Directors has passed a motion confirming that all sanctioned rugby activities continue to be suspended indefinitely, beyond the March 13th – April 10th, 2020 original suspension (*refer to the enclosed Rugby Canada statement dated April 3rd, 2020*). Rugby Ontario fully supports this direction and will continue to work closely with Rugby Canada and the Provincial Unions and follow public health agencies and government legislation. Additionally, Rugby Canada has suspended registrations via SportLoMo, with two category exceptions for clubs who wish to offer Board and Social member registrations. Please visit the Rugby Ontario and Rugby Canada websites for more details.

The Board and Staff of Rugby Ontario wish to acknowledge the impact this decision will have on our sport, in particular the Clubs and Branches, athletes, coaches, match officials and countless volunteers across Ontario. The safety and well-being of all participants continues to be our utmost priority. In light of this latest announcement, we shift focus to the concerns of our community. Club rugby is the cornerstone of our sport and the suspension of rugby programming will undoubtedly bring about new challenges for us all as we navigate these unprecedented times. Rugby Ontario is in its own process of active review to assess the potential impact of this suspension to programming and our administration. It should be noted there are situational differences across provinces that may prove difficult to address with a national statement alone.

Rugby Ontario remains committed to working with and supporting our Members to the extent possible. We will continue to provide relevant information as it becomes available, and will respond to inquiries from Member and participants to the best of our ability. With this in mind, I would like to acknowledge the club rugby competitions, leagues and programs that are impacted by the suspension. Our office is working through various scenarios for Minor, Junior, Senior Men's and Women's league structures, community rugby initiatives, high performance and provincial team programs, and community training and education course delivery. With social and physical distancing restrictions in force by all levels of government, it remains unclear what modifications and/or cancellations to these programs will be necessary; however, Rugby Ontario will engage with all stakeholders at the earliest possible opportunity.

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As previously communicated, our committed team of staff has been working on various engagement initiatives and ways for people to interact and remain connected to rugby. We will continue to prioritize this while also reviewing the feasibility of delivering rugby programming at all levels once the suspension of sanctioned rugby activities is lifted.

While we would normally be preparing for the rugby season ahead, we must stay home and do our part to flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19. We are all in this together. We remain hopeful for the opportunity to see our sport return in 2020.

Should you wish to discuss this situation, please feel free to contact me and I'd be happy to schedule a time to chat in the near future.

Sincerely,

Myles Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Rugby Ontario

Rugby Ontario Community Resources

COVID-19 Advisories: [Rugby Ontario COVID-19 Webpage](#)
Community Development: [Growing the Game Workshops](#)
Coaching Video Resources: [Coaching Corner](#)
Social Media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

For additional information on COVID-19, please refer to the following public resources.

Additional Resources & Information

[Government of Canada – Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Sport Medicine Advisory Committee](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

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