

Garrett Holmes,  
Founder,  
The Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

October 19, 2020

Mr. Rocky Olfert,  
Managing Director,  
Canada West ,  
3660 Monaltrie Drive,  
Courtney, British Columbia.  
V9N9T6

Mr. Olfert,

**RE: October 15, 2020 Canada West decision that no conference regular season, playoff, or championship events will be staged during the 2020-21 season in men's and women's basketball, volleyball, hockey, and wrestling, along with women's rugby 7's.**

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to have a dramatic impact on the lives of all Canadians, the Canadian Student-Athlete Association would like to commend Canada West on its continued commitment to the health safety of its student-athletes, coaches, administrators, officials, and fans and to recognize that in this difficult environment Canada West has been faced with making difficult decisions.

***To that end, the Canadian Student-Athlete Association agrees that student-athlete safety should be the top priority and as such supports the decision by Canada West that no conference regular season, playoff, or championship events will be staged during the 2020-21 season in men's and women's basketball, volleyball, hockey, and wrestling, along with women's rugby 7's.***

While the Canadian Student-Athlete Association supports this decision, it notes that there is no mention any input or support from student-athletes in the decision-making process.

In the "new reality" of sports in a COVID-19 environment we have seen a first wave of decisions made that are dramatically impacting the lives, careers, and futures of student-athletes. Unfortunately, as we have also seen, those decisions have been made with little or no input from student-athletes, as existing models/processes/systems simply do not include any mechanism for student-athlete input.

Whether one agrees with the decisions that have already been made or not, more important decisions are going to be made in the future, and that is why there is a need for the Canadian Student-Athlete Association. Student-Athletes need an independent voice at the table in decisions which impact their lives, careers, and futures. The Canadian Student-Athlete Association is that voice.

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association urges Canada West, in future decisions, to acknowledge the need for Student-Athletes to have an independent voice at the table, and to engage the Canadian Student-Athlete Association to provide that voice.

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association thanks Canada West for the opportunity to provide our comments and perspective.

Regards,

Garrett Holmes,

Chair,

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

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