

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

October 19, 2020

Mr. Gord Grace,
President & CEO,
Ontario University Athletics,
3305 Harvester Road, Unit 2,
Burlington, Ontario.
L7N 3N2

Mr. Grace,

RE: October 15, 2020 OUA decision to cancel sanctioned sport programming to March 31, 2021.

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 acknowledge the OUA's continued commitment to the health of its student-athletes, coaches, administrators, officials, and fans and to recognize that in this difficult environment the OUA 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 the OUA to cancel sanctioned sport programming to March 31, 2021.

While the Canadian Student-Athlete Association supports this decision, it notes that the decision was made "After significant consultation with our members and advisors", but does not mention input or support from an independent voice representing student-athletes.

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 independent 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 the OUA, 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 the OUA for the opportunity to provide our comments and perspective.

Stay safe.

Regards,

Garrett Holmes,

Chair,

The Canadian Student-Athlete Association.

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