

## **Canada West cancels Fall term team competition**

June 8, 2020

Canada West announced that Fall term competition will be cancelled due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For MacEwan University this affects soccer, as well as volleyball, basketball and hockey for at least the Fall term. Canada West's decision about the viability of competition in the new year will be made in October based on public health and safety considerations.

"We know this comes as a disappointment for our student-athletes, but we know this is the best decision for public health and safety," says Dr. Craig Monk, Provost and Vice-President Academic.

Student-athletes will maintain their status within USport, the national governing body for university athletics. Those who qualified for endowed athletic scholarships will maintain their funding. Every MacEwan student has access to mental health supports and academic advising to ensure their continued success.

"As a university, we will continue to work to support students through this transition and ensure our student-athletes have the necessary resources for academic success," says Monk.

Canada West's 17 members decided unanimously to suspend Fall term team competition after recommendations from its task force composed of board members and health professionals. The task force explored the transmission risks, potential for mitigation and risks such as travel in making its recommendations.

“While other areas of society continue to mitigate risk through new guidelines, sport provides a challenge in this regard as any risk mitigation would render many sports unrecognizable,” says Canada West President Clint Hamilton.

MacEwan offers 220 student athletes competitive opportunities in basketball, cross-country running, hockey, soccer and volleyball. MacEwan continues to develop its strategy for course delivery in the Fall term in accordance with direction from the province’s Chief Medical Officer.

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