

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SWAC response to COVID-19 - 3.12.20 10:30am

2020 SWAC Basketball Tournament Canceled - Alternative to be offered later in year.

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Raleigh, North Carolina- The North Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA) and StateWide Athletics Committee (SWAC) is following the evolving novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in our state, across the country and the world. The SWAC committee and NCRPA have decided that it is in the best interest of participants, their fans and family, and our host sites that we cancel the 2020 SWAC Basketball Tournament as it is currently planned. The committee is working with partners to either offer the tournament in its current format in May or June or offer an alternative format for teams to compete. We understand that this may be disappointing to some teams, but the health, wellness, and safety of our members and the communities they serve are essential to all of us at NCRPA, and we are choosing to follow the precedents set by the NBA, NCAA, ACC, and others and err on the side of caution.

We ask that parents, players, family members, and coaches hold off on contacting NCRPA and SWAC, as we work with the department administrators who have submitted teams to determine if and how we can offer a tournament later in the year.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) provides information on COVID-19 on its website, and is continuing to share updated information on [how to prevent the spread of coronavirus](#).

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has resources available here:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) put together a blog with some great resources here:

<https://www.nrpa.org/blog/coronavirus-what-impact-will-covid-19-have-on-parks-and-recreation/> The blog has information you may find helpful.

About SWAC: The Statewide Athletics Committee (SWAC) is made up of recreational athletics professionals from across the state and the purpose is to promote interest and participation in recreational athletics, to conduct team tournaments at the sectional and state levels and to conduct and promote special events. They also coordinate activities with agencies and organizations that sponsor sports events on a statewide basis.

About the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association: Founded in 1944, the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association (NCRPA) is the premier nonprofit education and advocacy organization, dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure professions in our state. NCRPA empowers park and recreation professionals and citizen board members through educational opportunities that enhance their ability to change lives and impact communities on a daily basis for the citizens of North Carolina. For an overview of the programs and services offered by the organization, visit <http://www.ncrpa.net>.

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