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The Sports World's Event Magazine

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The coronavirus outbreak continues to force difficult decisions for sports-event organizers. Here is the latest information on how the outbreak has affected the sports-event industry.

BASKETBALL: NBA Keeping Options Open

The 2020 NBA season, suspended since March 11 after **Rudy Gobert** of the Utah Jazz tested positive for COVID-19, was scheduled to be into the postseason by mid-April. Instead, the league remains in a holding pattern with hopes to still complete the regular season before the playoffs, Commissioner **Adam Silver** said on a conference call recently.

“Everything is on the table,” Silver said in a conference call with media. “The direction that the league office has received from our teams is that all rules are off at this point. If there is an opportunity to resume play, even if it looks different from what we’ve done historically, we should be modeling it.”

Various reports have had the league restarting the season in one spot, with Las Vegas prominently mentioned. To finish the regular season and the playoffs would push the season’s completion past its traditional mid-June ending, which could necessitate having the 2020–21 season start later than planned.

“While this virus is of course a dire public health issue, so of course is shutting down the economy,” Silver said. “I think it’s why the league sees it as our obligation, to the extent we can resume play in a safe way, to look at every potential way of doing so. That’s what we’re doing now.”

[The NBA](#), its players union and NBA2K started an esports tournament on April 3 broadcast by ESPN and ESPN2 with 16 players including **Kevin Durant** of the Brooklyn Nets and **Trae Young** of the Atlanta Hawks in a single-elimination, player-only tournament on Xbox One while the league remains on hiatus.

The [WNBA](#) has announced a delay to the opening of its training camps and its regular season tipoff, which was scheduled for May 15, will be affected as well. The WNBA draft was held April 17 virtually with prospects conferencing in live for the event. The draft, broadcast by ESPN, was the most-watched WNBA Draft in 16 years and the second most-watched in the league’s history with an average of 387,000 viewers, up 123 percent over last year’s draft.

SOCCER: MLS Extends Suspension of Play

Major League Soccer is [reportedly set to postpone matches through June 8](#), while [MLS Commissioner Don Garber told ESPN](#) that the league is exploring alternative formats to completing the season, including the idea of having games at neutral sites or an expanded tournament format. The league has been suspended since March 12 after two weekends of play after starting its 25th season. A [training moratorium has been put in place](#) for all clubs through April 24. The [USL Championship](#) has extended its suspension through May 10 in accordance with CDC guidelines and the [NWSL](#) has announced that its season, scheduled to start April 18, will be delayed. Mexico's national team also has canceled a scheduled exhibition against Colombia on May 30 in **Denver**.

The U.S. men's and women's national teams canceled four friendlies, two for the women's team in the U.S. and two for the men's team in Europe. [US Youth Soccer](#) has also suspended all of its leagues and scheduled tournaments. [CONCACAF](#), the federation that organizes international soccer in North and Central America, has postponed the semifinals and finals of its inaugural Nations League Tournament, which was scheduled for June 4–7 in **Houston** and **Arlington, Texas**. The organization also said its qualifying calendar for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be adjusted.

Europe's 'Big 5' leagues of England, Germany, France, Spain and Italy all have suspended their seasons indefinitely and the UEFA Champions League and Europa League, which were suspended at the round of 16 stage, will not resume until July at the earliest while the UEFA European Championships and Copa America in South America have been postponed to 2021. The [International Champions Cup](#), a summer tournament that brings together teams from across the world for preseason tournaments with many of the games in the United States, has canceled its 2020 edition.

TENNIS: Laver Cup Avoids Conflict with French Open, Pushes to 2021

The [Laver Cup](#), an international tennis event planned in **Boston**, will be held in 2021 instead of its original 2020 dates. The tournament had been scheduled September 25–27, which put the tournament in conflict with the rescheduled French Open. The fourth edition of the competition that pits six European players against their counterparts from the rest of the world will remain at the TD Garden in Boston but will now be staged September 24–26, 2021.

"We needed to make a decision now on our event," Laver Cup Chairman and CEO of TEAM8 **Tony Godsick** said. "We know our passionate fans will be disappointed that they have to wait an extra year for the Laver Cup in Boston, but this is the responsible course of action, necessitated by the emerging calendar conflicts. We wanted to call it now to provide certainty for our fans as well as our players, sponsors, broadcasters, partners, staff, volunteers and of course the great city of Boston. We thank them all for their unwavering dedication, hard work, support and understanding and we can't wait to bring happier times to Boston in 2021."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Open is unlikely to be staged without fans in attendance, according to USTA President and CEO **Mike Dowse**. During a press conference with the media, Dowse said the national governing body is consulting with medical experts in deciding its next steps on the tournament and expects to make a final decision by June.

But while some have suggested the tournament could be staged without spectators, Dowse said he did not see that as an option. Concern would still be held for athletes competing in any scenario even if fans weren't let through the gates. "We're not taking anything off the table but right now I'd say that's a highly unlikely scenario," Dowse said of potential empty seats.

Dowse said the USTA is fortunate in that as the last of the regularly scheduled tennis majors, it still has time to decide since play wouldn't begin until August 24. "Obviously our ambition is to run the tournament, it's the engine that drives our organization, our governing body," he said. "Having said that, (economics) won't be the driving factor. The driving factor will be the health and wellbeing of the players, the fans and our staff."

Dowse's comments came as the USTA pledged an additional \$15 million in a second phase of support for the tennis industry, which has seen more than 80 percent of its clubs closed down during the coronavirus crisis. The governing body had earlier pledged \$35 million to support tennis professionals and grassroots programs across the country, distributed to the 17 different regional sections of the organization. The second phase will begin offering specific economic assistance packages, increased support to navigate government assistance for facilities and coaches, access to industry leaders, daily educational webinars and in-the-moment phone support to help individuals emotionally impacted from COVID-19.

The USTA has also identified more than \$20 million in savings through salary reductions for management, eliminating marketing programs and deferring other nonessential capital projects.

In other tennis news, the Rogers Cup, one of the biggest events on the WTA Tour leading up to the U.S. Open, has been canceled by Tennis Canada and the WTA after the Quebec government called for a cancellation of all public events and festivals in the province through August 31. The Rogers Cup alternates each year between **Toronto** and **Montreal** while the concurrent ATP Tour event is held in the opposing city. Both the ATP and WTA Tours have extended the suspension of their tours through July 13. Affected events this year include combined events in **Madrid, Rome**, the **Miami Open** and BNP Paribas Open in **Indian Wells, California**, along with notable ATP events in **Houston** and **Monte Carlo** and a longtime WTA stop in **Charleston, South Carolina**.

It has not been a smooth season for the Grand Slams in tennis. The Australian Open was held in the backdrop of massive forest fires in Australia that threatened the event's air quality, while the [French Open](#), scheduled to begin May 18 in **Paris**, has been rescheduled to start on September 20, one week after the conclusion of the [U.S. Open](#) in **New York City**. The [All England Lawn and Tennis Club says](#) canceled Wimbledon, the oldest major tournament in tennis, instead of holding the tournament behind closed doors. Wimbledon has been canceled in its history, from 1915–1918 because of World War I and from 1940–1945 because of World War II. This year's event was scheduled to start June 28.

GOLF: Three Majors Rescheduled, British Open Canceled as Tours Adjust Slate

The PGA Tour announced that it has shuffled the 2020 calendar significantly with the aim of re-opening the season on June 11 at the Charles Schwab Challenge in **Fort Worth, Texas**. The tour has been suspended since March 12. As part of the latest set of changes to the schedule with additional tournaments being repositioned, the tour plans to resume play with the first four events closed to the general public "but will continue to monitor the situation and follow the recommendations of local and state authorities in order to determine the most appropriate on-site access in each market."

All three events that were previously scheduled between May 18 and June 8 – the Charles Schwab Challenge, Rocket Mortgage Classic and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide – have been moved to later dates in the calendar while other tournaments moving to new dates include the RBC Heritage in South Carolina, Barracuda Championship in Nevada, FedEx St. Jude Invitational in Tennessee and Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship. The RBC Canadian Open and Barbasol Championship have been canceled. For the full list of tournaments, [click here](#).

The four majors were previously reshuffled. [The Masters](#), one of the four major championships in men's golf, is "targeting" the week of November 9–15 to host its rescheduled event in **Augusta, Georgia**. The [U.S. Open](#), at [Winged Foot Golf Course](#) in **Mamaroneck, New York**, will be moved to September 14–20 from its original June date and the [2020 PGA Championship](#) at [TPC Harding Park](#) in **San Francisco** will be August 3–9 instead of its original date in May. The [British Open](#) canceled its event for the first time since World War II, announcing that Royal St. George's Golf Club will host the tournament in 2021 instead.

In women's golf, another major has been postponed with the [USGA's](#) announcement that the [U.S. Women's Open](#), scheduled for June 4–7 at Champions Golf Club in **Houston**, will be played December 10–13 instead. The LPGA's first scheduled event will be the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship from June 19–21, followed by the KPMG Women's PGA Championship outside **Philadelphia**. Of the previously scheduled events, [four will be rescheduled for later in the season](#).

The [Champions Tour](#) has either canceled or postponed all events until June 5–7 in **Madison, Wisconsin**, including the Senior PGA Championship scheduled for May 19–24 in **Benton Harbor, Michigan**. The 41st U.S. Senior Open scheduled for June 25–28 at Newport Country Club in Newport, Rhode Island and the the third U.S. Senior Women's Open, scheduled to take place July 9–12 at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Connecticut, will not be held this year.

And [World Long Drive](#), which organizes driving for distance competitions, has announced it will cancel its regular season and Q-series, although a championship event in **Chicago** on September 3–9 will remain. Executive Director **Matt Farrell** said the decision was made with athlete safety in mind, as well as the safety of families, staff, fans, vendors, suppliers, venues and partners. "The WLD Tour is a global sport, so we also had to weigh many global travel restrictions, border closings, states of disaster and more across the world," he said. "Another key factor is the impact this virus is having on the companies that support the sport where we have seen measures ranging from freezing spending to layoffs and furloughs. Their industries (retail, healthcare, tourism, travel) are hit hard. Their commitment to their communities is the right priority and we support them as they support us."

CYCLING: Tour de France Rescheduled

The world's most famous cycling race, the Tour de France, has been postponed after French President **Emmanuel Macron** announced all public events with large crowds have been canceled until at least mid-July. The race was scheduled to start on June 27 in Nice. Race organizers said that a new start date has been set for August 29, with the event scheduled to run through September 20.

The biggest pre-Tour event in Europe, the Giro d'Italia, was canceled in May. The Spanish Vuelta is still scheduled to start on August 14 but will be rescheduled along with the Giro, the International Cycling Union said, although no official dates have been given. The world championships will go ahead as planned in Berlin, Germany, from September 20–27.

The Tour de France was last canceled in 1946 after the end of World War II. This year's race was scheduled to last three weeks and 21 stages with millions expected to line the streets and mountainsides of the country. Holding the race without fans was earlier proposed by French Sports Minister **Roxana Maracineanu** but is not something organizers favor.

HOCKEY: NHL Extends Delay Through April

[The National Hockey League says](#) there have been no discussions about the 2019-2020 being shut down and eliminating the playoffs, but the league did announce cancellations of the scouting combine June 1–6 in **Buffalo, New York**; the Bridgestone NHL awards June 18 in Las Vegas; and the NHL draft June 26–27 in **Montreal**. The league originally suspended play March 12; on April 14, it released a statement saying its self-quarantining of players and staff would be extended through April 30, an extension of two weeks beyond the previous period.

[The postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games](#) has opened up previously booked TV schedules for the NHL's television partner, NBC, during the summer. The league has reportedly asked teams to look into the availability of their home arenas through the end of August.

The ECHL, the third level of professional hockey in North America with 26 teams throughout the United States, [canceled the remainder of its season](#) while the American Hockey League season is still under suspension. The [world championships, put on by the International Ice Hockey Federation](#), have been canceled.

FOOTBALL: XFL Shuts Down, Declares Bankruptcy

The rebooted XFL, which was in its inaugural season before suspending the campaign after five weeks, has been shut down permanently with league employees laid off, [according to ESPN and multiple media reports](#). The league then [filed for bankruptcy in Delaware](#); its top creditor is the St. Louis Sports Commission at \$1.6 million and among its other creditors in the top 25 was the New Meadowlands Stadium Company (\$368,000), DC Stadium LLC (\$316,112.71) and Houston Athletics (\$294,461.90) along with the Tampa Sports Authority (\$260,000).

The eight teams were in major markets ranging from New York to Los Angeles and included Seattle, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Dallas, Houston and Tampa Bay. While the crowds in L.A. and New York were below expectations, the league was embraced in Seattle and especially in St. Louis, which had not had professional football in town since the NFL's Rams left for Los Angeles. The league championship game was planned for this summer in Houston.

The XFL was originally launched by WWE's **Vince McMahon** in 2001 before folding after one season.

FOOTBALL: NFL Plans to Hold Draft With Dual Benefit

The [NFL will no longer](#) hold its April 23–25 draft on the **Las Vegas Strip** or incorporate any public events, but the event will still be held in a virtual setting and all team personnel should be working from home and there are to be no group gatherings, per a memo from Commissioner **Roger Goodell** to teams.

The NFL will use the three-day draft as a fundraiser benefiting six charities selected by the NFL Foundation and delivering relief to millions in need. The "Draft-A-Thon" will be featured across ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes and the NFL Network and pay tribute to healthcare workers and first responders in a variety of ways. ESPN and NFL Network will combine to offer a singular presentation across both networks, while ABC will present its own telecast for rounds 1-3.

The league made the decision to cancel live events in Las Vegas after seeking guidance from medical experts such as the CDC and in coordination with public authorities in Nevada and Las Vegas. [Plans had called](#) for picks to be announced in front of crowds by the Caesars Forum, with players arriving via boats

next to the Bellagio fountains. A massive NFL Draft Experience fan festival was also for the Forum property. The NFL also said on March 31 that it has no current plans to delay the 2020 season.

MULTISPORT: USA Masters Games Moved to 2021

The [USA Masters Games](#), a multisport competition, has announced it will move its 2020 event in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to 2021.

“On behalf of the USA Masters Games and our Grand Rapids Host Organization, the State Games of Michigan, we want to emphasize that our number one priority is the health and well-being of all participants in the USA Masters Games,” said **Hill Carrow**, CEO of the USA Masters Games. “With that objective in mind, and given the great uncertainty and concern surrounding the current worldwide coronavirus pandemic, it has been determined that it is in the best interests of the safety of Games athletes for the Games to be postponed for one year.”

The event had been scheduled for June 19–21 and June 26–28, 2020. The new dates in 2021 will be June 24–27. The event will continue to be called the 2020 Masters Games. Carrow said the inability of athletes to train combined with the challenges of travel, both domestic and international, played a factor in the postponement.

Mike Guswiler, president of the [West Michigan Sports Commission](#) in Grand Rapids, said, “As one can imagine, rescheduling a large 24-sport event is a major undertaking, and we will collaborate closely with the Games rights holder and our great local event partners as we transition to these new dates. Throughout this process we remain committed to bringing the participants a special Grand Rapids and West Michigan experience at the biggest and best USA Masters Games ever.”

While the Masters Games will be postponed, plans are still continuing for the 2020 State Games of Michigan. Details of that event are being discussed, including a potential shift in schedule and event locations, said **Eric Englebarts**, who serves as the executive director of both the State Games of Michigan and the Local Organizing Committee for the 2020 USA Masters Games.

“As for the USA Masters Games,” Englebarts said, “we understand that many of those athletes who have registered, or who were considering registering will have questions, and our intent is to provide the answers as soon as possible. However, we ask for patience as we work through the large number of details while our LOC staff is having to work remotely under state and local government lockdown restrictions.”

In addition, [The World Games](#), an international multisport competition expected to attract more than 3,600 athletes from 100 countries to **Birmingham, Alabama**, has been rescheduled from 2021 to 2022—a consequence of the [rescheduling of the Olympic Summer Games](#). The new dates will be July 7–17, 2022. The 11th edition of the event had been scheduled for July 15–25, 2021.

“The date of the event has changed, but Birmingham’s commitment to a world-class event has not wavered,” said Birmingham Mayor **Randall Woodfin**. “As the city of Birmingham addresses the current pandemic, be assured that we remain focused on the city’s future and making this the best edition of The World Games ever.”

“While it wasn’t an easy decision, it was the right one for our athletes, fans, sponsors and community,” said **Nick Sellers**, CEO of the Birmingham Organizing Committee. “We share many key partners of the

International Olympic Committee, and this move will ensure that we maintain national and international television coverage as well as keeping several sport competitions that participate in the Tokyo Summer Olympics.”

BASEBALL: MLB Cancels England Series

[Major League Baseball](#) will not hold its second annual **London Series**, which was scheduled for June 13–14 between the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals. MLB had already called off planned regular-season games in **Mexico** and **Puerto Rico**. The two-game series in Mexico City was scheduled for April 18–19 between the Arizona Diamondbacks and San Diego Padres, while the Puerto Rico three-game series from April 28–30 would involve the New York Mets and Miami Marlins.

“The decision has been taken in line with the UK Government’s actions stopping public gatherings and the need to focus emergency services resources on combating the pandemic,” said the league in an e-mail sent to ticket holders, who will be refunded. “While we understand that this news is disappointing, we are faced with an unprecedented situation worldwide and nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of our players, employees and fans.”

MLB is following CDC guidelines and is delaying Opening Day while 2020 World Baseball Classic Qualifier games in **Tucson, Arizona**, were postponed indefinitely. While waiting for the season to eventually begin, the league has started an esports competition using the game *MLB The Show* with 30 players representing their teams to raise funds for Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada.

TRACK AND FIELD: World Athletics Reschedules First Championship in United States to 2022

The [World Athletics Championships](#) planned for **Eugene, Oregon**, have been rescheduled for July 15–24, 2022 at the renovated [Hayward Field](#) at the University of Oregon. The event, originally planned for August 6–15, 2021, was forced to move after the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo rescheduled to the summer of 2021. It will be the first time the world championships in track and field are held in the United States.

In addition to working around the Olympic Games, World Athletics also had to consult with organizers of two other major championships due to take place in July–August 2022: the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and the multisport European Championships, which will be held in Munich. The new schedule prevents a conflict between those events and will allow athletes to compete in up to three world-class competitions during the year.

“This will be a bonanza for athletics fans around the world,” World Athletics president **Sebastian Coe** said. “They will be treated to six weeks of absolutely first-class athletics. More than 70 of our member federations are part of the Commonwealth and more than 50 of our member federations are European so our guiding principle in rescheduling the World Championships was to ensure enough space was created around the centrepiece World Athletics Championship for athletes to choose other major events to compete in. We were also very mindful that we did not want to damage the other major championships in 2022, because they are also very important to our sport.”

Niels de Vos, executive director of the World Athletics Championships Oregon 22, said: “I should like to thank Oregon’s stakeholders for committing so early to the postponement, allowing maximum flexibility on dates for our friends at World Athletics, just as they have been flexible with us in ensuring our plans can remain on track despite the 12-month postponement. Oregon 22, as we must now get used to calling it, will

be kickstarting a global festival of international track and field championships in the summer of 2022 that will be a fantastic experience for athletes and fans alike.”

AUTO RACING: IndyCar Continues Schedule Reshuffle

[The IndyCar Series](#) canceled the [Detroit Grand Prix](#) and added a third weekend of racing at [Indianapolis Motor Speedway](#) while also scheduling doubleheaders at two other tracks to make the revised 2020 schedule a 15-race season.

“We’re committed to bringing fans as much on-track action as possible,” Penske Entertainment Corp. President and CEO **Mark Miles** said. “Our updated schedule features additional racing at fan-favorite venues and adds to the total number of events on our calendar. The COVID-19 situation continues to be dynamic and challenging for everyone, so we have developed contingency plans which will allow us to respond to changing conditions. Our goal is to preserve as much racing competition as possible while prioritizing the health and safety of our participants and spectators.”

Events at Iowa Speedway and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca in California will become doubleheaders with the Iowa 300 weekend adding a race on Friday, July 17 to its previously scheduled race a day later. The Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey weekend will have a race Saturday, September 19 in addition to the previously scheduled race September 20. The new IndyCar Harvest GP on Indianapolis’ road course will take place Saturday, October 3 in addition to the GMR Grand Prix scheduled for July 4 at the venue and the 104th running of the Indianapolis 500 on Sunday, August 23. As a result of those schedule changes at Indianapolis, the Honda Indy 200 in **Lexington, Ohio**, will be August 9, and the Bommarito Automotive Group 500 in **Madison, Illinois**, is scheduled for August 30.

IndyCar previously postponed races in **St. Petersburg, Florida, Birmingham, Alabama, Long Beach, California** and **Austin, Texas**.

[NASCAR](#), which has postponed several races due to the coronavirus, has found that its virtual racing series is such a hit that the events will be on the Fox broadcast network and move from its sister station FS1 until further notice. NASCAR and iRacing, in the absence of Cup Series events through May 8, formed the eNASCAR iRacing Pro Invitational Series. The first two events drew a combined 2.2 million viewers. [NASCAR](#) earlier postponed events in **Atlanta; Homestead-Miami, Florida; Fort Worth, Texas; Bristol, Tennessee; Richmond, Virginia; Lincoln, Alabama; and Dover, Delaware**. The series insists it will run a full schedule by the end of 2020; the latest report has the series starting in mid-May, potentially at **Darlington, South Carolina**.

[Professional Leagues, Networks Turning to Esports]

One of the jewels of the Formula 1 calendar, the [Monaco Grand Prix, has been canceled](#) and will not be held for the first time since 1954. Formula 1 organizers have said they still hope to run a revised schedule 18 races this season after cancelling races in **Australia, Bahrain, Vietnam, China, the Netherlands, Spain** and **Azerbaijan** in addition to Monaco; the latest race to be postponed is the Canadian Grand Prix in **Montreal**, which was scheduled for June 14. The series is now scheduled to start the season on June 28 at the French Grand Prix. In the place of races, the F1 Esports Virtual Grand Prix series launched on March 22 and each subsequent race weekend will see the postponed real-world Formula 1 race replaced with a Virtual Grand Prix.

HORSE RACING: Preakness Postponed to Later Date

[The Preakness](#), traditionally the second leg of horse racing's Triple Crown, has been postponed to a later date and whenever it is held, the traditional InfieldFest party will not be conducted. The owners of [Pimlico Race Course](#) and the Maryland Jockey Club said in a statement April 3 that the decision to postpone was official. The Preakness usually draws more than 100,000 fans to Pimlico Race Course in **Baltimore**.

The Preakness' decision makes it the second Triple Crown race to reschedule. Previously the [Kentucky Derby](#) was postponed from May 2 to September 5. The event will mark the 146th running of the historic race at Churchill Downs in **Louisville, Kentucky**. In addition, the Kentucky Oaks will move from its previous date on May 1 to September 4. The two-week Kentucky Derby Festival, which features more than 70 local events leading up to the race, will also shift in conjunction with the new race dates.

"This is good news for Louisville and great news for the hospitality industry and the 27,000 local workers whose jobs depend on tourism," said **Karen Williams**, president and CEO of [Louisville Tourism](#). "There is also no question that beyond the significant economic impact, the fabric and heart of the city is tied to our annual hosting of the Kentucky Derby and the community comes together around the Kentucky Derby Festival events. The weekend selected in September to reschedule America's longest annually run sporting event is typically a light period for visitation, so this news bodes well for increased revenues during that time. With the other growing festivals and events planned for the month such as the popular DWP concerts, we are looking forward to tourism rebounding and having a robust September."

VENUES: Construction Continues at Many Stadiums But Islanders Construction Halted

Construction on [SoFi Stadium](#) in **Inglewood, California**, is continuing with directives in place after a worker on March 29 tested positive for the coronavirus, construction company Turner AECOM Hunt confirmed in a press release. [The Los Angeles Times has since reported that another worker has tested positive at the site](#). Work at the future home of the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers is ongoing amid the statewide "Safe at Home" orders in California, which did allow for the continuation of commercial construction. While most of the attention has been focused on SoFi Stadium's progress, there is another big construction project ongoing at a sports venue in Los Angeles: Dodger Stadium is undergoing a \$100 million renovation with a two-acre plaza behind center field as well as upgraded outfield areas and a series of elevators that would allow for full access around the stadium.

Another new NFL stadium to open in the fall, [Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas](#), has construction still continuing. [A worker at the site tested positive for the coronavirus in March](#); officials for the builders, Mortensen-McCarthy, said the worker had been offsite for more than a week in self-isolation and the area that they were working in was shut down and sanitized. The Raiders still plan to start play this season at the stadium, which seats 65,000. A second worker reportedly tested positive on April 8.

Other projects still underway include the PGA Tour's 'Global Home' in **Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida**, which is scheduled to open by the end of the year; the **Seattle** arena which will host the city's NHL expansion team starting in 2021; and MLS stadium construction in **Cincinnati, Ohio** and **Columbus, Ohio** is still ongoing. While those projects are continuing, work on the [New York Islanders' new arena at Belmont Park in Long Island has been halted](#). The 19,000-seat arena is part of the \$1.3 billion Belmont Redevelopment Project, which broke ground last September and was scheduled to open for the 2021-22 season.

COLLEGE SPORTS: Power 5 Spring Sports Canceled

The [Pac-12 Conference](#), which traditionally has some of the stronger spring sports athletes and teams in the country, canceled all spring athletic events both in non-conference and conference play on March 14 and were followed three days later by the [Southeastern Conference](#), [Atlantic Coast Conference](#), [Big 12 Conference](#) and [Big Ten Conference](#). The announcements followed earlier decisions by the Ivy League and the Atlantic 10 Conference; every major Division I conference has since also canceled spring events. All NCAA championships for winter sports and spring sports have been canceled and the NCAA has allowed spring sports athletes to maintain their lost year of eligibility.

OF NOTE: Canadian Football League Postpones Season Kickoff

- [The Premier Lacrosse League](#) will postpone the start of its 2020 season, which was scheduled for May 29–30 at Gillette Stadium in **Foxborough, Massachusetts**. A new start to the season will be announced in May.
- The [Pro Watercross National Tour](#) has canceled its upcoming stop in Daytona Beach, Florida and moved an event in Panama City Beach, Florida to May 30–31. The tour will now have five rounds this season.
- The [Canadian Football League](#) has announced its regular season will not begin earlier than June 30 and “planning includes working closely with the CFL to forecast possible alternate scenarios for the start of the 2020 CFL season.”
- The [National Lacrosse League](#) and its 13 teams will cancel the remainder of the regular season. The indoor league suspended play on March 12. League officials are looking at scenarios to return to play when deemed possible with no timeline on when decisions will be made.
- The [Tour of Utah](#), the only multi-day men’s cycling stage race in North America on the UCI Pro Series, has been canceled. This year’s event was to run from August 3–9. “The Tour of Utah has always been one of our marquee statewide sports events and is one of the most respected races in the cycling world,” said **Jeff Robbins**, president and CEO of the [Utah Sports Commission](#). “With its international field of riders and worldwide digital and television reach, it is a wonderful showcase of the people and places in our state. We look forward to seeing the race return in 2022.”
- The **Lake Havasu, Arizona**, Triathlon has been rescheduled for October 17, while triathlon events such as the Powerman Hawaii, Powerman Michigan and Illinois Triathlon Championships have been canceled as well as the USA Triathlon Duathlon National Championships planned on May 30-31 in **Tuscaloosa, Alabama**.
- The annual summer [Dew Tour](#) skateboard competition and festival has been rescheduled for September 10–13 at the Long Beach Convention Center, in **Long Beach, California**. It was originally scheduled for May 7–10.
- [Major League Rugby](#), a professional league with 11 teams in the United States and one in Toronto, has announced its 2020 season will be canceled. The league will launch MLR 2020: Virtual, a gaming competition between the teams on [Rugby20](#) to be streamed on [Twitch](#).
- [AVP beach volleyball tour](#) events scheduled for **Austin, Texas** and **Seattle** have been canceled. The tour will now start on June 19 with the Gold Series New York City Open, which was scheduled for earlier in the year. The event in **Huntington Beach, California**, which traditionally has been the season opener, will instead be the season finale from October 2–4.

- The [Penn Relays](#) at the University of Pennsylvania has been canceled after having been run without interruption in **Philadelphia** since 1895.
- The Boston Athletic Association postponed the **Boston** Marathon to September 14. The 124th edition of the race had been scheduled for April 20. The BAA 5K, which draws a field of 10,000 participants, will also be rescheduled to a later date.
- The **San Francisco** [SailGP](#) event scheduled for May 2–3 and **New York** event scheduled for June 12–13 has been canceled, said event organizers.
- The biggest video game and esports conference in the United States, [E3 2020](#), was canceled. The event has been held in **Los Angeles** since 1995; attendees who had reserved spots and tickets will be offered full refunds.