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## Update on NASPSPA conference

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Mon, Mar 16, 2020 at 11:28 AM

Bcc: ckrhea@uncg.edu

Dear NASPSPA members,

We are writing to update you on decisions made at our Executive Committee meeting on Friday, March 13. The focus of the meeting was the ramifications of the spread of COVID-19 for our conference in Vancouver in June. At the outset, we want to stress that we are monitoring the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic very closely and the primary concern in our decision-making is the health and safety of our conference attendees.

We are very aware that many of you who planned to attend the June 2020 conference now face travel restrictions from your university that will make it impossible for you to attend. Most of us on the Executive Committee are subject to the same restrictions. **However, we cannot “officially” cancel the conference at this time due to contractual obligations that have serious consequences for NASPSPA’s financial viability.** We will provide more information about these consequences and why we are using the language we are using at a later date.

Though we have decided NOT to officially cancel the conference at the moment, we are also acutely aware that the face-to-face conference we are all accustomed to is unlikely to happen. We are exploring other options for hosting a conference, including running a “virtual” conference. If any of you have experience with alternate format conferences that might be viable options for NASPSPA please contact Past-President, David Anderson at [danders@sfsu.edu](mailto:danders@sfsu.edu).

Regardless of the conference outcome, it is important to note that all accepted abstracts will be published in a 2020 *Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* supplement even though you might not have the opportunity to present your work in the regular format. **Please DO NOT request a withdrawal of your abstract(s) at this time.**

If you have already booked your hotel, hold your reservation for now, even if it is highly unlikely you will be able to travel to the conference. Remember, you can cancel that reservation up until 72 hours before your stay and we will remind you well in advance of how to do this. We will leave it to your discretion to handle your flight bookings. Most airlines are allowing flights to be rescheduled without penalty. Many universities also appear ready to reimburse faculty and students for travel-related costs that cannot be recouped. Finally, we will provide an update to those of you who have already paid registration fees once we have a clearer picture of the path ahead.

Members of the Executive Committee are in constant contact via email and phone and we have scheduled a weekly virtual meeting as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and plan for the June conference. We anticipate updating the membership weekly as our planning and decision-making unfolds. We deeply appreciate your forbearance as we navigate the extraordinary disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Please share this information with your co-authors.

Respectfully,

NASPSPA Executive Committee

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