Sport Clubs Update

Things will continue to evolve over the next few weeks, and I will update clubs as soon as possible to allow your clubs to plan accordingly. There are certain things outside of my control. The Governor of Virginia and the University have set standards that we all must follow. I know how important sport clubs are to the college experience, and we have worked hard to create a plan to allow your clubs to meet while still following the mandated policies. I have attached the phases for Sport Clubs to this email. As of now, the university is in the RED phase. We have been given no future dates to let us know at what point we will move into each of the next phases. At any point, we could also revert back to an earlier phase, if necessary.

I can tell you there are going to be some big changes/challenges for all clubs. We have been told that the gymnasium and the multi-purpose rooms might not be available. It is likely classes will be held in all of those spaces, but things have still not been finalized. I know that this will create a real problem for the clubs that utilize these facilities.

*Sport Clubs will NOT be allowed to travel OR compete at ALL in the RED or ORANGE phases.* It is unlikely that team sports will be permitted to compete this fall because of inability to socially distance. Individual sport clubs (Equestrian, Golf) and clubs that can follow the required social distancing requirements (possible examples: Tennis, Badminton) could possibly be allowed to compete, but every event will have to be approved by me first. However, as things continue to evolve, I want everyone to be ready to return to normal the moment we are allowed.

All clubs must look over the operating phases and create a plan for the Orange & Yellow phases to practice and possibly compete. As I mentioned earlier, I have no idea when the university will move into a different phase. You will all need to be ready to modify your practices/competitions to follow the attached policies. Be ready to tell me how you will break down your club practice to allow for number restrictions in the different phases. Be prepared to offer suggestions of where your club could practice if your normal space/facility is no longer available. I will be more than happy to help search for possible spaces, if needed. Only clubs that submit these plans will be eligible to remain active in the fall. **These plans are due by August 3.**

I know this is A LOT of information and many you will be frustrated and concerned about the fall. Just know that I share your frustrations and concerns with this pandemic and will do whatever is in my power to help everyone have a fun and successful year. All of these policies and restrictions are in place to keep everyone safe, which is the University’s primary focus. University of Richmond and the Recreation department are committed to providing opportunities for your clubs to be active. However, as I mentioned earlier, a lot is still unknown and out of my hands. We will all have to be flexible and patient while we continue to navigate these new and difficult times. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.