



Q and A – SSN season postponed

When will the Commission decide if the League can resume come July?

The SNL Commission will review the situation before the end of May and based on the latest medical advice and government regulation, will determine whether the season start date should be extended further.

Clubs, athletes and coaches will need appropriate lead time ahead of the recommencement of SSN and we want to provide fans with some clarity, at a time when there is little.

We do however acknowledge that if that things do not change; the date is likely to be extended.

Who will inform that decision?

Any decision will be based on advice from Netball’s Chief Medical Officer, Club Medical staff and government regulation.

Did you consider any other options?

Yes, the Commission considered a range of options in coming to its decision.

The decision to defer the start of the season was ultimately the most feasible and provided the League, Clubs, athletes and our fans with some clarity in what is uncertain times.

What were the other options?

There were a number of options and its fair to say that many that were feasible last week, were not feasible by today.

Ultimately the League wants to do everything possible to ensure our players, staff and supporters are healthy and well throughout this pandemic.





Is there any pressure from the broadcaster and commercial partners?

Not at all.

Our broadcast partners (Nine and Telstra) and commercial partners are working hand in hand to ensure that we find ways to deliver the League in 2020 and promote the health and wellbeing of the netball community.

Have you thought about just cancelling the season?

Our focus has rightly been a decision relating to the start of the SSN season and the SNL Commission will review the situation before the end of May and based on the latest medical advice and government regulation, will determine whether the season start date should be extended further.

Cancellation would be a last resort.

What’s the financial impact of COVID-19 on SSN?

The financial impact of COVID-19 will be significant, and the League and Clubs are taking immediate steps to reduce costs to ensure the long-term viability of the League.

Are any Clubs at risk of going under?

Not at this stage. SNL is working closely with Clubs. There is no question that the financial impact of COVID-19 will be significant, and the League and Clubs are taking immediate steps to reduce costs to ensure the long-term viability of the League.

Will the players have to take a pay-cut?

This will be reviewed, however has not been discussed in detail, and will be something that is discussed in detail with the Australian Netball Players association.





Are staff taking a pay-cut?

This will be reviewed, however has not been discussed in detail, and will be something that is discussed in detail with our team.

Which players are going home?

That’s a matter for each player.

At this stage all international and interstate athletes are considering what’s best for them and their families. In the interim, Netball Australia, SNL, Clubs and the Australian Netball Players Association have come together, to agree how to support the well-being of our athletes in what will be uncertain and challenging times.

What if athletes can’t get back into the country?

In terms of those athletes seeking to return when the season begins, this will be discussed with their respective clubs at the time.

What about international athletes trying to get home?

This will be challenging in some instances, as a result of country border closures, and in the event that athletes are not able to get home we will do everything we can to support them here in Australia.

What about interstate players?

Interstate athletes will also have the same opportunity to go home.





How long will players be given off?

This has not yet been determined, however player leave and other contractual requirements will be reviewed in line with other discussions taking place with the ANPA and clubs will be informed within the coming days to ensure consistency, in relation to training schedules, across the league.

How will this impact any international matches this year?

Netball Australia is working with the other nations involved in the Quad Series and Constellation Cup to determine what the approach will be in relation to these matches. Further information will be communicated once decisions have been made.

