AFILIADO A LA UANA (ZONA 2)

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2020-2024

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April 2, 2020

Greetings from the CCCAN Executive.

I hope you and your constituents are safe and observing all protocols established for the eradication of the corona virus, COVID-19. It is indeed taking a toll on our normal lives and all sporting activities and events. We hope that things will soon return to normalcy but for now we must sacrifice.

I am writing to you about the CCCAN championships for 2020 to give an update as to the status and decisions of the Executive.

As you are aware, the CCCAN 2020 Championship was put back to tender. The Dominican Republic (the alternate) declined to host. Afterwards, some other countries showed interest but thought that the time frame to organize the event in June-July was a bit short and suggested that the event should be organized for late August early September.

Since these discussions the Japan Olympics was postponed to 2021 as a result of the global spread of the corona virus which impacted all sporting events and Governments taking the decisions to close their borders. The new date for the Olympics is now July 23rd to August 8th.

This situation has put more stress and doubt on whether the CCCAN Championships can be successfully executed given the challenges that currently beset us. The CCCAN Executive conferred and took the decision to cancel these championships based on the following:

- 1) Postponement to later in the year will still have us all in doubt. Right now, the Corona Virus is raging in the USA which is the hub for connecting flights to many of our Zone 2 destinations.
- 2) The host will be making plans for the event under the heavy shadow of doubt that the event may have to be cancelled due to the prevailing health situation. The host may have to make deposits on accommodation, and transportation-some may be non-refundable-I believe that CCCAN then may be liable to refund the host country.
- 3) Most pools if not all in our region are closed as Governments enforce social distancing and prevent congregating in numbers. Athletes therefore cannot train. For training to benefit athletes their mental state should be free of all doubt and training for an event with the likelihood of it being cancelled would not benefit this effort.
- 4) Even if some pools are open all athletes would not have an equal playing field-and sport is based on equality for all.
- 5) The Governments of the various countries are the ones making the decisions as to whether their citizens may travel or if they should allow visitors to enter their borders. That matter is beyond CCCAN's control.
- 6) Jobs have been affected. Many of our parents pay the cost of travel and accommodation for their children. While countries are on lockdown some parents are unemployed and therefore unable to cover the cost.

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It was felt that efforts should now be placed on the 2021 event and that solicitations for possible hosts for 2021 should be our immediate focus.

Cancelling our event was made with the deepest of regret but health and safety of our athletes, officials and supporters must be considered first. We do not know when the virus will subside and if efforts currently employed will bring about fast and satisfactory results. It is therefore a wait and see game.

We shall be sending out the 2021 bid document as soon as possible so that all efforts will be focused on planning for successful event next year. Would be grateful for some feedback. I remind all of you to follow the protocols established internationally and in your own countries relating to COVID19 and that you and your families will be safe and healthy. We look forward to successfully eliminating together this virus from our planet.

Kind Regards,

Felix Calderon

**CCCAN President**