

## **SEASON PLANNING UPDATE – 10/8/2020**

Below are a few additional pieces of information regarding planning for the 2020-2021 season. Once again, please be cognizant that information, dates, deadlines, and logistics are all subject to change.

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### **Spectators**

The most desirable outcome for events this year is to run them with spectators in attendance. We know how important it is for families to be able to watch their athletes participate. However, at this time, we are planning for events to be run without spectators at least at the start of the season. This is due to current guidelines in place pertaining to large gatherings.

When considering the maximum number of people allowed in a given facility at a given time, we must consider not only players and coaches, but spectators, tournament staff (like officials), and facility staff. In order to allow for the maximum number of teams to be in a venue (and to therefore maximize opportunities afforded to players), we may be forced to make difficult decisions about other personnel and guests.

This is not finalized yet and we will be working with each individual facility, as well as local health authorities, to determine what we can and cannot allow.

We are working on contingency plans that may allow for live streaming of tournaments and will be posting more information about this in the near future.

### **Tournament Formatting**

We are examining a number of options for formatting Power League tournaments. Numerous options are on the table. Below are a few:

- Keeping the formatting the same as last year, putting 6-8 teams on two courts, playing pool play, then playing a crossover.
- Wave-style play – likely meaning 3-5 teams per court, playing each other with no crossover. Operating in a wave format would likely lend itself to two waves on a court in a day, potentially doubling our capacity for teams, and would allow single-court facilities to be an option for tournament play.
- Simple bracket-play each day, spread over any number of courts.
- Various pool-play styles, such as cross pools, that include various numbers of teams.

For our staff, there's a hierarchy of things that need to be figured out. The first is the schedule – who's playing on what dates (significant steps will be taken in this regard by the Junior Girls' Committee later this month). The second is how many courts we have available each day. The third is the formatting of the tournaments themselves.