

July 17, 2020



## **Commonwealth Coast Conference suspends competition for athletics for fall 2020 semester**

The Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC), of which the University of New England is a member, has announced that it is suspending intercollegiate athletic competition for the fall 2020 semester. The announcement comes after four months of planning and conversation among CCC institutional and conference leadership.

“I know that this is a heartbreaking decision, not only for our athletes but also for our coaches and the UNE Community,” said UNE Athletics Director Heather Davis. “But ultimately, the health and safety of our student athletes has to remain our top priority, and participating in competition in the midst of this pandemic puts our athletes at too great a risk.”

UNE will suspend all fall semester athletic competition, including swimming and rugby, which are not part of the CCC, as well as club competition. UNE remains committed to providing experiences in athletics in the coming semester, including training and practice opportunities for student athletes. Additionally, student athletes will not lose their National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility as a result of this decision.

With improved public health conditions and relevant NCAA guidance, the CCC hopes to begin competition for winter sports athletic competition as early as January 1, 2021. Spring sports currently remain on schedule as planned, with the exception of the cancelation of their non-traditional fall play date. In addition, should NCAA legislation permit fall sports teams to conduct athletic activities and competition in the spring 2021 semester, CCC schedules and championships may be adjusted accordingly.