Phoenix Union Postpones Sports Until Health Benchmarks Are Met, Continues Engagement With Student-Athletes

We believe in the value and importance of athletics. Sports can be highly transformative for the young men and women that we serve – student-athletes build relationships with peers and coaches, learn commitment, work ethic, and teamwork, experience success and cope with failure, and develop life-long healthy habits. During this global healthcare pandemic, we believe that activities that positively engage our youth are even more important than ever.

It is for these reasons that we cautiously allowed sports conditioning this summer in preparation for fall sports. Unfortunately, at this time, we do not feel that it is safe for our student-athletes to continue in-person workouts – community spread of COVID-19 still far exceeds the recently released health benchmarks outlining the safe return to school. Therefore, beginning Monday, August 17, Phoenix Union will postpone workouts, practices, and competition for all fall sports until our community meets the state and county’s health benchmarks for a safe return. Workouts for winter athletics will also not begin until these benchmarks are met.

In order to ensure that our student-athletes are connected, engaged, and ready for competition, PXU coaches will stay on contract. They will be asked to stay in contact with their players, assign individual workouts, check grades and attendance, assign tutoring for student-athletes who fall behind academically, coordinate virtual team meetings, and maintain a sense of team and community throughout the duration of the postponement. Coaches and athletes will return to in-person practices when it is safe, per state and county guidelines.

It is our hope that we will resume all athletics later this school year. At this point, we must place the health and safety of our students, coaches, and community ahead of our desire to allow our student-athletes to compete on the fields and on the courts.