



To the SECCC:

It seems like it been so long since we have all seen each other. The COVID-19 pandemic has left many of us searching for answers to questions that have gone largely unanswered for almost a year. Last April we announced the suspension of our road season. During the summer we cancelled our fall racing season. This virus has taken so much from us already. Some of us have lost family members, experienced entire semesters away from our friends, endured countless hours of online education, and so many other changes to our daily life.

However, recent news of a vaccine, declining daily positive rates, and increasing hospital capacity left us optimistic and gave us hope that our world would return to some semblance of normal. The leadership of the SECCC devised a plan that we were confident would allow all our students to feel confident that if they participated in our events that they would be safe. Our strategy included delaying the start of our season, hospital capacity requirements, mandatory testing, refunds for positive test results, and so much more. We were ready to handle everything we could think of.

A few weeks ago, we reached out to the teams that make up our great Conference and came to the realization that a large majority of our students had their hands tied. Their club sports departments, AD's, or other University officials had put a ban on travel in some form or fashion. The teams that could travel would either be doing so without the knowledge of their University or would be participating at a significantly increased cost to the students.

Earlier today, USA Cycling announced that they would be cancelling the 2021 Road and BMX Collegiate National events held in May. They noted that the ongoing pandemic, risk to individual health, and lack of inclusivity and competition were key reasons behind the decision. This news was a deafening blow to everyone on the leadership team, but given all of the information we have at this time not surprising.

Given USA Cycling's cancellation of Nationals and the feedback we have received from our teams, the leadership of the SECCC is announcing the cancellation of the 2021 Road Season. While we strongly believe that we can put on events safely and the risk to individuals is very low, we cannot proceed with hosting events against the guidance of USAC.

There is no substitution for real in-person competition. Racing will begin again and when it does, the SECCC will be ready.

Nick Luther

Conference Director

on behalf of the SECCC Board