

THE JEFFREY S. MOORAD CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPORTS LAW PRESENTS

THE BRANDT REPORT: The Covid-19 Effect on Sports



THE JEFFREY S. MOORAD
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPORTS LAW

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

VOLUME II



THE COVID-19 EFFECT ON SPORTS



BRANDT REPORT MISSION

THE BRANDT REPORT is an annual White Paper presentation to inform and educate students, sports industry professionals and other interested parties about a current sports law/business/policy topic that has experienced disruption in the prior year. The Report is prepared and constructed with research and analysis by students from the Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law at Villanova School of Law, under the guidance of Executive Director Andrew Brandt. The Moorad Center and Brandt are thought leaders on legal and business aspects of sports and the changing dynamics in sports law, sports business, sports media, sports policy and sports thought. The 2021 Brandt Report focuses on the topic of the Covid-19 Effect on Sports.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Executive Director of the Moorad Center, I wanted to welcome you to the 2nd Annual Brandt Report.

The Moorad Center has, since its inception in 2012, set a new standard in sports legal and business education. Leading from over 60 years of experience in the business of sports between our founder Jeffrey Moorad and myself, we take deep dives into the most incisive and topical sports content year after year, semester after semester, week after week. We have a robust curriculum of sports law and business courses and our students are perennial winners at annual student competitions around the country. We have top industry professionals as guest speakers and as our Board of Advisors; we host an annual Symposium that has become a staple of the sports event calendar.

Now the Brandt Report becomes another differentiator to our program: an annual White Paper where our students display comprehensive knowledge and research on a central and topical area in sports. The Report serves a wide audience including other students throughout the country and the world as well as sports industry professionals, media and more. Our inaugural topic last year was the State of Sports Betting in America.

We now present our second annual Brandt Report focusing on the Covid-19 Effect on Sports over the past year. In here you will find the extraordinary impact of the Covid-19 virus on sports across the globe: how the sport was affected, how the sport returned to play (or not), health and safety protocols, negative financial consequences and assessing each sport's future in dealing with the continuing virus impacts.

Enjoy this in-depth look at the Covid-19 Effect on Sports. We hope you find it a helpful and informative resource. Thank you for your support.

—**Andrew Brandt**, *Executive Director*

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PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AND COVID-19

NBA SEASON TIMELINE

MARCH 11
2020

JULY 22
2020

AUGUST 17–OCTOBER 11
2020

Rudy Gobert tested positive for Covid-19
The NBA paused the 2019-20 season indefinitely

The season resumed inside the Orlando Bubble, beginning with exhibition games

PLAYOFFS
Los Angeles Lakers won their 17th NBA Finals, defeating the Miami Heat



NBA SEASON ECONOMICS

- When the NBA season paused, **258** games were canceled and not made up, leading to a loss of **\$694 million**
- The NBA spent **\$180 million** to operate **100** days of basketball in its Orlando Bubble
- The Bubble operation allowed the NBA to avoid losing their broadcasting deals worth **\$1.5** billion dollars

NBA OPERATIONAL CHANGES

ORLANDO BUBBLE

- The NBA bubbled in Orlando at Disney World and invited **22 teams**. Only teams in contention for a playoff spot were invited. **16** of the **22** teams in the bubble made the playoffs. The Orlando Bubble allowed the NBA to continue play during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic
- The NBA's bubble experiment worked, as there **were 0 positive Covid-19 tests** for players throughout the entirety of the Orlando Bubble



NBA OPT OUTS

- 9 NBA players opted out of the Bubble
- Players who opted out faced losing up to **15%** of their salary
- For example, Avery Bradley of the Los Angeles Lakers, opted out of the NBA Orlando Bubble and lost roughly \$650,000 of his \$4,469,063 salary

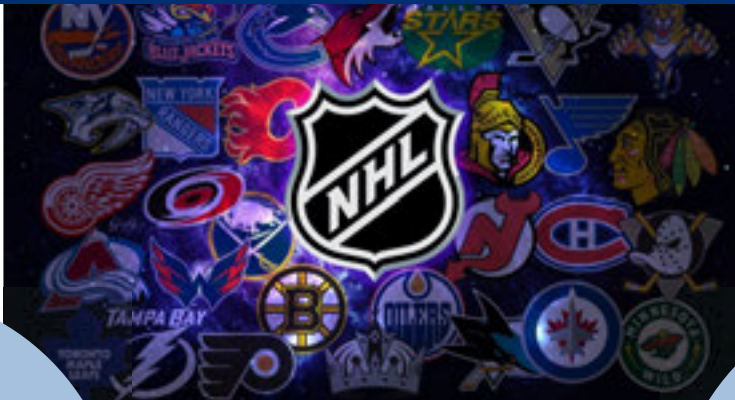


NBA 2020-2021 SEASON

- The National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) approved a shortened season with a **72-game regular season** schedule running from **December 22, 2020 to May 16, 2021**
- The NBA decided on a **play-in tournament** for the seventh and eighth playoff seeds which will include teams with the seventh-highest through the tenth-highest winning percentages in each conference
- **All-Star Game** on **March 7, 2021** at State Farm Arena in Atlanta
 - NBA will commit **\$2.5 million** in funds and resources toward Historically Black Colleges and Universities (**HBCUs**) and support awareness around equity and access to Covid-19 care, relief, and vaccines

NHL SEASON TIMELINE

MARCH 12
2020



NHL paused its season due to Covid-19

JULY 10
2020



The NHL and NHLPA ratified a 4-year extension to the CBA and a plan to return to play

AUGUST 1– SEPTEMBER 28
2020

PLAYOFFS
The Tampa Bay Lightning won their 2nd Stanley Cup in franchise history by defeating the Dallas Stars

NHL SEASON ECONOMICS

- 50% of NHL revenue is generated directly and indirectly from ticket sales
- The NHL salary cap will remain at \$81.5 million for the 2020-2021 season
- NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league and clubs will lose billions of dollars from the shortened 2020-2021 season



“It would be cheaper for us to shut the doors and not play. We're going to lose more money, at the club level and the league level, by playing than by not playing.” —GARY BETTMAN

NHL OPT OUTS

- The deadline to opt out without discipline or penalty for the 2019-2020 season was July 13, 2020
 - During the 2019-2020 season, only 6 players opted out of the NHL Return to Play Plan
- The opt out deadline for the 2020-2021 season was December 24, 2020 for non-playoff teams, while the opt out deadline was December 27, 2020 for players on teams who competed in the 2019-2020 playoffs



NHL OPERATIONAL CHANGES

- The NHL **bubbled** by conference, with the Western Conference in Edmonton and the Eastern Conference in Toronto
- Only 12 teams from each conference were invited to the bubbles to play to determine which teams would move forward in the Stanley Cup Playoffs

Eastern Conference

Rank	Team
1	Bruins
2	Lightning
3	Capitals
4	Flyers
5	Penguins
6	Hurricanes
7	Islanders
8	Maple Leafs
9	Blue Jackets
10	Panthers
11	Rangers
12	Canadiens

Western Conference

Rank	Team
1	Blues
2	Avalanche
3	Golden Knights
4	Stars
5	Oilers
6	Predators
7	Canucks
8	Flames
9	Jets
10	Wild
11	Coyotes
12	Blackhawks

NHL 2020-2021 SEASON

- The NHL began its 2021 regular season on **January 13, 2021**
 - The 2020-2021 season was shortened to 56 games from the usual **82 games**
- Although the NHL could lose billions this season, NHL Commissioner Bettman stated “We’re coming back to play this season because we think it's important for the game, because our fans and our players want us to, and it may give people—particularly in isolation, or where there are curfews—a sense of normalcy and something to do”

MLB SEASON TIMELINE

MARCH 12
2020

JUNE 23
2020

JULY 23
2020

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 27
2020



MLB postponed spring training games and pushed back the regular season start date

After months of negotiations between the MLB and MLBPA, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred mandated a 60-game season and the players agreed to comply

Truncated season began and MLB and MLBPA jointly announced an expanded 2020 postseason

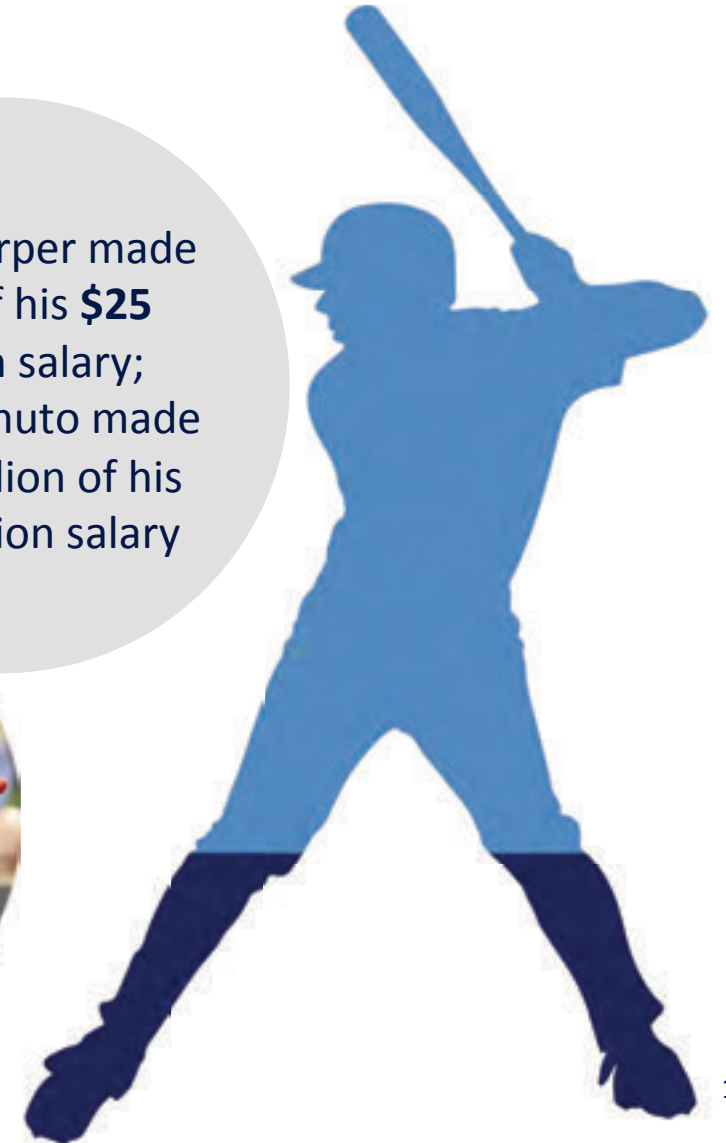
The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series
During the World Series clinching game, **Justin Turner** tested positive for Covid-19 and was taken off the field in the 7th inning, but returned to the field after the game for celebrations

MLB SEASON ECONOMICS

- Players earned full prorated salaries for the **60**-game regular season
- A **60**-game season is **37%** of a normal **162**-game season
- The MLB estimated losses of **\$3.1 billion** for the **2020** season

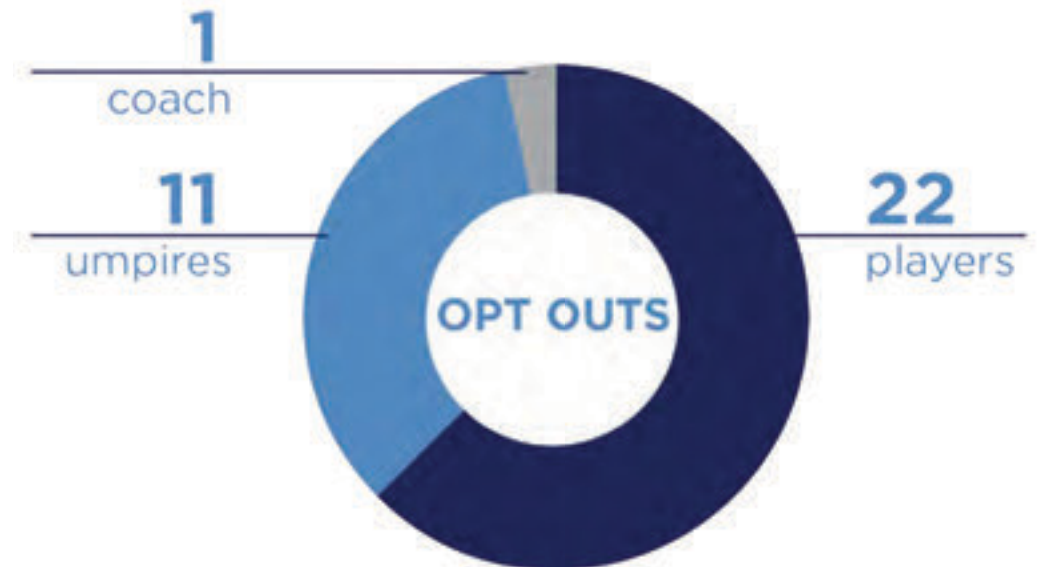


Bryce Harper made **\$9.4** of his **\$25** million salary;
J.T. Realmuto made **\$3.7** million of his **\$10** million salary



MLB OPT OUTS

- Players designated as **“high-risk”** by a team doctor could opt out of the season and still receive service time and their full prorated salary for the 60-game season
- Players who were not high-risk could also opt out but had to surrender salaries and service time
- Players could opt out at any time in the season and could also choose to opt back in at any time in the season

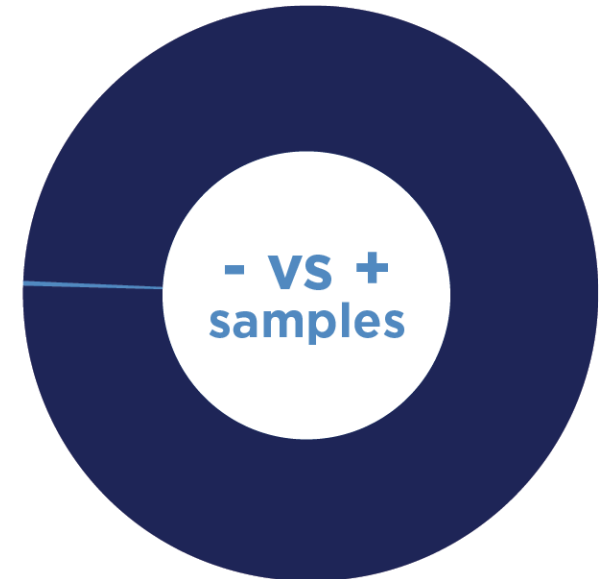


MLB OPERATIONAL CHANGES

- The MLB played a 60-game season instead of its normal 162-game season (37% of normal season)
- The MLB did not implement a full bubble season like some other sports did, but it did implement a postseason bubble, which had a 54-day streak of no new positive Covid-19 test
- No fans were allowed during the regular season, but limited spectators were allowed at the National League Championship Series and the World Series

0.05%
positive

As of October 23rd,
the MLB collected
172,740 samples
over the season, **91**
of which were
positive



MLB 2021 SEASON

- The **MLB and MLBPA** disagreed over whether to delay the 2021 season, therefore forcing them to defer to the CBA and play a full 162-game season
- The 2021 season will begin in April
- **Commissioner Manfred** said the MLB will “be more aggressive” about having fans in the stands in the 2021 season if there is local government and health department approval



NFL SEASON TIMELINE

APRIL 23–25
2020

The NFL Draft was held virtually

JULY 27
2020

The NFL canceled its preseason games

SEPTEMBER 10
2020

The NFL regular season began

NOVEMBER 30
2020

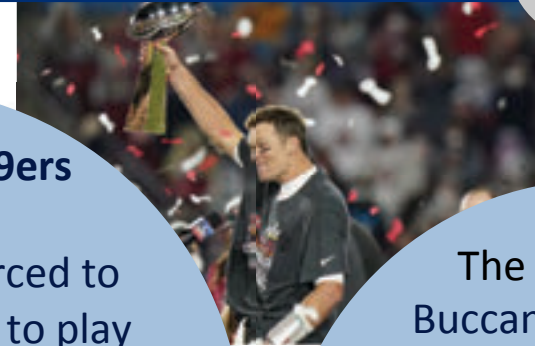
San Francisco 49ers Relocation

The 49ers were forced to relocate to Arizona to play their home games due to California's Covid-19 protocols, as Santa Clara banned all contact sports and mandated 14-day quarantines for anyone traveling into the area from 150+ miles away

FEBRUARY 2
2021

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the **Super Bowl** held in Tampa Bay, Florida

The stadium capacity was reduced to 22,000 attendees, 7,500 of whom were health care workers invited by the league



NFL COVID-19 OUTBREAKS



SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Tennessee Titans

23 total positive Covid-19 tests within the organization

The Titans were fined **\$350,000** for holding workouts outside of the team facility during the week and their game against the Pittsburgh Steelers was canceled

OCTOBER 3-7, 2020

New England Patriots

New England Patriots game against the Kansas City Chiefs was postponed **1** day due to a Covid-19 outbreak within the team

NOVEMBER 26, 2020

Denver Broncos

The NFL ruled all **4** of the Broncos' quarterbacks ineligible to play in the team's upcoming game due to contact tracing

The Denver Broncos wanted to postpone the game because they lacked an NFL-ready QB, but the NFL stated they would only postpone games due to health concerns, and not due to competitive balance

NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Baltimore Ravens

23 Ravens players were placed on the Covid-19 list

3 games were rescheduled to different days of the week as a result

NFL SEASON ECONOMICS

- According to Marc Ganis, co-founder of Chicago-based consulting group SportsCorp, the NFL lost an estimated **\$3-4 billion** despite playing during the pandemic
- 2020 **salary cap** remained the same at **\$198 million**, but the 2021 cap was reduced to **\$182.5 million**



NFL OPERATIONAL CHANGES

STADIUM CAPACITY

- NFL games had varying capacities of fans throughout the season

ROSTER

- Practice squad was expanded from **12** to **16** players
- Players placed on Covid-19 Injured Reserve could return after 3 weeks

BUBBLING

- Bubbling is not feasible for the NFL given roster sizes, practice rosters, coaching staffs, and medical staffs. They did not bubble for the 2020-2021 season and will not bubble next season either



“We don’t see the bubble as most refer to it in one location. We feel strongly our protocols are working. We’re willing to adjust and adapt those protocols, take additional steps. But I don’t see us doing the bubble in the sense that the media focuses on it.”

— **ROGER GOODELL**

when asked whether the NFL would bubble for the 2021-2022 NFL season

NFL OPT OUTS

- Approximately **67 NFL players** opted out of the 2020-2021 NFL season
- The NFL classified the players who opted out as either low-risk or high-risk



PROFESSIONAL SOCCER BUNDESLIGA (GERMANY)

MARCH 13
2020

The season
was suspended



BUNDESLIGA

MAY 16
2020

The season resumed.
The Bundesliga was the
**first sport to return to
play after the pandemic**
halted sports around the
globe, and it did so
successfully



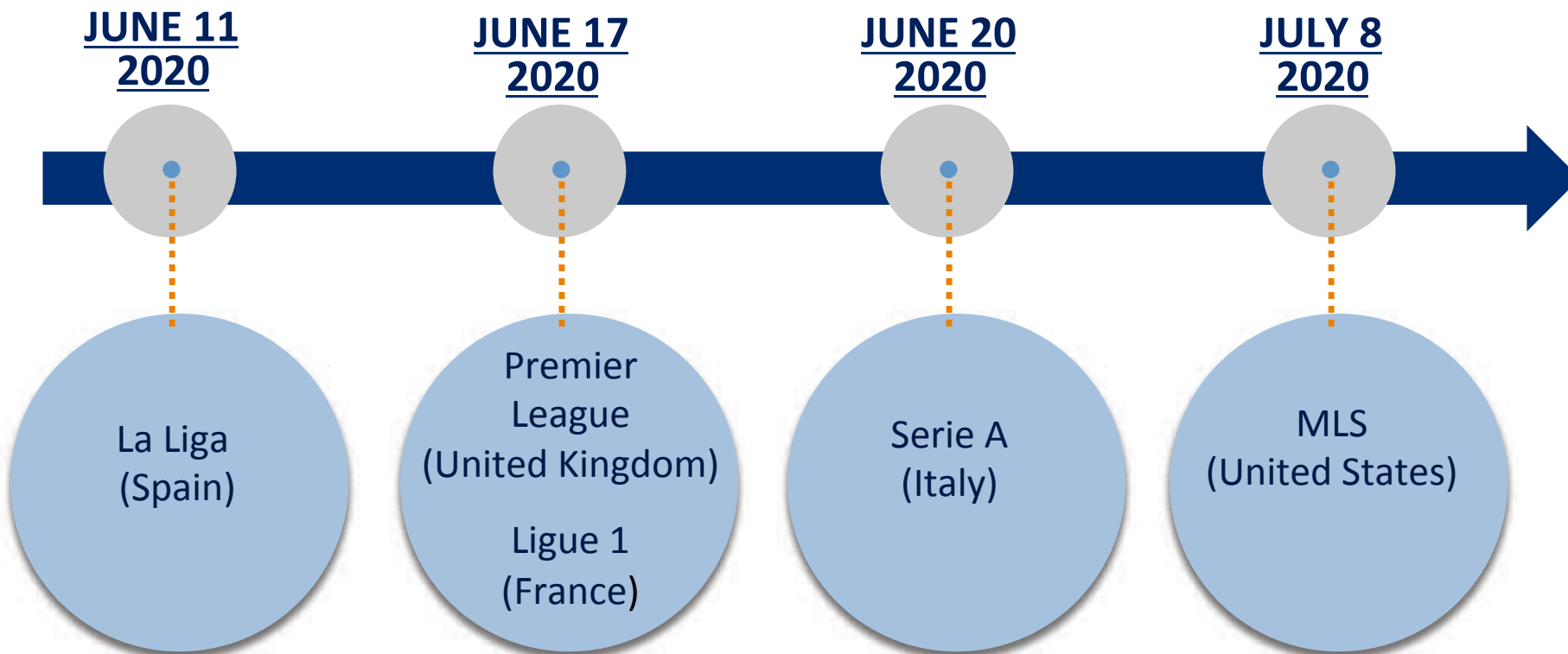
“The Bundesliga was just an incredible
role model. It was a relief for us here in
England.”
—JURGEN KLOPP, Liverpool Head Coach

BUNDESLIGA ECONOMICS

- Average attendance for the Bundesliga is second only to the NFL
- Resuming the season without fans led to up to a **\$110 million loss** in revenue per team
- The league would have lost an additional **\$812 million** in revenue if the 2020 season did not resume, due to broadcasting deals



OTHER PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUES RETURNED TO PLAY



HOW DID THE LEAGUES RETURN?

The professional soccer leagues approached returned to play during the Covid-19 pandemic with empty stadiums, multiple Covid-19 tests per week, and individual/team quarantines when necessary



INDIVIDUAL SPORTS CASE STUDY: GOLF

GENERAL OPERATION CHANGES

- March 12, 2020—The Players Championship was canceled
- Due to the nature of golf, there weren't many operational changes

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- A symptom-based model was used to start the season, then on July 1, 2020 transitioned to a testing-based model to track asymptomatic cases
- Professional golf began using Whoop as a partner to track the health of players

PRACTICE RESTART

- Players were able to practice throughout the pandemic



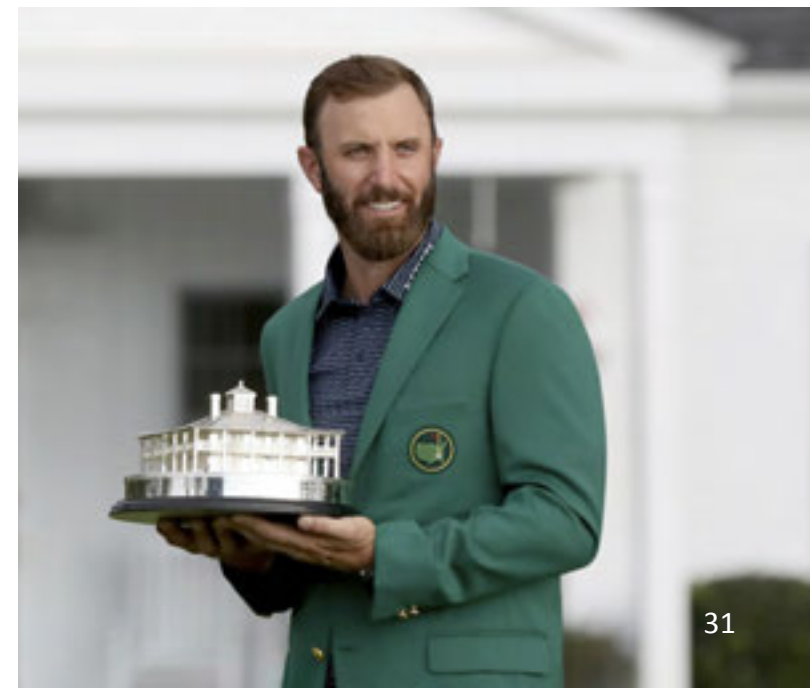
GOLF TOURNAMENTS

RETURN OF TOURNAMENT PLAY

- The first full tournament was the Charles Schwab on June 11, 2020
- However, there were charity golf events earlier such as “The Match” between Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, Phil Mickelson, and Tiger Woods. The Match raised \$20,000,000 for Covid-19 relief

THE MASTERS

- The Masters was originally scheduled from **April 9-12, 2020**. 3 days before the event, it was postponed to November 12-15, 2020. Dustin Johnson won the 2020 Masters with a record score of 268, 20 strokes under par
- Since golf is an individual sport, opt outs were not a concern. Players who did not want to play a certain tournament, simply did not register
- Golf training was relatively uninterrupted, but tournaments were delayed for some time. This shifted schedule led to many golfers playing tournaments they would not have normally played



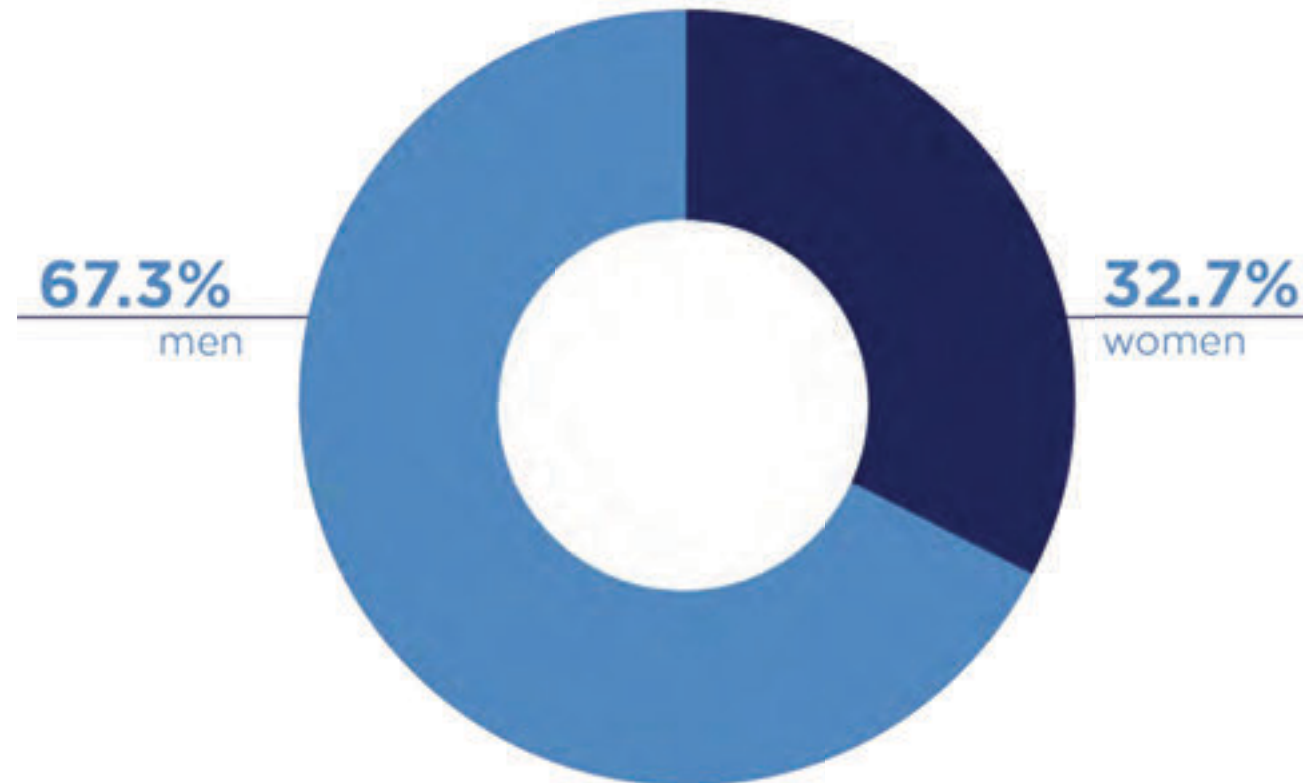
COLLEGE ATHLETICS AND COVID-19

NCAA DIVISION I ATHLETICS CUTS

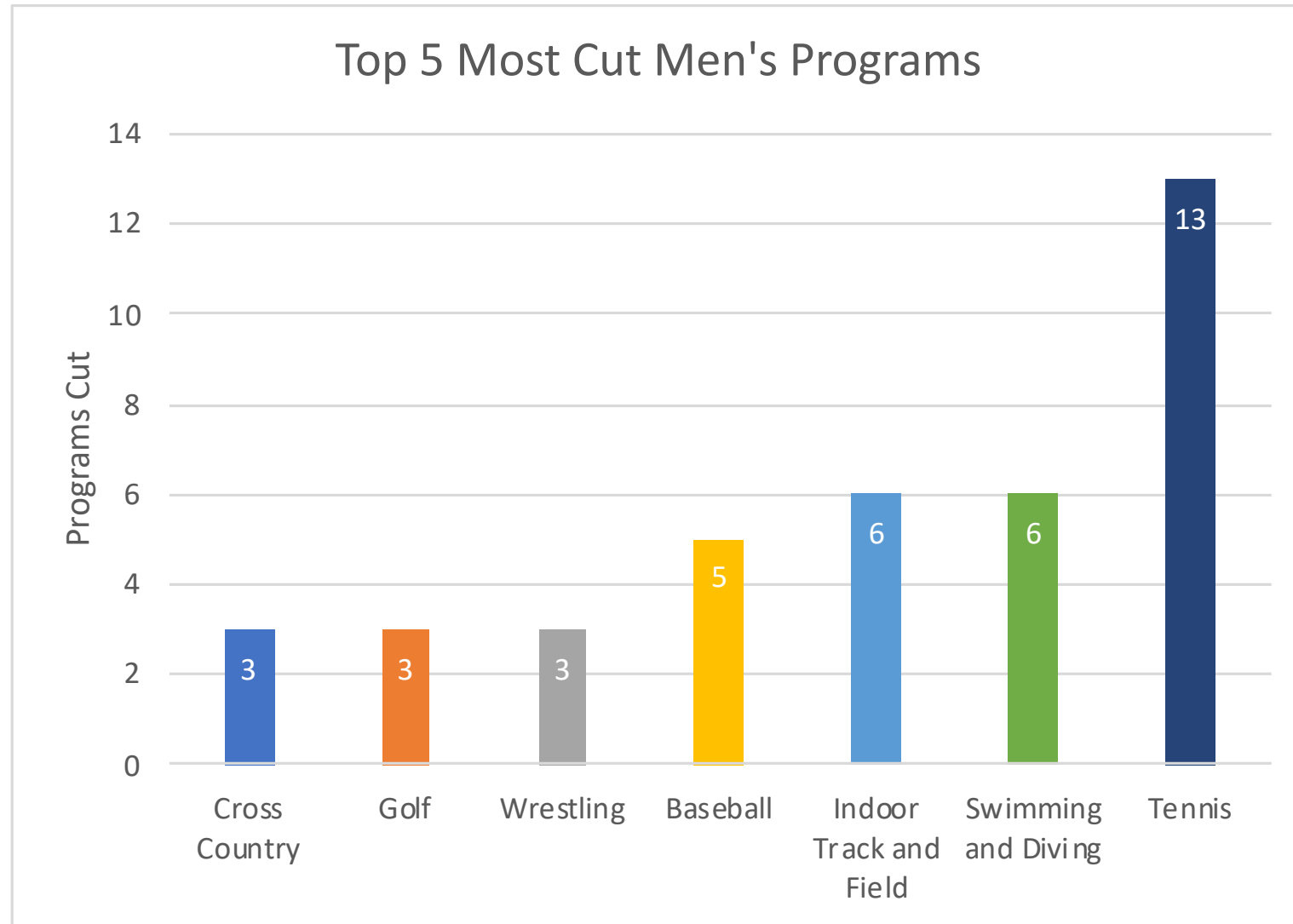
- **30** schools cut a total of **86** non-revenue-producing programs across **22** different sports
- **1,389** athletes were affected by the program cuts (not including indoor track and field athletes)
- Number of athletes impacted by indoor track and field cuts was not reported because they are the same athletes competing on the outdoor team
 - However, schools that cut cross country or indoor track and field are weakening their program, and thus, could see many of their outdoor track and field athletes transfer to schools offering all 3 seasons as supporting all 3 seasons is the norm
- Although **7** less swimming and diving programs were cut than tennis programs, **25** more swimming and athletes were affected by the cuts

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PROGRAM CUTS

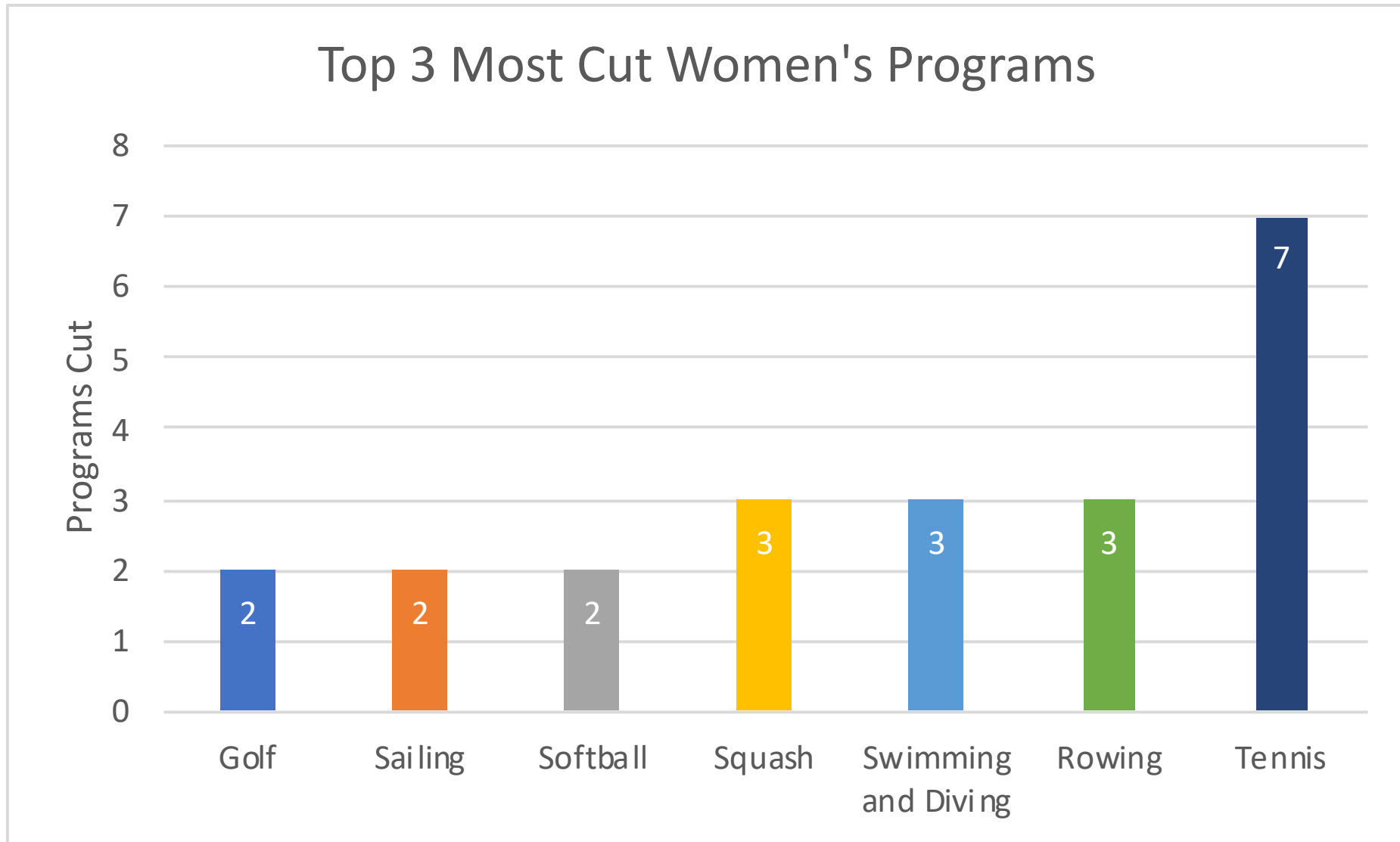
College Athletes
Affected By Program Cuts



MEN'S PROGRAM CUTS



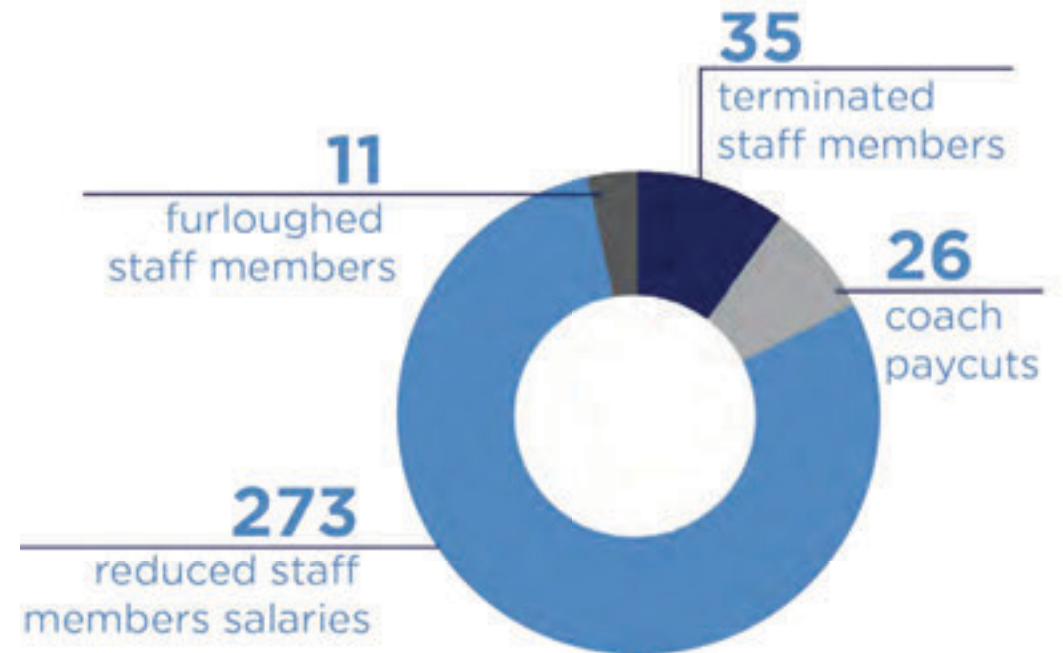
WOMEN'S PROGRAM CUTS



COLLEGE ATHLETICS TERMINATIONS AND FURLOUGHS

- **Many** NCAA member schools reduced their staffs through pay cuts, furloughs, and eliminations, including several of the top revenue producing schools
- **The University of Texas**, the highest grossing athletic department in 2018-2019 with revenues north of **\$220** million, eliminated **35** staff members. Texas issued pay cuts for **26** coaches and administrators, temporarily reduced **273** staff members' salaries, and temporarily furloughed **11** staffers
- **NCAA** furloughed about **600** employees for **3-8** weeks

CASE STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS



COLLEGE FOOTBALL TIMELINE

JULY 8
2020

AUGUST 10
2020

OCTOBER 29
2020

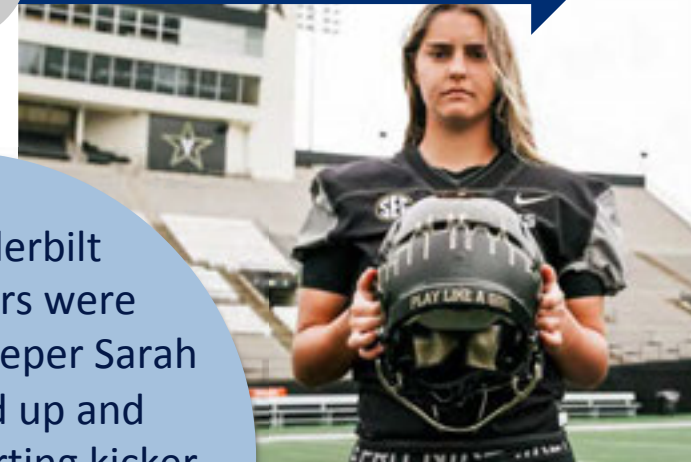
NOVEMBER 8
2020

The Ivy League canceled all sports, making it the first major college football cancellation due to Covid-19

Myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscle, was diagnosed in at least 5 Big Ten Conference athletes and in several other athletes in other conferences

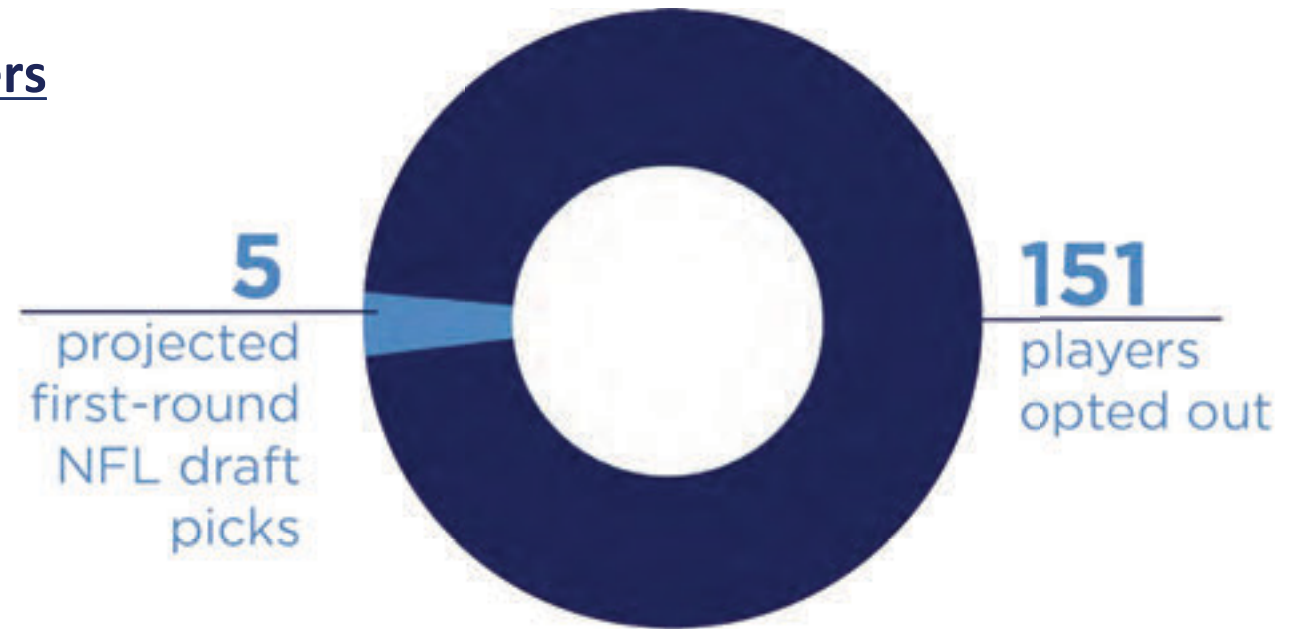
Clemson's quarterback, Trevor Lawrence tested positive for Covid-19 and was not allowed to play against Notre Dame

When Vanderbilt football kickers were sidelined, goalkeeper Sarah Fuller stepped up and assumed the starting kicker role. By doing so, she became the **first woman to participate and score** in a Power 5 football game



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OPT OUTS

- Approximately **151 FBS college football players** opted out of the 2020 college football season
- Of those **151** players, approximately **5** of those players were projected first-round NFL draft picks



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OPERATIONAL CHANGES

CANCELED/POSTPONED GAMES

- 139 games were canceled or postponed during the 2020 regular season due to Covid-19


FAN CAPACITIES

- Some schools allowed up to 25% capacity, while other schools did not allow fans to attend games



COLLEGE BASKETBALL TIMELINE

MARCH 12
2020



The Big East canceled the remainder of its tournament during halftime of the quarterfinal game between Creighton and Saint John's. The other major NCAA conferences also canceled their conference tournaments

NCAA President Mark Emmert and the Board of Governors **canceled the 2020 NCAA tournaments**. It was the first time the men's tournament was not held since it debuted in 1939


NOVEMBER 16
2020

The NCAA announced that the entire 2021 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament would be held in Indianapolis, Indiana and the 2021 Women's Basketball Tournament would be held in Houston, Texas

NOVEMBER 25
2020

The 2020-2021 Division I college basketball season began

DECEMBER 23
2020

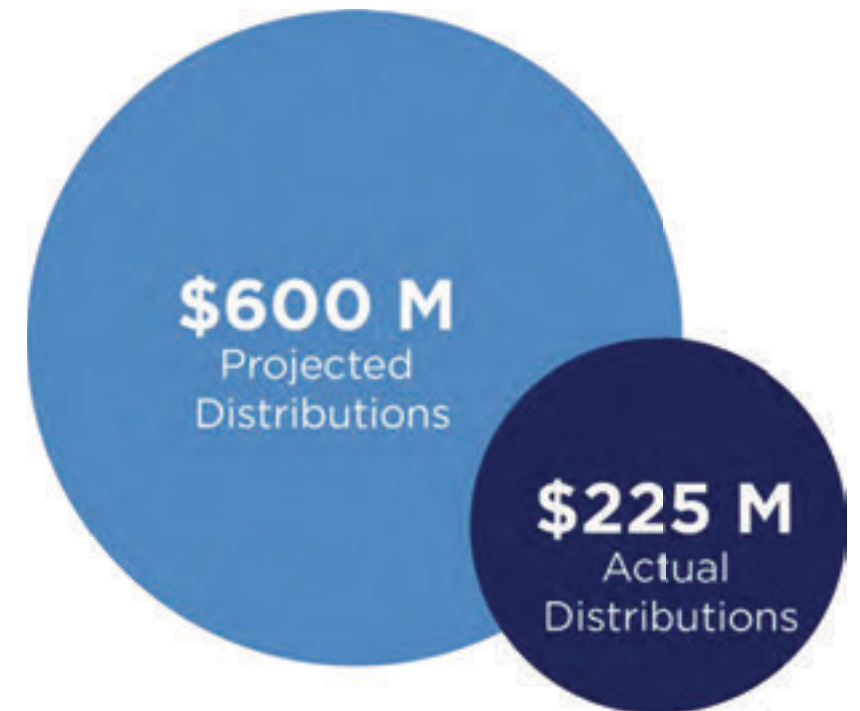


The NCAA filed several federal trademark applications including one for the phrase "Mask Madness"

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ECONOMICS

MARCH MADNESS

- Although the Tournament was canceled, the NCAA had cancellation insurance of **\$270 million**, which included ticket and media rights related revenue losses
- Before the pandemic, the NCAA was projected to distribute **\$600 million** earned from the 2020 NCAA Tournament among its Division I schools. Because the tournament was canceled, the NCAA was only able to distribute \$225 million. This is about **1/3** of the expected payout, which hurt college athletics budgets nationwide



THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

OLYMPICS TIMELINE

The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo were scheduled to take place from July 24 to August 9, 2020

MARCH 4
2020

JULY 23–AUGUST 8
2021

TOKYO 2020



The Olympics were postponed for 1 year due to the Covid-19 pandemic

2020ONE



The Olympics are scheduled for July 23 to August 8, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan

OLYMPICS ECONOMICS

- The cost of postponing the 2020 Olympic Games is projected to reach up to **\$2.8 billion** according to the Tokyo organizing committee
 - **\$1.64 billion** of this added cost comes from operational costs of the delay
 - **\$920 million** of this added cost comes from Covid-19 countermeasures
- U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation established the **Covid-19 Athlete Assistance Fund** to support athletes financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Over **\$1.4 million** was raised and was distributed to **1,220** U.S. Olympic athletes in a one-time **\$1,163** stipend



TRACK AND FIELD TIMELINE

JANUARY 29
2020

The 2020 World Indoor Track and Field Championships set to be hosted in Nanjing, China were postponed by 1 year, and were later moved to 2023



WORLD ATHLETICS
INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
NANJING 2020

FEBRUARY 29
2020

The Olympic Marathon trials took place in Atlanta, Georgia before the Covid-19 pandemic halted sport across the world just weeks later
Marathons and track meets were largely canceled

JUNE 11
2020

The Wanda Diamond League pro circuit began. The first meet was aptly called “The Impossible Games” due to overcoming the seemingly impossible task of hosting an international track meet during a global pandemic



TRACK AND FIELD ECONOMICS AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES

- Meet operations and cancellations were determined on a meet-by-meet basis
- Professional track athletes rely on sponsorship deals and prize money rather than salaries
 - Sponsorship deals usually require participation in a minimum number of competitions per year
- Athletes got creative to meet their sponsorship minimums
 - Virtual dual meets
 - In June, the **Atlanta Track Club Elite** raced the Oregon Track Club Elite in a dual meet where the teams ran at the same time on tracks on opposite U.S. coasts
 - The American Track League was created by well-known track agent Paul Doyle, to provide competition opportunities for athletes
- The USA Track and Field Foundation provided elite athletes with a **\$400 stipend** to put toward portable equipment, since access to weight rooms and gyms was restricted during the pandemic

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SPORTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 23
2020

MARCH 13
2020

MAY 25
2020

AUGUST 23
2020

Ahmaud Arbery,
a 25-year-old unarmed Black man was followed, shot, and killed while he was out for a jog in Glynn County, Georgia

The shooting was captured on video, however 74 days passed before Arbery's killers were arrested on murder and aggravated assault charges

Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was shot and killed by plainclothes officers in her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky

The grand jury did not indict the officers responsible for her death

George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was killed during an arrest after allegedly passing counterfeit money when one of the arresting officers knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds

The officer who knelt on Floyd's neck, Derek Chauvin, was arrested four days later and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter

Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, was shot and seriously injured by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin

Kenosha County's prosecutors announced that the officers involved in Blake's shooting will not be charged

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE NBA

JUNE 12
2020

In response to nationwide unrest stemming from racial injustice, systemic racism, and police brutality, amid an ongoing pandemic, a **group of 80-plus players** discussed paths toward unity and solutions. Notable players included NBPA vice president Kyrie Irving, NBPA president Chris Paul, Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony, Dwight Howard, Donovan Mitchell, and Avery Bradley

AUGUST 26
2020

The Milwaukee Bucks **refused to participate** in their first-round playoff game against the Orlando Magic following the Jacob Blake shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin

AUGUST 28
2020

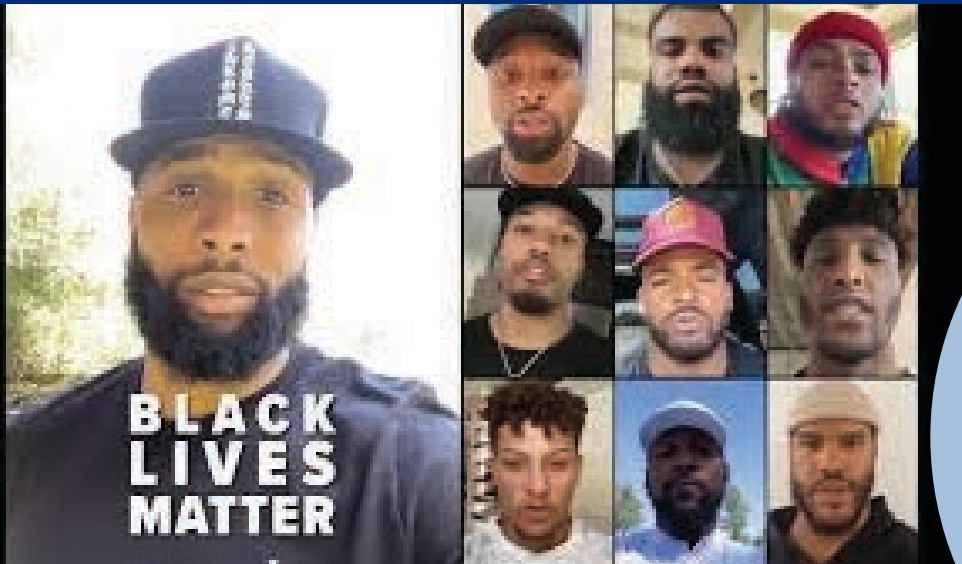
In response to player demands, the NBA announced that, “in every city where the league franchise owns and controls the arena property, team governors will continue to work with local elections officials to convert the facility into a voting location for the 2020 general election to allow for a safe in-person voting option for communities vulnerable to COVID.”

NOVEMBER 20
2020

The NBA and its players formally created a **social justice coalition** consisting of players, coaches, and governors, to focus on issues including increasing access to voting, promoting civic engagement, and advocating for meaningful police and criminal justice reform

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE NFL

JUNE 4
2020



Several prominent NFL players, including Saquon Barkley, Odell Beckham Jr., and Patrick Mahomes, released a video **asking the NFL** to release a statement: [1] condemning racism and the systematic oppression of Black People, [2] admitting they were wrong to silence players from peacefully protesting, and [3] stating that Black Lives Matter

JUNE 5
2020

Roger Goodell released a video on the NFL's Twitter page saying, "We, the NFL, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of Black People. We, the NFL, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. We, the NFL, believe Black Lives Matter."

Over the summer of 2020, the NFL promised to **commit \$250,000,000** over 10 years to a fund to combat systemic racism and support the battle against injustices faced by African Americans

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NASCAR

JUNE 8
2020

NASCAR banned the display of the confederate flag from all NASCAR events and properties after Bubba Wallace's request. Wallace was NASCAR's sole Black driver as of 2020

JUNE 21
2020

A member of Bubba Wallace's racing team reported to NASCAR officials that a noose was found in Wallace's garage stall at Talladega Superspeedway

JUNE 22
2020

The FBI concluded that the alleged noose was a pull-down rope with a loop and that Wallace was not a victim of a hate crime

On that same day, NASCAR drivers walked in solidarity with Wallace prior to the race



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE RUNNING COMMUNITY

Ahmaud Arbery's death caused a massive reaction within the running community

- A virtual run was organized attracting hundreds of thousands of participants across 6 continents. Participants ran 2.23 miles and posted to social media with the hashtag “#IRUNWITHMAUD.” The organizers planned to continue the event on the 23rd of each month until the trial of the men that shot Arbery
- New Balance donated **10,000** pairs of shoes to Black organizations in Atlanta, GA throughout the month
- The **2:23 Foundation**, a nonprofit established in memory of Arbery, hosted a virtual run called #FinishTheRun
 - The 2:23 Foundation, “fights against systemic injustice by providing people with scholarships, training, leadership opportunities, and tools to pursue public offices.”
 - Professional and Olympic runners and entire elite track clubs supported the virtual run
 - Prominent footwear companies including **Saucony and Brooks** donated significant sums to the 2:23 Foundation, encouraged participation, and released statements of support

“...this is not about running. This is about black people being able to live their lives without fear of consequence that someone is going to make a set of assumptions about them and call the police on them, or in this case, take action into their own hands by making an assumption that they're a criminal. That is ridiculous.”

—**MICHAEL JOHNSON**,
*4x Olympic Gold Medalist, and
3x World Record holder*

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE WNBA

- The WNBA has been at the forefront of social justice and activism for years
- The WNBA **dedicated** their 2020 season to Breonna Taylor, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and the Say Her Name Campaign
- The WNBA announced a **Social Justice Council** of players and activists to push conversations around social issues forward
- The Washington Mystics wore white shirts that spelled Jacob Blake's name across the front and had seven bullet holes on the back to represent the police shooting of Jacob Blake
 - The Washington Mystics chose not to play their games on Aug. 26, 2020, and WNBA games scheduled for the day were **postponed**
- Maya Moore took the season off to work to overturn the wrongful conviction of Jonathan Irons on burglary and assault charges. Irons, sentenced to **50** years in prison, was exonerated and released on July 1, 2020. Moore and Irons have since married and have continued to work on prison reform



SUMMARY

- Covid-19 caused the sports world at large to shut down in March 2020
- The professional and collegiate sports leagues worked toward resuming play amidst the pandemic, with some of those leagues opting to “bubble”
- The NBA showed us that “bubbling” works, as the NBA was able to resume play and have zero NBA players test positive for Covid-19 while in the Orlando Bubble
- Players across many leagues leveraged their voices to speak out about social justice issues, pushing for conversations and actions from both the leagues and society at large

LOOKING FORWARD

- Despite the various professional and collegiate sports leagues being able to resume play during the pandemic, Covid-19 is still an issue
- Due to Covid-19, there will be long-term player salary ramifications for professional sports leagues
- Additionally, further eliminations of collegiate sports are likely
- Opt out deadlines are favored by teams so they can plan their rosters accordingly. It is in the interest of the players to have flexibility when it comes to opting out so they can adjust their decision as circumstances change. This balance will be important to consider going forward, especially as the MLB's new CBA is negotiated
- Broadcasting rights make up a large chunk of most leagues' revenues, making upholding broadcasting agreements critically important in the sports industry



THE COVID-19 EFFECT ON SPORTS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**THE JEFFREY S. MOORAD
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPORTS LAW**

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Andrew Brandt, *Executive Director*

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ABOUT US

The Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law advances a new era of education for sports industry professionals as one of only a handful of institutes in the US dedicated to the study of sports law. The Center takes students behind the games to broader issues through rigorous academic study, innovative programs, internship opportunities, scholarship, and research to lead discourse and provide thoughtful and experienced analysis in the field of sports. Under the leadership of respected and accomplished voices in the industry, the Center educates and inspires students to new heights in sports law and beyond. The Center aims to be a thought leader in not only sports law but also in topical issues and the changing dynamics in sports news, sports business, sports media, sports policy, and more.



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LEADERSHIP



ANDREW BRANDT, *Executive Director*

Andrew Brandt is a nationally-recognized accomplished sports executive and is Professor of Practice and Executive Director of the Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law at Villanova Law School. Brandt is guiding the Moorad Center to be a destination for young lawyers interested in a career in sports through curricula including sports law courses and nationally recognized events and lectures. Brandt has been involved with sports at a variety of levels, as an agent, as Vice President of the Green Bay Packers from 1999-2008, and as a consultant for the Philadelphia Eagles. Brandt has become a trusted advisor and asset to the Villanova Athletics Department. Brandt writes weekly columns on legal and business issues in sports for *The Athletic* and *Sports Illustrated*. Brandt served as the Legal and Business Analyst for ESPN from 2011-2017, analyzing business, legal and policy sports issues on programs such as “*Outside the Lines*” and “*SportsCenter*” as well as multiple appearances on ESPN radio programs every week.



JEFFREY S. MOORAD, *Founder and Chairman*

Jeffrey S. Moorad '81 committed \$5 million for the creation of the Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law. Moorad is one of the most recognizable names in professional sport and has been a leader in the sports industry for more than 25 years. The founder of Moorad Sports Management, he began specializing in athlete representation in 1983, focusing mainly on Major League Baseball. Two years later, Moorad joined forces with Leigh Steinberg to form one of the most dynamic partnerships in the history of sports representation, covering both Major League Baseball and the National Football League. In 2004, Moorad was named a member of the executive team of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Moorad has also served as Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Padres.

PROGRAMS

The Jeffrey S. Moorad Center For The Study Of Sports Law provides students with unique value-add towards careers in amateur and professional sports

SPORTS LAW CONCENTRATION complements existing programs through the highest level of speakers and symposia, innovative fellowship and internship opportunities, mentorship, and research

SYMPOSIUM addresses current issues and hot topics in the world of sports law annually. Past symposia have covered issues ranging from concussions in sports, agents, and the media

MOORAD CENTER SPEAKER SERIES provides interactive, behind-the-scenes look at the workings of the sports industry as the speakers share their knowledge, professional experiences, and career advice



CASE COMPETITIONS

The **Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law** allows students to attend a variety of sports-related competitions around the country. Our teams have had great success at these competitions

GAMEDAY SPORTS COMPETITION

- Annual competition hosted by Villanova Law and UCLA Anderson School of Management

TULANE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

- 2020, 2019, 2017 1st Place
- 2018 Finalists
- 2021 Semifinalists

TULANE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

- 2020 Finalists
- 2021 1st Place

TULANE INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL ARBITRATION COMPETITION

- 2021 Semifinalists
- 2020 Quarter Finalists





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