



June 23, 2020

Dear Club XC,

As we begin to gear up for the fall semester, we want to acknowledge that a lot is still unclear in terms of how our club will be able to function. While we were ecstatic to hear that we will be together again on campus in the fall, there's still a lot that we don't know. We haven't yet received any communication from the University about what restrictions will be placed upon clubs, but we believe it is almost certain that our year will look much different than previous years.

We want to stress how important it is for us to all work together to make this year the best it can be. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or insights about the upcoming year, please share and discuss them with us! Whether it be through a phone call, a text message, our suggestion box (found on our club website), our social media accounts, or anywhere else, we want to collaborate with all of you to make sure we get the most out of this year.

Additionally, we want to keep you in the loop with all of our plans. **We don't have all of the answers, and you have shown us countless times that the club is better when we all work together.** This year is going to be a new experience for everyone, and we want to be sure that we are representing your best interests through all of it. Here are some of the most important aspects of our club, and everything we know about them so far:

NIRCA: NIRCA has not yet released any information about the status of the fall season. Even if they choose to proceed as usual, our involvement would be largely decided by the restrictions placed upon us from the University and the Club Sports department.

Travel: Nothing has been confirmed yet, but from the information that has been released to all students as well as speculation from other student organizations, we think it is likely that we will not be allowed to travel outside of State College during the semester. Even if we are permitted to leave State College, finding hosts for overnight housing will be nearly impossible and impractical with the ongoing COVID crisis, meaning that travel will likely be limited, at a minimum, to day trips.

Racing/Workouts: The status of our race schedule largely relies on the two points above. We are currently planning our fall race schedule as usual so that we are prepared for the best case scenario, however we are also brainstorming several contingency plans that would allow us to still race throughout the fall if the NIRCA season is cancelled and/or we are not permitted to travel. One tentative idea is having a circuit style series of races local to our area. This would



include a scoring system to maximize competition, as well as various distances/types of events in order to keep races fresh, exciting, and enticing. We know how important racing is to so many members of our team, and we want to preserve that aspect of our club as much as we can despite whatever modifications need to be made. We will also be working very closely with our workout chairs in these decisions in order to maximize the quality of training and racing opportunities you will have in the fall.

Practice/Social Events: State College is currently in the green zone, meaning that gatherings of up to 250 people are permitted. However, it is still unclear whether the University plans to adhere to those standards set by Governor Wolf or if they plan to impose further restrictions on student organizations. It may be likely that we are required to break into smaller groups. We don't yet know what that would look like for Club XC. Whatever happens, our priority will be maintaining the family atmosphere and culture that makes our club so special. In order to accommodate for these potential changes, we will be working closely with captains in creating events that will safely allow us to uphold the social aspects of the club.

THON Events: As of now, THON has not yet released any restrictions on fundraising and/or family events. It is likely that the direction of THON events for the year will be determined by the same or similar rules that the University releases for other clubs and organizations. Our THON Chairs have been attending workshops with the executive THON committee to stay updated and, similar to the Officer Board, they have been making contingency plans and discussing lots of changes that could be made to our events so that we are prepared for whatever may come.

Although a lot is going to be changing this year, we want to stay focused on being Club XC at our core. We want to promise you that whatever happens, no matter what restrictions are placed upon us, we are committed to keeping Club XC just as fun, positive, welcoming, enthusiastic, and gritty as ever before. Stay safe, get excited, bring us all of your thoughts and ideas.

We are looking forward to a year of new traditions.
We love you all.

Love,

Megan Ellery
Stephen Day
Chris Colwell
Dom Feola
Mike Walwro