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NATIONAL League still considering their options



Top of the league Wealdstone are left waiting on a decision from the National League to know the outcome of the current season.

Picture: MontImageMedia

Players will contribute claim PFA

PFA CHIEF INSISTS PLAYERS WILL PAY THEIR SHARE



Gordon Taylor

Photo: PA

PROFESSIONAL Footballers' Association chief executive Gordon Taylor says Premier League players have "agreed to play their part" in helping clubs manage the financial fall-out from the coronavirus pandemic.

Premier League clubs have proposed wage cuts of around 30 per cent for their players, but negotiations with the PFA have hit a stumbling block.

Members are concerned that the money made by their financial sacrifice will not be going to the right places, namely the NHS and public services.

The stalemate has seen the players receive widespread criticism, with Health Secretary Matt Hancock calling for them to take a cut.

"They've all agreed to play their part," Taylor told BBC Radio 4's Today programme, adding that players are "responsible enough" to know wages are a factor in any club's expenditure.

"We've been consistent with what we've said from the beginning and the fact is the players feel quite aggrieved that the Secretary of State for Health should put them in a corner without looking.

"They're not self-employed, they make massive contributions to the Treasury and they've also quite logically felt that if they don't get that money, if a third is deferred or a third is cut, then the Treasury is £200 million a year worse off and that could be going towards the national health and will be needed."

Meanwhile, the highest-paid staff at the Football Association will take wage cuts of up to 30 per cent as they try to manage the impact of the coronavirus pandemic within their own organisation.

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Stones season still unclear

By Ryan Gray

THE future of the National League divisions remains unclear with the league still considering their options amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The outbreak of the virus has cancelled a number of non-league steps, but the Vanarama National League remains indefinitely suspended, with no confirmed outcome yet to be put in place.

No word has been made public from the league since Friday, April 3 when they released the following statement: "The National League Board met earlier today and has reviewed its prior decision to suspend the competition until at least 3rd April 2020.

In consideration of the very serious and unprecedented national public health emergency caused by the coronavirus, the Board has taken the decision to suspend the National League, National League North and National League South competitions indefinitely.

"The National League is currently obtaining specialist legal advice, is consulting regularly with The Football As-

sociation and other stakeholders, and is committed to involving its member clubs in a pending decision on how best to conclude the 2019/20 season."

For now the league claim they are working with all necessary parties during this time and that a further statement will be provided, once there is new information for the public domain.

For Wealdstone, who are currently sitting three points clear at the top of the National League South table, with a game in hand on second place Havant & Waterlooville, the decision could force them to play through the season all over again, if the current campaign is not concluded, and instead declared null and void as with several divisions below themselves.

However, the National League may have no choice but to make that decision with the pandemic likely to put a stop to sport from some weeks yet.

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