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## NATIONAL League wants seasons to be cancelled



Wealdstone have been asked to vote to cancel their season. Picture: MontImageMedia

## Prem makes early payments

NATIONAL LEAGUE RECEIVES EARLY SOLIDARITY PAY



Premier League banner. Picture: Action Images

THE National League has thanked the Premier League for an advanced payment of annual solidarity payments to help the non-league divisions survive the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The payments are a way for the English top flight to help clubs lower down the footballing pyramid benefit from the popularity and the wealth of the English game, with clubs in the National League reportedly set to receive £58,333 each this summer and £13,636 going clubs in National League North and National League South.

The Premier League unanimously voted to send funds to The National League sides three months earlier than originally scheduled, in order to help them through this current period, during which all football has been suspended.

The Premier League, English Football League and National League divisions all remain indefinitely postponed for the time being, while divisions lower down have been cancelled.

A statement on the National League website said: "The National League wishes to place on record its gratitude to the Premier League for an advance in its annual solidarity payments."

National League chairman Brian Barwick said: "I am delighted that the relationship between the Premier League and The National League remains so strong."

"We are very grateful that the Premier League have advanced us monies to be able to distribute to our clubs in the coming days."

"It is a gesture that will bring some welcome relief to many of the clubs in our league. It is appreciated."

# Season could be cancelled

By Ryan Gray

WEALDSTONE have been asked by the National League to vote to cancel the current season as they try and find a way to conclude the current interrupted campaign.

No games have taken place in any divisions in England since the coronavirus began to spread throughout the country in March and now divisions are looking at the possibility of having to abandon their incomplete seasons.

A number of non-league divisions have already taken the step to declare their 2019/20 campaigns null and void and have expunged all results, with no promotions or relegations taking place between the involved leagues.

Now the National League wants all clubs from its three leagues (National League, National League North and National League South) to vote on whether or not they should take the same step.

The league's board came up with the proposal following a meeting to cancel all fixtures up to and including April 25, which they are recommending all clubs

in the top three divisions approve.

Wealdstone are sat at the top of National League South at the moment, so adopting the proposal could threaten their promotion chances.

Even with a proposed solution to finishing the season in place, there will still be a degree of uncertainty for a while yet, with clubs being given until May 7 to cast their votes.

It was originally thought a decision could be made as early as this week but it has since emerged that clubs have until early next month to cast their vote.

A letter sent to clubs at the end of last week from the National League board, seen by the BBC, said: "The board has approved an ordinary resolution for clubs, that the playing season shall immediately end for all fixtures scheduled up to and including 25 April 2020. The board recommends clubs vote for this resolution."

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