



April 11, 2022

Mr. Shane Lyons
Director of Athletics, Associate VP, West Virginia University
Chair, NCAA Division I Council

Dear Mr. Lyons,

Major League Soccer (“MLS”) understands that the NCAA Division I Council will review Proposal 2019-90, which seeks to adopt a new model for men’s collegiate soccer that distributes matches over the course of the academic fall and spring terms as opposed to concentrating all matches into the fall term.

On behalf of the MLS Medical Department, I support the adoption of a model that seeks to support player health and safety by mitigating risk of injury from overuse. As the April 11 letter submitted by United States Soccer Federation medical community letter explains in greater detail, Proposal 2019-90 seeks to eliminate match congestion that puts load strain on players’ bodies by spreading out the matches and thereby providing more time for early season progressive training and rest, recovery and rehabilitation throughout the academic year—three key pillars for the continued health of collegiate soccer players.

As a former director of athletic medicine and head team physician for an NCAA Division 1 participating university, and a former member of the NCAA Competitive Medical Safeguards Committee, I believe a revised model has the potential to benefit the health and safety of collegiate soccer players and I strongly support the consideration of those merits.

Respectfully,

Margot Putukian MD, FACSM, FAMSSM
Major League Soccer Chief Medical Officer
Internist / Sports Medicine Specialist
Past President American Medical Society for Sports Medicine