

United States Senate

May 13, 2021

Dr. Mark A. Emmert
President
National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Emmert,

I am writing to you regarding the cancellation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I women's golf regional in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This year's tournament was scheduled to take place over three days at Louisiana State University's University Club. The NCAA canceled the tournament, it said, because several inches of rainfall made the course "playable but not championship level."

The cancellation of the tournament is concerning for several reasons. First, there appear to have been multiple windows during the scheduled tournament when the athletes could have played. Pictures taken by members of the participating teams seem to show playable conditions. Second, the players and their coaches were comfortable with the conditions and did not think they posed any risk to their safety. Third, the tournament has not been rescheduled. Instead, I understand the top six seeded teams will advance to the NCAA championship later this month in Scottsdale, Arizona, bringing years of hard work and the college athletic careers of many talented women to a premature and anticlimactic end. Worse, all of last year's post-season was canceled due to COVID-19, meaning many of this year's participants have now missed out on their last *two* chances to compete for a championship.

This cancellation appears to be yet another example of how women's sports are increasingly undervalued in this country. In Washington, D.C., ongoing efforts to undermine Title IX opportunities for women's athletics would open competition to biological men who identify as women. The inaccurately named "Equality Act" is one such effort. Our daughters and sisters must have opportunities equal to those of men to demonstrate their athletic ability without having their achievements diluted by unfair competition or mismanagement.

With all this in mind, I request a response detailing whether the NCAA is considering rescheduling the women's tournament before the upcoming championship. If not, please detail what the NCAA will do to ensure female athletes do not face such an unfair result in the future. Let these outstanding female athletes play.

Sincerely,


John Kennedy
United States Senator