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March 11, 2020

This morning (March 11, 2020) Governor Inslee laid out a number of emergency measures for Washington State and the Seattle metro area in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes a ban on events gathering more than 250 people within King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties.

While this guidance does not directly affect any of Cascade's events at this time, I believe we need to take these measures seriously in order to support community public health. Safety of our participants and the communities we visit are of utmost importance. The situation also continues to change rapidly as medical teams collect and process data and individuals change behavior based on new guidance from local, state, and federal officials.

At this time, I do not believe it is necessary to cancel future Cascade Orienteering events. Orienteering is an outdoor activity generally free from crowds and requiring little person to person contact. At our event on March 7th we implemented protocols for cleaning shared surfaces (including epunch sticks and control boxes) and had other practices in place to keep volunteers and participants safe and separated as much as possible.

Given the rapidly evolving situation, the club will address each event as it approaches. The decision dates below were chosen based on various factors including the expected number of participants, how far participants are traveling, and other impacts. Of course, government guidance may require us to cancel events at any time before or after these decision dates, and we will follow those requirements should that situation arise.

If any of these events do continue as planned, we strongly encourage individuals, especially those who are at higher risk, to self-assess and stay home if you are sick. There will be plenty more opportunities to navigate in the woods; first we must work together to navigate this public health emergency.

Best,

Eric Jones
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Cancellation Announcement Schedule:

Ultimate O #2 and #3, March 21-22 in Quincy WA, is on as scheduled. A decision about this event will be announced on March 18th by 8pm.

Ultimate O #4, April 4 in Lakewood WA is on as scheduled. A decision about this event will be announced on April 1st by 8pm.

Junior Nationals, April 17-19 in Coupeville, WA is on as scheduled. A decision about this event will be announced on April 1st by 8pm.