

SPORT

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WEALDSTONE make it four defeats in a row



Picture: Jon Taffel

League's future still in doubt

NATIONAL LEAGUE TO DISCUSS CANCELLATION



The National League season is still in doubt. Picture: PA

THE future of this season's Vanarama National League remains uncertain with clubs due to meet again this week to discuss a vote on cancelling the remainder of the campaign.

Last week, the league announced that the National League North and National League South leagues would be temporarily postponed, saying: "Following the review of the feedback from Clubs in connection to the recent Clubs meeting, a Board meeting this morning decided to halt the participation in the North/South Divisions for a two-week period, effective immediately."

Although clubs in those divisions are still expecting to return to action on Saturday February 6, problems still remain relating to financial relief offered by the government, with clubs expecting a grant, while the government are only offering that aid in the form of a loan.

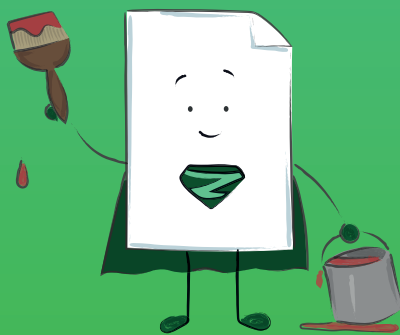
The government has made £11million available to help National League teams for the period from January to March, with most of them struggling to operate without supporters' gate receipts that would usually keep them afloat financially during the season.

A majority of the league's 66 clubs have said they would not be willing to accept the money as a loan and were instead expecting it to be handed to them as a grant, as they had previously received.

DCMS has labelled claims that they have reneged on promises surrounding the financial relief as "untrue" and that they never promised the money would be provided as a grant.

Clubs are able to apply for grant support, but that will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

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Two defeats for Stones

ALTRINCHAM'S 2-0 victory consigned Wealdstone to a fourth successive National League loss, after they were also beaten 4-3 in a thriller against Aldershot at the weekend.

The hosts dominated much of the early play, with both Dan Mooney and Matty Kosylo producing near misses as an opening goal looked imminent.

Eventually it was Josh Hancock who struck in the 39th minute, capitalising on an attacking run from Kosylo that created a corner and heading the resulting ball in at the near post.

The victory was then sealed by Alistair Smith in the 79th minute when the midfielder collected the ball after a Tom Peers effort and slotted it past the visitors' keeper.

It was Stones' second defeat in four days and their fourth on the trot, after they came unstuck at home at the weekend.

Aldershot moved themselves into the Vanarama National League play-off picture with a 4-3 victory at Grosvenor Vale,

By Ryan Gray

where five of the goals were scored in an entertaining first half.

Jon Nouble fired Aldershot ahead with seven minutes on the clock but Wealdstone levelled through Dennon Lewis in the 19th minute before Alex Dyer turned the tie around and put the home side in front just two minutes shy of the half hour mark.

However, the advantage would not last, as Aldershot regained the lead just before half-time following further goals from Jermaine Anderson and Chike Kandi.

Josh Rees doubled the deficit when he got Aldershot's fourth with 15 minutes to go but a penalty, converted by Stones' Moses Emmanuel, five minutes later set up a tense finish.

Unfortunately for the home side, that was the end of the scoring as Aldershot held on for a thrilling 4-3 win.

The defeats put Stones 18th in the table.

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