

'There is no guarantee to hold the games safely in Tokyo, and we don't have a vaccine yet'

## Call to cancel Tokyo Olympics enters race for Tokyo governor

TOKYO, June 18, (AP) — The contentious issue of the billions being spent on the postponed Tokyo Olympics has entered the debate in the race for governor of Japan's capital.

Incumbent Yuriko Koike is a strong favorite to be reelected - and a strong supporter of the Olympics - in a field of more than a dozen candidates. The campaign officially opened Thursday.

Taro Yamamoto is a popular actor, turned politician who has entered the fray. He said in a debate this week that the Olympics should be called off and the billions redirected to help people struggling with the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.



Koike

"The Olympics should be canceled," Yamamoto told Koike. "There is no guarantee to hold the games safely in Tokyo, and we don't have a vaccine yet" for COVID-19.

Yamamoto and others have warned about bringing in 11,000 Olympic athletes from 200 nations and territories, 4,400 Paralympians, and thousands more staff, technical officials, broadcasters and journalists. Add to this fans - if they are allowed - who have bought more than 4 million tickets, up to 80,000 volunteers, and questions about the need for quarantines.

"Tokyo will turn into a Petri dish by having so many people coming from around the world," Yamamoto said. "We should notify the International Olympic Committee that Tokyo cannot hold the event safely."

Another candidate, well-respected lawyer Kenji Utsunomiya, also supports calling off the Olympics based on the judgment of infectious disease experts. Two other candidates have proposed a 2- to 4-year postponement.

Koike, the International Olympic Committee, and local organizers

say they are trying to scale back, downsize, and simplify the Tokyo Games, which have already been pushed back by 12 months. They've revealed no specifics so far, with hints about cutting back the opening and closing ceremonies, or the torch relay.

More questions than answers remain. Officials have said the events and athlete quotas will not be touched, and there is no talk of cancellation, with the Olympics set to open on July 23, 2021.

Soaring bills are an issue. Estimates in Japan say the one-year postponement will cost \$2 billion to \$6 billion. Koike has declined to give

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an official estimate, as have the IOC and the local organizing committee. They say it's too early to know, but Japan is slated to pay most of the costs.

"We must gain the understanding of the residents of Tokyo and citizens," Koike said, referring to costs and the budget, in a separate interview with The Associated Press.

Overall, Tokyo says it's spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a government audit last year said it was twice that much. All but \$5.6 billion is public money.

Tokyo estimated the Olympics could cost \$7.3 billion when the city was awarded the games in 2013.

"While many children and athletes are earnestly looking forward to the Olympics, we must keep the coronavirus under control, and the question is if a vaccine will be ready by then. It's a race against time," Koike said.

Koike, like the IOC, is betting the Olympics can be framed as a victory celebration over the pandemic, and the public will forget the tax bill.

"There are many issues to be resolved," Koike said. "But when we have a major global goal and share it, and when it becomes a proof of victory in our fight against the coronavirus, what a meaningful event it will be."



Mainz's Jeremiah St. Juste, left, and Dortmund's Thorgan Hazard, right, challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and 1. FSV Mainz 05 in Dortmund, Germany, Wednesday, June 17, 2020. (AP)

### US Open plan

Fewer line 'judges', ball people, events

WASHINGTON, June 18, (AP) — Electronic line-calling will be used instead of line judges for US Open matches at all courts except the two largest arenas, while singles qualifying and mixed doubles, junior and wheelchair competition are being eliminated entirely.

There also will be three ball people instead of six at courts other than Arthur Ashe Stadium and Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Those are among the changes announced Wednesday by the US Tennis Association as it outlined plans for running a scaled-down, no-spectators version of its Grand Slam tournament in New York City amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"Without question, this is a journey. Things are evolving," new tournament director Stacey Allaster said during a video conference. "We have the plan today. We're in daily contact with both tours."

At a minimum, there will be testing for COVID-19 via nasal swabs upon arrival at what Allaster termed "US Open world," and then once weekly thereafter. If there is the possibility that the tournament "bubble" has been breached by the virus, there could be testing every other day. It is unlikely players would

### TENNIS

be asked to sign waivers absolving the USTA of responsibility should they get sick.

The tournament received the go-ahead from the New York state government Tuesday to be held in its usual location in Flushing Meadows, Queens, from Aug 31 to Sept 13. In an unusual arrangement, the hard-court tuneup tournament normally held in Cincinnati will be held right before the US Open - and at the Open's site.

There are still lingering questions about which top players will participate, but one made her intentions clear Wednesday: 23-time major champion Serena Williams said she is planning to play at the US Open.

Williams said in a video message that she "cannot wait to return" to the major championship she has won six times. She was the runner-up there each of the past two years.

Among the other changes: Men's and women's doubles will be reduced from 64 teams each to 32, with players who are entered in the singles fields not allowed to enter doubles.

With qualifying cut, each of the 128-player fields for men's and women's singles will include 120 players who get in via their ranking and eight who receive wild-card invitations.

Players will be allowed up to three guests and up to two rooms - one paid for by the player, one by the USTA - at a pair of designated hotels.

There also will be the option for players to rent a house outside of Manhattan.

## Atlético end 'winless' run

Düsseldorf stun Leipzig

MADRID, June 18, (AP) — João Félix scored twice in his first match back from injury as Atlético Madrid routed Osasuna 5-0 to end their winless streak and regain fourth place in the Spanish league.

Félix scored a goal in each half to lead Atlético to their first win after three consecutive league draws. The Portugal forward had been nursing a sprained left knee and had not played since the league resumed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Marcos Llorente, Álvaro Morata and Yannick Carrasco also scored for Atlético, which had dropped outside the Champions League places following their slump.

Diego Simeone's team eliminated defending champion Liverpool in the round of 16 of the Champions League just before the pandemic break, but they had won only two of their last nine league games. They hadn't won any of their last five away matches in the league.

The victory kept Atlético 15 points behind leaders Barcelona - which defeated Leganés 2-0 on Tuesday - but moved the team two points behind third-place Sevilla, which drew 1-1 at Levante on Monday.

Félix, who arrived from Benfica amid high expectations in the off-season as a replacement to Antoine Griezmann, controlled the action for Atlético early on. He opened the scoring with a powerful right-foot shot into the top of the net in the 27th minute after picking up a loose ball inside the area.

Llorente scored in the 79th, Morata in the 82nd and Carrasco in the 88th.

Morata's goal was initially disallowed for offside but the decision was overturned by video review.

Osasuna, which had drawn at Real Sociedad in its first match after the break, stayed in 11th place.

Large banners with photos of Osasuna fans covered the stands at the empty El Sadar Stadium.

Atlético next hosts Valladolid, while Osasuna visits Valencia.

Forward Lago Aspas squandered a 71st-minute penalty as Celta Vigo

drew 0-0 at Valladolid to remain winless after the break and stay near the relegation zone.

Athletic Bilbao followed up their home draw against Atlético with a 2-2 draw at Eibar, missing a chance to move closer to the European places.

In Berlin, Fortuna Düsseldorf stunned Leipzig with two late goals to draw 2-2 in the Bundesliga and boost their hopes of avoiding relegation.

Two goals in three minutes from Kevin Kampl and Timo Werner had Leipzig on course to consolidate third place and all but secure a place in the Champions League. But Steven Skrzybski netted in the 87th minute and Andre Hoffmann equalized in injury time to lift Düsseldorf out of an automatic relegation place with two rounds of the season remaining.

Leipzig would have been six points clear of fifth-place Borussia Mönchengladbach with a vastly superior goal difference, but now the gap is four points. The top four qualify for the Champions League.

Second-place Borussia Dortmund,

### SOCCER

which have already booked a place in Europe's premier competition, slumped to a 2-0 loss at home to Mainz.

That means Dortmund are just three points clear of Leipzig with their second place under threat ahead of a meeting between the two this weekend. Bayern Munich secured their eighth straight Bundesliga title on Tuesday.

Bayer Leverkusen moved fourth, three points behind Leipzig, with a 3-1 win over Rhine rivals Cologne. Schalke lost 2-1 at Eintracht Frankfurt to stretch their club-record winless run to 14 games.

The latest loss was largely self-inflicted. Schalke midfielder Can Bozdogan was sent off in his second league start with his second yellow card in the 77th minute, just before Andre Silva missed a great chance to make it 3-1 to Frankfurt when he only had the goalkeeper to beat.

The home side opened the scoring in the 29th, when John Joe Kenny lost the ball in attack to Filip Kostic, who quickly launched a counterattack. Kostic sent through Daichi Kamada, who crossed first time for Silva to score.

David Abraham headed in Kostic's free kick in the 50th, before Weston McKennie pulled one back with a cushioned header to Alessandro Schöpf's corner before the hourmark.

Abraham cleared off the line to deny Schalke an equalizer before Bozdogan was sent off.

Also, Augsburg lost 3-1 at home to Hoffenheim.

### 60 games, full prorated pay

## Manfred, Clark reach framework

NEW YORK, June 18, (AP) — After days of angry exchanges over money between Major League Baseball and the players' association, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred started to doubt whether there would be a 2020 season and said as much on national television.

He then called union head Tony Clark and offered to fly from New York to Arizona to meet for the first time in three months. They spoke one on one for hours Tuesday in a room at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale and emerged with what MLB considers a framework to play the pandemic-delayed season in empty ballparks, not just a proposal.

The plan includes full prorated pay, even if games are played in empty ballparks, people familiar with the details told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because details were not announced.

Each team would play 60 games over 10 weeks starting July 20, though a Sunday opener on July 19 could be added. The framework would result in players receiving about 37% of their salaries and would come to roughly \$1.48 billion from salaries originally totaling \$4 billion.

Baseball's postseason would expand from 10 teams to 16 this year, and the two wild card games would transform into an eight-team wild-card round with eight best-of-three series. That would create a minimum of 14 new playoff games whose broadcast rights could be sold, and MLB would have the option of 14 or 16 postseason teams in 2021.

MLB would guarantee a \$25 million postseason players' pool, creating postseason shares for players in the event no tickets are sold.

The designated hitter would expand to all games for the first time, also involving games between National League teams, for 2020 and 2021.

Both sides would contribute jointly to initiatives for social justice.

Players with so-called split contracts, who get paid at a lower salary rate when sent to the minor leagues, would not have to repay the advance they already have received: \$16,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000, depending on

### BASEBALL

their contract.

MLB considers it a framework for each leader to sell to each side. The union did not comment.

"At my request, Tony Clark and I met for several hours yesterday in Phoenix," Manfred said in a statement Wednesday. "We left that meeting with a jointly developed framework that we agreed could form the basis of an agreement and subject to conversations with our respective constituents."

"Consistent with our conversations yesterday, I am encouraging the clubs to move forward, and I trust Tony is doing the same," Manfred added.

The union's last offer on June 9 was for an 89-game schedule at full prorated pay, which would result in 55% of salaries and about \$2.2 billion.

Top stars Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole would each get about \$13.33 million under MLB's latest plan and \$19.78 million under the union proposal. A player with a \$1 million salary would get \$370,370 under the club plan and \$549,383 under the players' proposal.



Head groundsman Craig Harvey tends to the outfield at the County Ground, home of Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, in Northampton, England, Wednesday May 27, 2020. Professional cricket teams are waiting to be given the green light to return to competitive sport as the country comes out of lockdown due to the highly contagious coronavirus pandemic. (AP)

### Ali moves step closer to Test recall

LONDON, June 18, (AP) — Moeen Ali moved closer to a return to England's Test team after an absence of nearly a year after being included Wednesday in a 30-strong training group preparing for next month's three-match series against the West Indies.

The spinning allrounder, who has played in 60 tests, decided to take a break from longer format of the game after being dropped during the Ashes series last year.

Ali has indicated he wants to be considered for selection again and will now join what England is describing as a "behind-closed-doors training group" at Southampton's Ageas Bowl from Tuesday.

Players and an enlarged coaching staff, featuring three head coaches - Glen Chapple, Richard Dawson and Matthew Walker - seconded from county cricket, will live, prepare and train on-site in a bio-secure environment at the ground and its adjoining hotel until the first test on July 8. Regular COVID-19 checks will take place amid the coronavirus pandemic.

There will be a three-day practice match starting July 1, after which the squad for the first test will be announced. The second and third tests will be staged at

Manchester's Old Trafford, where the West Indies touring party is based.

"He's a valued member of the England set-up," national selector Ed Smith said of Ali in a video call, "and across formats he's been a significant contributor."

"In a number of conversations over the winter, and also more recently, Moeen has indicated he wants to be considered for selection in all formats and he's available for selection. That's good news ... it's always good news if you increase the talent pool."

There were also eight uncapped players, including three who have appeared in limited-overs internationals - Saqib Mahmood, Lewis Gregory and Matt Parkinson.

England squad:

Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Dominic Bess, James Bracey, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Ben Foakes, Lewis Gregory, Keaton Jennings, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Saqib Mahmood, Craig Overton, Jamie Overton, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Ollie Stone, Amar Virdi, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

The \$563,500 minimum would be worth \$208,704 under MLB's plan and \$309,577 under the union's.

The union also would waive additional claims that could cause an expensive grievance.

Manfred and Clark got into such detail during the meeting they recessed for a period to allow Manfred to consult owners on MLB's labor policy committee.

After considering the framework, players could counter with a higher amount of games, perhaps by adding doubleheaders.

Before this week, Manfred and Clark had not met since March 13-14 in Arizona, the two days after spring training was suspended due to the new coronavirus.

Manfred maintained last week he was "100%" sure there would be a season, but following angry exchanges last weekend he said Monday "there's real risk" of no season.

Baseball deteriorated into labor strife while the NBA, NHL and MLS have moved forward with restart plans.

While baseball had eight work stoppages from 1972-95, the sides have negotiated four straight labor contracts without interrupting play. But tensions have increased in recent years, with the union losing a grievance accusing the Chicago Cubs of manipulating third baseman Kris Bryant's service time to delay his free agency and filing a grievance accusing several clubs of failing to properly use their revenue sharing money.

Players have accused several non-competitive teams of "tanking." Clubs say they have the right to jettison veterans and redirect resources to rebuilding.

And the average salary has remained in the \$4.4 million range for five straight seasons, stagnating after Clark led his first labor negotiations as successor to the late Michael Weiner.