



April 29, 2020

**This is a communication from:**

**The Essex County Soccer Association to all the families  
and participants of individual HOUSELEAGUE soccer clubs  
in our District regarding Covid-19 impacting the  
2020 outdoor season.**

The Board of Directors and staff of the Essex County Soccer Association ["ECSA"] hope that all our member club players, families, volunteers and staff continue to be well and are coping as best as possible with the disruptions being experienced during these difficult times. We also thank those of you who have reached out to our member clubs with their thoughts and suggestions for the 2020 outdoor soccer season. Please be assured that all your comments and concerns have provided valuable input related to decisions made as we move forward.

Our primary goal is to protect the health and safety of all the participating players, referees, family members, volunteers and the community at large and to never place anyone at risk during this Covid-19 pandemic. We are currently following mandated directives of Ontario and Canada Soccer. Our District is sanctioned by these governing bodies and they will in turn dictate the direction for all sanctioned soccer organizations throughout the Province. To date, we are aware of no sanctioned member soccer club in Windsor/Essex County that has formally cancelled their season, however all in-person soccer related activities (i.e. games, practices, tournaments, etc.) have been suspended until further notice. We trust that you understand how important it is for ECSA to make informed decisions based on current recommendations from our governing bodies. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

We are also acutely aware that there exists a possibility that the 2020 outdoor season may not be played in its entirety, if at all, this year. Our member clubs are currently working out a plan on how to move forward and what range of options to present to parents regarding their child's registration if that were to occur.

At this point it is important to convey to all that many member clubs in Windsor/Essex County have already ordered and paid for uniforms and equipment required for the 2020 outdoor season. Preparation for the 2020 outdoor season actually began for all member Clubs towards the end of 2019.

Given the unprecedented nature of the circumstances we all are experiencing we strongly believe a measure of trust and compromise is needed between our member clubs and their participant families to find a fair pathway for the future survival of our Soccer organizations. We are therefore strongly appealing to our participant families to assist each local soccer organization by allowing that their **2020 outdoor season registration** fees be used as a **full credit to pay for their child's 2021 outdoor season registration fee**. Each member soccer club has committed that their 2021 outdoor registration fee **will not increase** which means your child's registration will be paid in full for next season.

**WE ASK THAT YOU CONTACT THE RESPECTIVE CLUB FOR WHICH YOUR CHILD IS REGISTERED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 2020 OUTDOOR REGISTRATION FEE.**

In summary, below is a current list of adjustments member clubs have committed to implementing at the present time:

- Clubs will continue to accept player registrations for 2020, however all registration fees will be placed on hold. Payment will be accepted only if the 2020 season is played.
- No late fees will apply until one week after Clubs have been given an approved start date for programming from our governing bodies; Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer.
- A late start and revised schedule for the 2020 season will be published at a future date from each Club only after we receive approval from the Ontario Soccer and/or Canada Soccer allowing us to proceed.
- In the event that we are mandated to cancel the 2020 season, all registered players will be automatically enrolled into the 2021 season of their respective clubs.

Your health and the health of your family is our priority and we understand that most of us are still trying to evaluate its impact on our personal and professional lives. All soccer activity will continue to be suspended until further direction from Ontario and Canada Soccer. In the meantime, our Board and Staff will closely monitor the situation and will continue to work with members clubs with respect to their plan for the summer season throughout this time of uncertainty.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate through uncharted territory. Stay safe, stay well and stay in touch.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joe Barile', written in a cursive style.

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Joe Barile,  
**ECSA President**

c.c. ECSA Board of Directors  
ECSA member Clubs (with Houseleagues only)