



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE Inc.

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Clubs, Match Officials and Associations

From: Steph Pappas
General Secretary / Operations Manager

Date: 18 March 2020

Re: COVID-19 Update for SAASL Season 2020

To the SAASL Football Community,

These are unprecedented times and the global health crisis caused by COVID-19 is, and will continue for some time, affecting everyone in the community.

First and foremost, our priority is the health and welfare of the players, officials, volunteers and families of our Clubs, and therefore the wider community.

The SAASL is seeking and receiving regular updates from Football South Australia (FSA), from Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the Health Authorities.

The SAASL Board meeting on Monday 16th March (evening) endorsed the suspension of all football activities and established contingencies for the 2020 League and Cup Competitions.

On Tuesday 17th March (afternoon), we all received updated information from the FSA that the suspension would be extended to 30 days, until 14th April 2020. The SAASL Board has again endorsed the suspension of all football activity by SAASL Clubs and the community.

Effective immediately, ALL football activities including matches, training and any other Club activities that could lead to the spread of the COVID-19 are cancelled as per the Federal Government announcement on Wednesday 18th March regarding non-essential indoor and outdoor gatherings.

To provide some clarity and reduce any confusion, the SAASL Board wishes to provide the SAASL football community (players, volunteers, supporters and their families), the clearest direction possible in these unprecedented and continually evolving times.

The decision to postpone all SAASL League & Cup Competition sanctioned matches, including all training, until 14th April 2020, we believe is a justifiable and appropriate measure in these circumstances.

There has been some clarification requested regarding training or adhoc get together of groups of players to maintain fitness. This is contrary to the order for Suspension of all football activity and further, is contrary to the recommendations of the Health Authorities for social distancing in regard to COVID-19.

"You set the Standard - the behaviour you walk past, is the standard of behaviour you accept!"

Further, we wish to advise that should a Club and/or participants be found to have breached the Suspension order to 14th April, the Club/participants may be sanctioned by the SAASL with exclusion from any League or Cup Competition and their ongoing Affiliation and registration to also be reviewed.

We recognise everyone wants to know what comes next for SAASL in 2020 and when the League Competition and Cup Competitions will commence.

At this point in time, based on the information at hand, the earliest proposed start of the SAASL League Competition will be the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May.

This will give Clubs about 3 weeks after the end of the suspension date (14th April) to convene and prepare for their first League match. While not ideal, it will allow clubs to organise any trial games ready for the League competition to commence on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May.

The SAASL Cups, Templin, Challenge & Reserve Cups are all suspended and therefore the proposed fixtures for Round 1 (21/22 March) and Round 2 (28/29 March) are cancelled.

The reinstatement of the Cup Competitions will be subject to review as to whether they can be accommodated within a revised League fixture structure.

Clubs are advised now that the Mid Season break scheduled for the weekend of 6th and 7th June may be required for fixtures under a revised competition. Clubs must ensure their availability to play a fixture on that date if required by the League.

To ensure we have an equitable competition, the 2020 fixtures and the composition of the Divisions will be revised once a commencement date and the participating Clubs are confirmed. The fixtures will then be published accordingly.

This Suspension period and the proposed commencement of the League Competition are obviously subject further direction from the FFA, FSA and Health Authorities in relation to COVID-19.

Further, the FFA Cup Competition is currently suspended with the structure and participation being reviewed by Football South Australia and will be advised to the Clubs involved.

We will continue to assess our position based on the information and direction provided by Football SA and will communicate this with our SAASL Community.

We are grateful for your support and understanding and our aim is to keep you as updated as we can at all times.

Kind regards

Steph Pappas
General Secretary / Operations Manager

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