

Illinois Futbol Club

Sunday, March 22nd 2020

Dear IFC Families,

Following requirements and recommendations of state and federal agencies as well as those of US Soccer and the Illinois Youth Soccer Association, the IFC Board has made the decision to suspend all in-person club activities through at least April 15th due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In considering this situation, our primary concern is the health and safety of our players, coaches, families, and our larger community.

The suspension of all in-person activities includes the club Annual Meeting, which had been scheduled for April 1st. We as a Board have been working hard on the club's strategic future and were excited to share the plans we have put in place at that meeting, but the immediate needs of our players and families are of course our first priority. We will, however, continue to pursue those strategic plans and communicate with all of you about them soon.

While teams will not be gathering in person for at least the next 4 weeks, Interim DOC Luis Ramirez and all our coaches have been working to develop at-home training plans and will host weekly phone/video chats with players and teams. A mobile application is also being set up that players and coaches can use to track progress and stay connected. A message from Luis will be coming over the next few days providing more details. These activities are not mandatory, but we hope they will provide a way for our kids to stay active and retain a bond with their coaches and teammates.

Communication is essential during times such as these. We are committed to providing information and resources to club members on an increased and consistent schedule. To that end, Luis will plan to send an email out to all club members on a weekly basis with overall updates about the training plans, highlights of what he's seeing across teams, and other tips and suggestions. (If you have some ideas of your own, I encourage you to share them with Luis.) You should also expect to hear

from your coaches at least once a week via SportsEngine. I will continue to communicate with you on behalf of the Board as needed.

And please keep an eye out for other communications from the club and your fellow members via email, social media, and our website. There is much to share beyond training plans that will help us all stay connected to this wonderful sport and to each other (toilet paper juggling, anyone?), so I encourage you to make an effort to engage with the club and your teams.

As with other businesses and organizations, this pandemic and possible global economic recession that will follow will most certainly have a negative impact on the finances of the club. The cancellation of the Spring Invite alone means \$25,000-\$30,000 less in revenue to the club this year. Please know that the Board is dedicated to making fiscally sound decisions that support our member families, our coaches, and the club.

This situation presents incredible challenges for each of us individually, for our community, and for the club. During these challenging times, we want IFC to be a source of support. We are a soccer family, and you all are part of the tight-knit community that this club has built. Much of what is going on in the world right now is out of our control, but we will do our very best to control what we can and provide the greatest value to the club community. Please help us by staying engaged and sharing your ideas and suggestions.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Skip Maier

Illinois FC Board of Directors President

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