

Good evening MHSA Members,

We are excited to announce that our 2021 Outdoor Spring Season registration will be opening tomorrow, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00pm. Registration will remain open online until April 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:59pm. We will continue to accept registrations in office by appointment only after April 9<sup>th</sup> as long as there is space within programs.

Here are some important updates about our programming and what to expect in the coming months:

### **Outdoor programming format**

Anticipating that cohorts will again be a requirement for youth sport, we have planned to run outdoor programs the same way as last year, with mixed age groups and small-sided 7v7 matches for U8 and up. U4 to U7 will follow the same format as in previous years. More information about our programming can be found on our website at <https://www.medicinehatsoccer.com/registration-information>

### **School soccer returns for spring!**

School soccer will return for middle-school and high-school students. Players may register directly on our website; there will be an option to indicate which school you attend. If registration numbers exceed our limit per team for 7v7, we will split school teams into two or combine schools where necessary to be sure everyone can play.

### **Temporary Pricing Adjustments**

Across the province, soccer clubs are anticipating a 50% decrease in registrations. Financially, we must plan for significant revenue losses; but at the same time, we are working and planning to be able to *increase* soccer participation. We believe it is one of the healthiest, most affordable activities for youth in our city, and much needed during these times.

Over the last year we have trimmed operating costs even while incurring extra costs in order to operate safely and in compliance with health regulations, but with registration numbers potentially being below 60% of a normal year, we have had to develop a strategy to make sure our programming is sustainable going forward.

For this reason, we are keeping our base fees the same as previous years, but we have implemented the following steps to bring our revenue potential in line with our operating costs for this year:

- A temporary \$30 fee will be added at the time of registration except for the U4 age group. This does not fully recover the lost revenue from the potential for lower numbers, but is one step towards sustainability.
- This temporary fee will run on a sliding scale. This means as more kids register, we will recognize increased revenues and refunds will be provided to members (see table below).

- We will run a second outdoor program for the summer months for those in the community which might be looking for low cost activities for their kids throughout the summer. There seems like no better time to introduce this new program then right now. Read more below.

<b>Sliding Scale for Outdoor 2021 Registration Fees</b>	
<b>If total registrations reach:</b>	<b>members U5-U19 will receive a refund of:</b>
650	\$10
750	Additional \$10 (\$20 total)
900	Additional \$10 (\$30 total)*

\* A refund of \$30 will return fees to 2020 (pre-COVID) outdoor rates.

Our goal with these changes is to ensure that soccer continues to operate, that we cover our operating expenses, and that we are supporting families who may be experiencing economic challenges, too

As with the indoor refunds, members who wish to may donate their refunds back to the association.

**Support so everyone can play**

For families needing assistance so their children can enjoy soccer, programs like Kidsport and Jumpstart are now available. Now, more than ever, these programs are ready to help members that have fallen on difficult times. Information on how to apply for these programs can be found at:

- [Kidsport](#)
- [Jumpstart](#)

If you require assistance or need more information, please contact the office via email at [admin@medicinehatsoccer.com](mailto:admin@medicinehatsoccer.com).

**NEW: Summer league!**

After a long year of on-and-off sport, we understand that there is a need for more activity to help kids stay active and return to some normalcy. For this reason, we are planning to run an additional summer league for Outdoor 2021 that will run in July and August. This program will follow a similar format to last summer’s season and will return to regular age groupings (not school groupings), similar to what we do for our indoor seasons.

Registration for the summer league will open in early May.

We are excited that soccer can start again and can’t wait to see everyone back out on the pitch!

Best,

MHSA Board