



Wednesday 18 March, 2020

Dear Auckland and Northern Football clubs and football stakeholders,

## Re: Covid-19 pandemic/football operations 2020

Out of concern for the health of our community amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the start of the winter football and futsal season has been postponed until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020. This difficult decision has been reached by NZ Football in agreement with the seven Federations, to help prevent the community spread of Covid-19.

Measures being taken include:

- **Community football, including junior, youth, senior, social and regional competitions** – all play postponed until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020
- **Community futsal including junior, youth, senior and social competitions** - all play postponed until May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020
  - The 2020 Secondary Schools Futsal Championships set for late March has been cancelled. Tertiary Futsal championships are postponed until a date to be confirmed, and all other competitions are being reviewed
- **Workshops and courses** - including coaching and refereeing courses postponed until after May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020
- **Meetings** – all federation meetings postponed until further notice
- **Pre-season matches, tournaments and events** – all currently active football or futsal tournaments, competitions and/or matches are immediately postponed or cancelled. AFF/NFF Competitions staff will advise accordingly on any particular instance where required

All training should be suspended until 18th April 2020, or two weeks prior to the start of the season. Recommendations around safe practice will continue to be updated that align with Ministry of Health guidelines.

As a result of this decision there are a number of related issues which we will collaborate closely with you on as this highly fluid situation evolves. While not an exhaustive list, some of the key elements include:

- Competitions rescheduling – AFF/NFF Competitions Managers will work with clubs in due course to formulate an approach together regarding the re-scheduling of competitions to adjust to the intended revised start date. Please note May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 is the intended date of start at this time based on current information at hand. This could change as the situation continues to evolve
- Financial implications – as with the impact of Covid-19 on the wider NZ economy, we are fully aware of the possible financial impact of this decision on football and futsal. We will be working directly with NZF, other federations and clubs to understand the government’s financial assistance package confirmed earlier this week and what it could mean for football

- COMET Club Contacts – please ensure your club has completed the requested update of COMET for club contact personnel. It is this database of club contacts that will be used to communicate to the club network and a number of clubs are yet to complete this

We appreciate this is an unprecedented step. This decision has been made solely with the safety and wellbeing of our participants, families and the wider community in mind. The Auckland & Northern Football Federations will continue to monitor the developing situation and will proactively keep clubs and our wider community updated with the latest information.

Yours sincerely,



John Limna  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Northern Football Federation**



Steven Upfold  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Auckland Football Federation**