



Monday 21st March, 2020

Dear Auckland and Northern Football clubs and football stakeholders,

Update: Covid-19 pandemic/football operations 2020

On behalf of the AFF & NFF Boards we would like to thank & congratulate all the clubs, volunteers, coaches, players, parents & supporters on adapting quickly to the changing circumstances. Last week was one of the most challenging we have faced as the government moved rapidly to introduce measures aimed at controlling the spread of Covid-19 and support packages for business. As a sector sport postponed the start of the Winter Sports Season and we are continuing to liaise with our colleagues across all sports codes.

We appreciate, you and your members will have more questions regarding what might happen in the coming weeks, when or if the season may start and what support is available to you during this time. We are also aware of the numerous sources of health & well-being advice that are available which you will also be accessing via your businesses, colleagues & friends.

In order not to overload email and other communication lines we do not intend to forward every update on Covid-19. From hereon we will provide information specific to the delivery of football/futsal and how we can support each other until such time as normal operations can resume.

2020 Competition Entry & Membership Fees

The Boards of Auckland and Northern Football Federations have agreed, that due to the current situation in relation to the COVID-19 virus, the **Federations will not issue invoices for Competition Entry or Membership Fees until there is clarity regarding the 2020 competitions.**

It is our recommendation that clubs retain any Competition Entry or Membership Fees that would have been paid to the Federations (and onwards to New Zealand Football in the case of the NZF levies) in their club bank accounts. This will assist clubs to meet any cash flow obligations that must be met, during these uncertain times.

An information sheet is attached in the event that a club requires either AFF or NFF to invoice for Competition Entry or Membership Fees – in order to fulfil conditions of grant funding and accountabilities

Work & Income Covid-19 Wage subsidy & Leave Payment

Some Clubs may be eligible to apply for the Work & Income Covid-19 Wage Subsidy & Leave Payment support. The attached sheet provides an overview of the programme & links to the Fact Sheets & Application process. If your Club is eligible to apply we recommend you do so as quickly as possible.

Furthermore Sport NZ is working with KPMG to understand the financial impact of this crisis on our sector. This modelling will support the Government in developing a relief package. Sport NZ are in the process of gathering information and if we need anything directly from Clubs we will advise you of this.

Area Manager – Your Key Contact

Your Area Manager is your first point of contact for questions or advice. We will aim to be as responsive as we can. We encourage you to maintain open communication with your Area Manager and also the other clubs in your area. This is a time for greater collaboration, cooperation & support and as such we are currently putting together an Area-based work programme which will work with clubs to identify operational issues, problem solve and assess options ahead of the remainder of 2020 given the current pandemic. More information on this will be available shortly.

Office Operations

We are in the process of finalising our preparations to move all staff to remote working practices. This will include reducing all non-essential face-to-face meetings and maximising online communication. More details on this will be forwarded to you by Friday 27th March 2020.

And Finally

The introduction of the NZ Covid-19 Alert Levels will guide our decision making. Plans to move to remote working for staff are being finalised and will be communicated to you as quickly as possible. The Health & Wellbeing of all participants and staff is our priority. We are a strong community and with the support of each other we will come through the current uncertainty.

Yours sincerely,



John Limna
Chief Executive Officer
Northern Football Federation



Steven Upfold
Chief Executive Officer
Auckland Football Federation