



International Football Club

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Information Bulletin

Bulletin #: IFC2020 – 009
Date: Apr. 8, 2020
To: IFC Membership, Staff
CC: IFC Directors
From: Frank Iaizzo, Athletic Director
Subject: Training and Schedule Update

Hello everyone,

I hope you're staying safe and that everyone in your family is healthy.

Over the past few weeks Canadians have embraced change like never before, as we have all adapted in the face of this extraordinary health situation. **At IFC Soccer, that's meant suspending all sanctioned in-person soccer events and activities for the month of April, and as of April 7th Ontario Soccer notice for the month of May as well.** Now we're adapting to be the best Virtual and Communicative club we can possibly be – to provide players across the country with a trusted source of quick and reliable training services at a time when such options are unavailable.

Evolving how we operate.

While we all hope to return to play as soon as possible, the health and wellbeing of our players, parents, staff and community at large are our number one priority. As the situation has evolved, we have further emphasized physical-distancing and stay-home protocols to contain the spread of coronavirus, and are convinced that a more rigorous approach will make a big difference. We have implemented At-Home Training plans, Instagram Live sessions; Virtual Team Meetings, and much more, which I would like to add is a humane effort from our part to support student-athletes and will not be substituted for lost time.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the IFC Coaches publicly. The overall emotional strain, combined with a strong compassion for their players, has led to a huge physical and psychological task. I have seen our coaches pushing themselves to find new and innovative ways to connect with players to help them during this unique time. Coaches are



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staying up all night preparing new virtual sessions, announcing new initiatives to help keep players (and parents) engaged, and getting out of their comfort zone by utilizing social media and communicating in new ways to be sure players feel inspired.

Supporting Academy and Grassroots families.

Along with many families, we were looking forward to resuming the indoor Grassroots Training and Festival season in May, and to reigniting our return to the field with our Grassroots Development Clinic, partnered with York9 FC. That's not possible right now, so we will be postponing our Free Spring Clinic from May 3rd until we find the right time to come together, and will be processing your choice of a partial refund or bonus credit towards next indoor 2020-2021 Season (please allow 2-3 weeks processing time).

At this time, Academy training, competitions and events have been suspended through May, and all of our tournament and league partners have told us they are intent on postponing events and playing a summer season, even though that might mean playing later into the season or an alternative format. In response to payment relief, we will enact another payment moratorium in May for members on a monthly instalment plan; and for those on a full payment plan: once we have an established return-to-play date, we will offer additional make-up training solutions and or partial credits (or refunds), if applicable.

We are in this together.

Our coaches and staff are doing amazing things large and small on a daily basis and I'm incredibly grateful for their leadership and compassion. I've said it before and I'll say it here again, as the great Muhammad Ali said: "Don't count the days, make the days count". IFC Soccer stands ready to help in any way we are able. Our outstanding staff are all working – remotely, of course – and available for you to reach at any time. We are all in this together!

Stay safe everyone. Thank you for making us part of your day, and we look forward to seeing you back on the field soon.

Sincerely,
Frank Iaizzo, Athletic Director