



April 16, 2020

Dear Arsenal Colorado Families,

As you are all aware, this spring we are experiencing a pandemic crisis that is leaving physical, mental, social, and economic destruction in its wake. It has created challenges to the safety and wellbeing of your family, and we hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy.

It has also created many challenges to the world and our country, state, and community; including the Colorado soccer community and including Arsenal Colorado. The entire Colorado soccer community is hurting. It has been an understandable source of frustration, and perhaps anger, as our Club and the Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) must make more and more difficult decisions to ensure that there is still a future for organized youth soccer in the coming months and years.

The suspension of the Club's programming due to the pandemic crisis has created a full understanding of the impact soccer has on kids every single day. We are not just a soccer club; we are a community of friends who use soccer as our vehicle "to inspire and develop, and to build community" as included in the Club's Mission statement. It's a second family for so many of us and the Club is fortunate to work with amazing, positive people who make any situation, even the one we are facing now, surmountable. We all look forward to a time in the near future when we can once again gather together to play and watch soccer; filled with fun, laughter, exercise, and the enjoyment of being together. But it is uncertain when and how that may occur. In the interim the Club continues to follow the directives of the State, County, and Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) and, most importantly, to prioritize the wellbeing and safety of its members and staff.

Last week you received a COVID-19 update message from the Club that included the most recent decisions by CSA. The Club's Board of Directors and Staff then conducted a remote emergency meeting Monday evening. Considering the decisions and directives made by the State, Larimer County, Poudre School District, and CSA, and considering what may be possible in the near future, we regret to report Arsenal Colorado's decision to immediately cancel some of the Club's spring programming. We are disappointed that we are not able to fully serve the northern Colorado soccer community in the manner to which we are accustomed, but the Club must recognize the current circumstances and proceed accordingly.

Please read carefully below for the status of each of the Club's programs.

Youth Recreational Program

The U5-U18 in-house recreational program has been cancelled for the spring season. We will reach out to all registered participants in the coming weeks regarding a refund scenario specific to this program.

Youth HOME (only) PDL Program

The U9-U10 Home PDL program has been cancelled for the spring season. We will reach out to all registered participants in the coming weeks regarding a refund scenario specific to this program.

Adult Men's and Women's League

The adult men's and women's leagues have been cancelled for the spring season. We will reach out to all registered participants in the coming weeks regarding a refund scenario specific to this program.



Camps and Academies

All spring season camps and academies have been cancelled. Refunds for these programs are currently being processed. The Club still hopes to host a full slate of summer camps.

Youth Travel PDL

Travel PDL is a league organized and controlled by CSA. They have extended the current Colorado soccer suspension to at least May 1st. This suspension restricts official team training, unofficial team training, tournaments, and sanctioned and unsanctioned games from taking place. CSA will develop a modified game schedule for when play may resume. CSA has determined that if a return to play with a modified schedule for Travel PDL leagues cannot begin on or before June 1st, they will officially cancel the spring season. If that occurs, we will then reach out to all registered participants regarding a refund scenario specific to this program.

Youth Competitive

Youth Competitive leagues are organized and controlled by CSA. They have extended the current Colorado soccer suspension to at least May 1st. This suspension restricts official team training, unofficial team training, tournaments, and sanctioned and unsanctioned games from taking place. CSA will develop a modified game schedule for when play may resume. CSA has determined that if a return to play with a modified schedule for Youth Competitive leagues cannot begin on or before June 1st, they will officially cancel the spring season. If that occurs, we will then reach out to all registered participants regarding a refund scenario specific to this program.

Player Placement for the Fall 2020 Season

CSA has announced that the player placement period for Travel PDL and Competitive teams will officially begin the week of June 22nd. Club staff is working diligently to determine a tryout schedule that will work best for members, coaches, and available facilities. It is understood that some players may not be available at that time for tryouts and the Club is determined to place every interested player to the best of our ability. If tryouts cannot safely occur the week of June 22nd, the Club will form teams based on interest and the best information available, leaving the fall season to further evaluate players and leaving the opportunity for team movement between fall and spring seasons.

3v3 Summer League

The Club is planning to host the summer 3v3 league, although the start date will not be until July. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Adult Coed Summer League

The Club is planning to host the summer Adult Coed league, although the start date will be later in the summer than previous years. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

We are aware that many youth sports clubs in Colorado, including soccer clubs, have announced to their members that they will not make any refund of fees for the spring season as they cannot then survive. This is understandable as nonprofit clubs simply collect programming revenue to cover programming expenses and many of these expenses are incurred well before the start of a season, leaving little or no cushion for economic emergencies such as we are currently experiencing. However, while fee refunds and/or credits to members will create severe financial difficulty for Arsenal Colorado, we are committed to providing financial remedies that are fair in the hopes of your continued support and participation.



Arsenal Colorado is a nonprofit organization that has served the northern Colorado soccer community for over 40 years. In a time when many clubs are being taken over and merged into mega-clubs, Arsenal Colorado continues to operate locally and independently, governed by a board of directors and operated by a staff dedicated to providing soccer opportunities for all. Through the years the Club has strived to evolve as an organization in order to provide outstanding service to its members, coaching excellence, volunteer opportunities and superior facilities. We are determined to emerge from the pandemic crisis as the Club you know and hopefully value.

We are working every day to realize that vision and restore some normalcy for the Club's members and athletes, but no one can say what will happen. We leave you with a message of hope for the future. Hope is an incredibly powerful thing and just your hope and patience can be the difference for the Club's young players.

Sincerely,

Arsenal Colorado