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EMSA North's Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 17, 2020

As of Friday March 13, 2020 Canada Soccer suspended all sanctioned activities until further notice.

A decision on sanctioned activities will be communicated via our website and social media.

This means that all Soccer League games, playoffs, practices, camps, try-outs, tournaments etc. at all levels of play are affected by this announcement.

There have been many media reports in recent days regarding the risk of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. EMSA North recognizes the seriousness of this situation and we want to reassure our members that we are committed to the health and safety of all our Soccer Participants. The most current information on COVID-19 can be found on the Alberta Health Services website: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>.

Alberta Health Services provides the following recommendations to prevent the spread of the virus. To help protect you and your family against all respiratory illnesses, including flu and COVID-19, you should:

- Wash your hands often and well
- Avoid touching your face, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched
- Stay home and away from others if you are feeling ill
- Contact your primary health provider or health link 811 if you have questions or concerns
- When sick, cover your cough and sneezes and then wash your hands

1. Is the 2020 Outdoor Soccer Season being cancelled?

EMSA is **NOT CANCELLING** the 2020 season at this time, however will follow any direction provided to us by Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer. Early indications show that the season will proceed and at most be delayed until mid-May. The scheduled start of the season is May 2020 which is several weeks from today and expected to be able to proceed. However, this is a fluid situation and we will be re-evaluating our plans for the upcoming season as more information becomes available.

2. What is EMSA North recommending to help prevent the spread of COVID-19?

In addition to the Alberta Health Services & Canada soccer recommendations noted above, EMSA North will be closing its office to the public effective immediately but will continue to accept as needed in person registrations and PIC applications by appointment only. This will allow us to maintain a sanitary work space between appointments and encourage social distancing. EMSA North will also work with parent's to accept payments over the phone and finalize registrations over email wherever possible further promoting social isolation recommendations. To book an appointment for registration please email volunteers@emsanorth.ca

3. What do I do if I am already registered for an EMSA North Sanctioned activity?

We anticipate proceeding with our 2020 Outdoor season, however if we are unable to reschedule an activity, we will be providing full refunds to participants that have already paid. At this time Coach Trainings and Ref Trainings are delayed until we are able to reschedule.

EMSA North would again reiterate that this is a very fluid event and subject to changes in approach as new information becomes available. We will be updating our website and social media with information if we have changes to communicate.

To ensure the health and safety of players, coaches, Match officials and administrators, the offices of EMSA North will be closed to the public during this period but staff will be available through email or phone to assist where necessary.

Please contact the EMSA North Office if you are choosing to withdraw from the soccer program that you have registered with and we will be happy to provide you with a refund as per the refund policy which is attached.

REFUND POLICY:

All refunds are subject to an administration fee of \$25.00 Any refund on or before The EMSA North Final Declaration day for the season will be processed in full less the administration fee (outdoor 2020 is April 7th) Any refund requests after the EMSA North Final Declaration Day for the Season will not be considered unless for medical purposes and must be accompanied by a medical doctor note. Refund requests must be submitted in writing to EMSA North at programs@emsanorth.ca and must include

player full name and reason for the request. Any refund requests due to medical reasons must include the Dr. note and with the submission, medical refund requests will be sent to the board for a decision on any refunds and the amount.

Sincerely,

The EMSA North Executive Committee