



Memo

Date: May 1, 2020

To: SPDSA Membership

From: SPDSA Staff

Good Afternoon Parents,

We wanted to follow up with our members, to provide further updates about the 2020 Outdoor Season. As per our last communication of April 14th, the SPDSA continues to work closely with our governing bodies, Alberta Soccer (ASA) and Canada Soccer (CSA) on what the future holds for our players.

We continue to receive emails and calls, asking if we will be moving ahead with an outdoor season. The short answer is YES. Of course, this will be dependent on the Provincial Government and when the social distancing measures will be lifted. It is also dependent on Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer and when they will lift the current ban on all soccer activities. Many of our members in both youth and adult, want a soccer program and we are doing all we can to accommodate our members when it is safe to do so.

The SPDSA remains committed to providing an outdoor program, that will likely run in July, August, and possibly September, depending on field availability and number of players in certain age groups. We will of course look at starting all our programs earlier, if we are able to do so. In addition, we will be providing full day, half day camps as well as academy sessions.

Our main goal this year, is to get as many players on the field as we can, and in doing so, the “traditional” soccer programs for some age groups, that we have known in previous seasons, will be different this outdoor season. This will include the possibility of combining age groups in our Community program, to ensure we have enough players and doing what we can to keep all players and teams local, so travel into Edmonton and surrounding areas may not be required. Our Phoenix program will still be subject to the local EIYSA and EMSA leagues and how they will be structured. Both EIYSA and EMSA continue to plan for an outdoor season as well and we all remain optimistic that we will be able to provide soccer programs.

We have recently been advised by Alberta Soccer, that Provincial Competitions for all age groups and Tiers have been cancelled for the outdoor season. In addition, the Alberta Major Soccer League (AMSL) and the new Alberta Youth Soccer League (AYSL (PDP)) will also not run. For those of you in the U15T1

or U17T1 age group, you are likely wondering what this means for Tier 1 to Nationals. At this point, we do not know how this will affect a Nationals Competition. Canada Soccer has not announced any update regarding Nationals. For the those involved with the PDP program, we are working on some alternatives for the outdoor season.

Fields in the City of Edmonton are open as of May 1st, but all outdoor facilities remain closed in Sherwood Park until June 15th. Although fields are open in Edmonton, members are NOT able to participate in any practice, kick arounds or any other type of soccer activity until CSA and ASA has lifted the soccer ban in our province. The City has announced that the sports fields are open to casual use ONLY and there will be no organized team usage.

Again, the SPDSA is extremely grateful for the support that you have all shown to assist us in continuing to deliver quality programming. We ask that you continue to show this support by remaining registered with the association. This will enable the SPDSA to continue to form teams, and plan and deliver a quality sporting experience for your children.

The SPDSA staff continue to work behind the scenes, coming up with some new ways to ensure our players, parents and coaches can stay connected with us during this time. We will be launching an additional LIVE online training program, with our Technical Staff. Once we have them set up, we will provide our members with the list of events, that will include dates, times and who the sessions are for. Sessions will include technical training, goalkeeping training, program information for parents pertaining to the SPDSA philosophy and why we do what we do, coach training and much more.

The previous program of [Skills in the Park Home Soccer Program](#) is still accessible on the SPDSA website, and will remain there for players to participate in on their own. Please remember that this is a free program and is not intended to replace an outdoor season.

The SPDSA staff held their first Facebook Live event on Thursday April 16th, where were able to provide additional updates and answer questions that many of our members have. We will be hosting another Facebook Live on **Thursday May 7th, at 2:00pm**. Please tune in for updates on our programs, and to ask questions you may have about the outdoor season.

Kind regards,

SPDSA Staff