



Memo

Date: May 29, 2020

To: SPDSA Membership

From: Debbie Ballam – General Manager

Good afternoon

As a follow up from our communication from May 15th, we want to share with you the recent updates on the relaunch plan for the outdoor season. In this email, we want to explain what the first phase will look like, so that if you are not interested, then you may request a refund. We are working with Alberta Soccer to advocate for a full return to soccer as soon as it is safe to do so.

The SPDSA's return to play program will include three phases, which will fall in line with Alberta Soccer guidelines. We are currently planning for the first phase and will be able to adapt to a change in phase quickly once they may be announced. Unfortunately, we do not have a firm timeline as to when we may move between phases.

At this time, we have not yet determined the cost for the outdoor season, as we need to have confirm numbers of those who wish to participate, however we anticipate the fees for Phoenix will be \$300.00 and for Community \$210.00. In March, the Board communicated that SPDSA would commit to communicating regularly and transparently throughout this pandemic, so we want to ensure we are upfront with what we know and are able to plan and deliver.

Strathcona County made an announcement last week, that they will be starting to reopen facilities in June. It is our understanding that soccer fields will be open June 15th. While they stated that there will be no league play on the fields, this does not preclude running training programs, which will include a physical distancing component, in compliance with health guidelines

The first phase will be *"Return to Modified Training"* and these sessions will start mid June and go until mid August. Dates will be finalized, once we are able to confirm facility bookings with the county and player numbers in each age group. The tentative start date is June 15th with a possible end date of August 14th. If the start date is pushed back to June 22nd, then the end day will be extended by one week as well. Being able to offer a Return to Modified Training is exciting as we will be able to focus on basic and advanced skills with our players. We are using our Certified Technical Staff and Technical Leads to design and deliver these sessions which is an opportunity we do not have during a normal season. We also know that many surrounding districts have made the difficult decision not to offer an

outdoor soccer season at all, so we are excited to be able to design a program which gets players on the fields and follows the health guidelines.

What does the first phase of Return to Modified Training look like:

- All sessions will be designed and led by certified SPDSA Technical staff and supported by senior volunteer SPDSA coaches.
- All training sessions will be under the strict guidelines of the Alberta Soccer's return to play safety protocols.
- The program will be offered to both our Community and Phoenix players from U9 (players born in 2011) to U17 (players born in 2003 or 2004).
- Sessions will be grouped by program/age determined by the program they are currently registered in. Community and Phoenix will be separate.
- All sessions will be on premium fields in Sherwood Park. Phoenix players will train at Millennium Place and Community players will train at both Strathcona Athletic Park (SAP) and Millennium Place.
- The Community program will be twice a week.
- The Phoenix program will run three times a week.

We are still waiting for direction and guidance from Alberta Soccer on programs for players in the U4 to U8 age groups. Once we receive further information, we will communicate further.

What does the second phase of Return to Play look like:

- The second phase will still include the Return to Modified Training, as well as a Modified Game component.
- Games will likely be small sided games, while keeping the physical distancing aspect in place.
- There will be no formal teams made and all small sided games will be done with those in that specific age group.

What does the third phase of the Return to Play look like:

- The final phase will be the running of all regular soccer programs, without the physical distancing. This can only be done, once the province lifts the social distancing that is currently in place.

Our next step:

- We need to finalize those players interested in an outdoor season so that we can group players, book fields and finalize pricing. If you are still interested, then you do not need to do anything; we will use your information from your RAMP registration to create our groups and then we will communicate final pricing and create the associated registration packages.
- If you are not interested in participating, please contact Debbie Ballam by Thursday June 4th, as we will be starting to create our groupings right away to meet a possible June 15 relaunch date.

- If you would like to request a refund, you can do so by filling out the Refund Request Form at this link: <http://sherwoodparksoccer.msa4.rampinteractive.com/form/200>
- If you had requested a refund, you still have an opportunity to register, however space is limited and you will need to contact our office via email at office@spdsa.net and we can assist you with registration. The deadline to register for the program will be Monday June 8th, 2020.

We would like to remind you about the Online Live Technical Sessions. These will continue for the first two weeks of June for both our Community and Phoenix programs.

You can view the June Calendar at this link: <http://www.spdsa.net/content/calendar-for-live-technical-sessions> The SPDSA will be sending invites to our members prior to each Live Technical Session.

In addition to the Live Technical Sessions, we have other events listed on the calendar that may be of interest to you.

Wednesday June 10th, 7:30pm to 8:30pm – Parent Session on SPDSA Philosophy (Grassroots Program).

Thursday June 11th, 7:30pm to 8:30pm – Parent Session on SPDSA Philosophy (U13 to U17 Community)

If you would like to attend either of the Parent sessions, please email office@spdsa.net for the meeting links.

Please continue to visit the calendar for other events, such as our next Facebook Live.