



22 May 2020

Our Ref: CEO -2020-309

Enriching the community through Football

Paul Avery
President
Balmain & District Football Club

BY EMAIL ONLY: president@balmainfootball.com.au

Dear Paul,

RE: RESUMPTION OF TRAINING

On Thursday 21 May Football NSW (FNSW) confirmed that community football may now resume training. The resumption is predicated upon clubs adhering to strict guidelines and protocols when arranging training and, **only** with the approval of the relevant Local Government Authority (LGA).

City of Canada Bay Council has advised CDSFA what that LGA will require prior to approving commencement of community football training. It is the intention of the CDSFA to communicate with the other LGA's in order to ascertain what guidelines and protocols will need to be instituted by the clubs in those LGA areas in order to facilitate approval from Council to resume training.

There can be no doubt, based upon what we have seen to date, that a degree of effort will need to go into planning the resumption of training.

As you would appreciate there has been no indication given and no announcement made as to when competitive football can commence in the winter season. The Board continues to assume a competition commencement of early to mid July.

The ability to commence training is a significant step in the process to a commencement of the competition. How your club and its players respond to the guidelines and protocols will be the subject of ongoing scrutiny by the Councils. You and your players must appreciate that the Councils will be highly sensitive to any infringements of the guidelines and protocols because of the fear of secondary contamination clusters.

On behalf of the Board I request that you inform your teams and individual players that under **no circumstances** are they to resume any form of training until such time as a formal approval has been provided by your governing LGA.

Despite my letter of 13 May over the weekend of 16/ 17 May and since then groups of football players, both juniors and seniors, have been the subject of reports to the CDSFA of **organised training** occurring at Queen Elizabeth Park, Concord and Pratten Park, Ashfield. **Photographic evidence** was provided to the Association. Enquiries have been made and, certainly in relation to the group training at Queen Elizabeth Park, the Club has been identified.



CANTERBURY DISTRICT SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Let me make the Board's position abundantly clear. Any group of players or any team that resumes training prior to a formal consent being provided by the governing LGA will, where they are identified, be deregistered from playing with CDSFA in the current winter season.

I ask that you inform all of your members that they are not to resume training until they receive your formal approval to do so and that if they do resume training and are reported to the CDSFA they, if identified, will be deregistered.

The LGAs have been broadly very supportive of the Board's initiatives in relation to training and even the competition resumption. I believe, with some confidence, that if individual clubs request additional training nights from their governing LGA that they will be afforded additional time given the current condition of the fields. That should act as an incentive to players complying with both Council and CDSFA requests to abide by the rules.

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the commencement of the season. I know that many of you, like me, have concerns about the potential impact of second wave community contamination. If we can prove that we can abide by the rules when we resume training and we get into the habit of maintaining discipline in relation to the rules it will help us all to ensure that we can complete the season without interruption. The challenge will be great enough without individuals and teams deliberately infringing the rules.

As soon as we have a confirmed commencement date for the competition I will communicate further with you.

Yours sincerely

Armando Gardiman AM
Chairman
Canterbury & District Soccer Football Association