Message from Dave Mason – CEO of MWFA

I wanted to give you an update as I know we are all fielding questions, especially around when we will be able to play and registration fees.

I hope you don’t feel overwhelmed by the number of emails, and I apologise for the length of this email, but I think the better option is to try to keep people informed.

Firstly, there is no clear answer on a date that we may be able to return to playing football. We await Government advice, which at the moment does not allow us to play.

The MWFA Board met on Thursday night and we will put together more detailed minutes from that meeting but I wanted to re-iterate the position we took at the Clubs Meeting in relation to registration fees, as well as give you some more information on steps we are taking.

Registration Fees are an incredibly complicated and challenging part of the situation and we all understand there are people in tough life-changing situations and others simply asking what the situation is with fees.

At this point in time we are in constant discussions with the FFA and Football NSW in relation to the various Commonwealth and State Government rescue and stimulus packages, as well as the status of the money in relation to Active Kids Vouchers. These could offer a positive answer to the fees question.

It is important that Active Kids Voucher money remain in the Club bank accounts.

The MWFA has already made a decision to cut most of our “non essential” activities and costs.

Also, we are starting to look at the natural and forced savings we will make by not playing as many games as usual and that will form part of the “total impact on the season” that we are trying to get a handle on before we have a final understanding of the impact on the fees.

At this point in time it is important that we respectfully take time to consider the outcome of all of these variables, at which time we can then start to work through any possible refunds/credits.

If we play less football and there are less costs, then of course that will flow back.

Finally, and most importantly, I want us all to consider the enormous positive impact our game will be able to have on the regeneration of our society by simply organising football games for our 18,000 players.

We need to stay united and we need to remain focussed on ensuring that when Government restrictions allow us to play sport that we are ready to go with football competitions. It won’t be 18 games and a semi final and grand final series but that’s not what’s important this year.

It will be important to simply use football and our clubs as a positive way to reinvigorate the broader community.

We are working on competition draws to make sure that we all play as much football as possible, understanding ultimately the Governments will decide when we can play.

Below are the answers if asked about registration fees and deregistration (in the FAQ document):

What happens to my registration fees?

At this stage the suspension of football takes into account a minimal disruption that we will work to make up throughout the season as best as possible. We are delaying the start of the season, not cancelling. We are working through some details around real cost savings that occur due to the fact some games will be lost. We will make a final decision on registration fees when we know the full extent of the disruption and it will be based on the broad principle of trying to ensure that all Clubs, MWFA, Football NSW and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future. We need to make sure that when football – and life in Australia – returns to normal that we have a sport, clubs and an infrastructure that will allow us all to continue to play.

What happens if I deregister?

A player is entitled to de-register but they need to understand the following. Any player that de-registers at this point (after the grading of teams) can only re-register at the discretion of the MWFA, which is a long-time rule. Also, a final decision around any refund of fees for people who deregister will be made when the clubs and the MWFA know the full extent of the disruption and it will be based on the broad principle of trying to ensure that all Clubs, MWFA, Football NSW and FFA are able to get through this difficult time in a position that will enable football as we know it to continue into the future.

As always, I am available if anyone needs to chat

Regards

David Mason