



## Blue Mountains Football Club Inc.

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e-mail: [contact@bmfc.com.au](mailto:contact@bmfc.com.au)

website: [www.bmfc.com.au](http://www.bmfc.com.au)

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsFC/>

PO Box 235, GLENBROOK NSW 2773

17 March 2020

Dear Members (players, parents, coaches, managers, supporters)

As some of you may be aware, today Football Federation Australia (FFA) issued a directive (known as “Circular 20-06” – copy attached) regarding playing and training football. This directive means that all grassroots games and training, which we organise and play at BMFC, cannot be undertaken at least until 14 April 2020. This is a great disappointment to us all, as I know everyone is keen to get onto the park and play. Looking at the big picture, it is not an unexpected outcome with the COVID-19 situation, and considering other sporting codes have made similar directives to their players.

In terms of what this directive means for us, it is clear – players at BMFC will not be able to play games or train whilst this directive is in place. I ask that all players/coaches/managers adhere to this and not organise “out-of-session training” or “friendly games”. In this regard, Knapsack Park will be closed for the duration of the directive. If a player is hurt during any football-related activity between now and 14 April 2020, no insurance coverage will apply (we have had broken bones during training before). If a team is using a council-owned facility when prohibited from doing so, a council inspector may issue an infringement and any fines received will be required to be paid by the team concerned.

In terms of fees and de-registration – whilst BMFC can’t put a freeze on de-registrations, I do ask that you hold off in doing so, for the time being. The reason for this is everything from here on in is an unknown – what I don’t want to happen is to have players de-register and leave teams with less than the minimum number of players, which then means everyone else could miss out. By mid-April, we will know a lot more in terms of what competition should eventuate. I will expect that FFA and Football NSW factor in what a reduced season means for fees and in the event of a reduced number of games, I will advocate that a pro-rata application of fee applies. That does not mean it will happen, but that is certainly my view. Myself and two of my children play at BMFC and I pay fees equally with all players in the Club, so this affects me also. In that regard, I’ll wait for guidance from those organisations as to how fees will be managed for this season.

Thank you for your understanding during this period of unknowns and as information comes to hand, I will provide further updates to keep you informed. If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me and will do my best to answer them.

Thank you

David Smith  
**BMFC PRESIDENT**





# FFA Circular

Circular No 20-06

17 March 2020

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FFA**

## **Suspension of grassroots football activity**

The purpose of this Circular is to provide you with a further update in relation to the steps that Football Federation Australia (**FFA**) is taking in response to COVID-19.

As you are aware, COVID-19 continues to be an evolving situation in Australia and across the world.

On 16 March 2020, FFA issued Circular 20-05 to all members and participants, which set out national guidelines designed to assist, protect and reduce infection or transmission risks for the football community. The national guidelines state that only essential participants should attend football activities at this time, which extend the Federal Government's current ban on mass gatherings of 500 persons or more.

FFA today convened a meeting of the National COVID-19 Working Committee and the Presidents of the State Body Members to further discuss football's response to COVID-19. After careful consideration and having regard to the feedback received from the grassroots community, FFA advises that **effective from 12:00am on 18 March 2020, all sanctioned grassroots football activity in Australia will be suspended until 14 April 2020.**

The suspension applies to all sanctioned matches and competitions, including National Premier Leagues, FFA Cup, youth and grassroots football (including MiniRoos and futsal) as well as training and associated football related activities.

FFA recognises that this is very disruptive for the football community and we thank you for your understanding while we work through this difficult time. FFA will continue to closely monitor all COVID-19 developments in consultation with the Federal Government and its National COVID-19 Working Committee and will provide updates to the football community as the latest information becomes available and in advance of 14 April 2020.

Further information in relation to this Circular is available via FFA's press release available at <https://www.ffa.com.au/news>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Johnson", written over a light grey circular stamp.

**James Johnson**  
Chief Executive Officer