

## DDL – Letter to Teams Fall 2020

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Clubs and Teams,

Thank you for your continued patience as we prepare for the upcoming fall season and supporting a safe return to play for all our participants.

While we understand and want our players, coaches, and referees to return to the playing field, we want to ensure it can be done safely for our participants and their families. After much thought and consideration, we have revised the season timeline for the upcoming fall season as well as some other scheduling expectations. Please review the information attached and below to help guide you through preparations for returning to training and play this fall.

Many questions are circulating about the fall season...what it will look like, cost, any refunds, parents allowed, etc.

Our group of administrators and committee members are dedicated to providing teams with some comfort and answers to these questions.

### **Will there be a fall season?**

At this time, the goal is to host some version of a fall season for DDL. Please understand all dates are subject to change pending new local or state mandates, new CDC guidelines, or any other necessary reasons. DDL will continue to update teams as soon as new updates come through so we can continue to provide the most up to date information for your planning purposes.

### **Will there be refunds if the season is cancelled?**

We have modified the DDL League Payment Policy this year to alleviate the stress on families as much as possible. DDL will continue to follow a per game fee schedule which varies by age group class – 11U-14U and 15U and older – and all payments to be submitted seasonally, meaning a payment deadline for fall games and a payment deadline for the spring season. While there will be certain fees STX Youth Soccer cannot refund, any teams fully paid for their DDL schedule of games in accordance to the 2020-2021 fee schedule, will be refunded for any overpaid games not played. Forfeit matches will not be refunded.

### **Will my team lose their position in the league if we do not play this fall?**

DDL is exploring options for pre-qualified teams and/or clubs who opt out of participating in the 2020-2021 season due to the risk involved by participating in DDL League Competitions. Specific information will be available once finalized.

### **What will game days look like?**

DDL is working to publish league specific guidelines regarding these details. Many of these details will fall in line with the STX Youth Soccer Webinar on Supporting a Safe Return to Play; however, some may be specific and stricter guidelines due to the local or county guidelines in the greater Houston area. DDL will work with host sites to ensure proper signage and safety guidelines are in place. A summary of these guidelines will be made available to teams and parents and posted to the DDL webpage.

### **Will teams be able to enter the league in the spring?**

DDL is working to create a spring registration process to allow teams to re-enter the league for the 2021 Spring season. Specific information will be available once finalized.

### **What else is the league doing to help teams navigate participating in youth soccer this fall?**

DDL plans to waive any fines less than \$100; any larger fines due to D&P will be decided on a case by case basis pending the severity of the issue or situation. DDL is also evaluating other policies to see where adjustments can be made to lessen the stress and pressures of participating this fall.

**Will the Club Pass Player rules be modified?**

Not at this time. The CDC among many other health professionals are recommending teams participate within their specific team, or cohort; therefore, DDL will not make any changes to the current STX Club Pass Player rules.

We understand there are many questions about returning to play this fall. We do believe that TOGETHER we can provide a safe playing environment for our players, coaches, referees, and volunteers. There will be adjustments to our routines we will all have to work through and find the patience to cope with this season.

We hope this letter eases your mind and helps provide more transparency to our participants as we look to return to play this fall season.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our league administrators.

Thank you and please continue to stay safe, healthy and informed.

Best,

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