

Hello Milltown United Families,

It's been a while since our last update but please know we have been very busy trying to sort out what a return to soccer this fall can look like. Our board in conjunction with the Tualatin Hill Junior Soccer League (THJSL) have been having double our normal meetings trying to keep up with planning as the conditions have continued to (or not so) change.

With much consideration and deliberation, the Milltown Board of Directors has decided to cancel our fall season of soccer. We will begin processing refunds to all registrations immediately. We are capped on the number of refunds we can make each day so this may take a few weeks to complete, but know we are working diligently to get them to you as quickly as possible.

Our commitment first and foremost is to the health of all our players, coaches, and families. The COVID-19 pandemic has created many roadblocks in our return to Fall soccer. Soccer for fall was never going to be normal, but we wanted to try to ensure as "normal" as we could. As such we have always had a plan that included full team formation and a normal fall schedule of games. However, as a result of the restrictions of our phased state plan, we have had to continue to plan around a moving target. There was a time when we thought Phase 3 could be reached before the fall, which would have allowed us to have a normal season. When it became clear that was not a possible outcome we started making plans to see what fall soccer would look like in phase 2. These plans included contingencies that allowed us to still play soccer in our league against other teams with some potential modifications to how we practice and the rules of our games. Most of our plans for fall soccer revolved around us reaching phase 2 by the end of July, which would have allowed us to start practices and have a normal game schedule. And as we look at the upcoming months and the data that the state has released it does not appear as though phase 2 is on the immediate horizon. Playing fall soccer also depends on the availability of fields. We have been informed by THPRD it will take 4-6 weeks after we enter phase 2 to get the grass fields ready for play.

As part of our planning, we have had discussions about other ways to get the players back out on the field, but the traditional team-based interleague play is just not possible to commit to safely at this time. If our area is able to reach phase 2 we have some ideas around running camps and other activities to help the kids get out and exercise in a safe way. With the restrictions of phase 1, we just don't believe we can provide a safe and fun way for the kids to get back on the field.

We are so sorry that things have worked out this way. I can assure you that the MUSC board has run through every scenario we can think of to make this

work. The Milltown United board is 100% volunteer. Our only goal is to help kids learn the love of playing soccer.

We will send out another update later in the fall and sooner if we can find a way to get kids on the field. Please stay tuned for more updates.

Simeon Bateman  
President - Milltown United Soccer Club