

Hello Soccer Families,

It has certainly been a unique Spring & Summer in our province. The hope of our association's leadership from the beginning has been that our membership, not limited to just our players, but also our parents, spectators, coaches and officials would all be happy & healthy in light of the difficult circumstances impacting all of us. For the most part, the people who make up our association have made it through the worst of this season; now we look ahead to the Fall.

As most are aware, Ponoka Minor Soccer Association made the difficult decision to cancel our Spring 2020 season back in April. Now, nearly five months later, we are once again at a crossroads in regard our upcoming indoor soccer season. Regulations regarding "return to play" for every authorized sport in our province has determined that numbers are to be capped for particular cohorts to ensure that the amount of cross contact between athletes and participants is limited. These regulations designed to handicap the potential spread of Covid-19, coupled with a lack of available gymnasium space due to schools excluding outside user groups because of the pandemic and AHS recommendations, have put our soccer association at a disadvantage. To be frank, we do not have any space in which to play indoor soccer; we regularly depend on the use of multiple school gymnasiums over the Fall & Winter.

PMSA is not alone in this predicament. Every soccer association within Central Alberta has extremely limited availability of space for play due to the prohibition of school space. As such, Central Alberta Soccer Association (CASA), the governing body we play under, has been working tirelessly to come up with solutions that would be equally beneficial to everyone. Currently, we are looking at potential mini-leagues that would run out of the Camrose, Red Deer or possibly even Millet, starting in late November. Under this format, our teams would travel every Saturday to have limited training time and games. These mini-leagues would follow the strict protocols of AHS regarding cohorts, health checklists, etc. Unfortunately, due to the limited space, these leagues would only be available to the U11, U13, U15 & U17 age groups. Our hope is that by the new year, regulations will have loosened allowing us back into school where we could potentially run shortened seasons for our U7 & U9 age groups.

What our association is doing now is gauging the interest in participating in these mini-leagues. If your child/player is interested, we are opening a "pay later" online registration opening THIS FRIDAY at www.ponokasoccer.ca. We need an accurate picture of who we have available to play and coach before we can commit teams to this new regulated structure & format. If you wish to play, please register. You will not be expected to pay up front. This registration is primarily to gauge interest and know where we stand.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and your careful consideration during this unique time.

Thank you,
Ponoka Minor Soccer Association Board