

ST. ALBANS CITY YOUTH F.C.

Affiliated to:
Hertfordshire County F.A.

Dear Players, Managers, Coaches and friends of St Albans City Youth,

This is the first of several communications the Trustees and Management Committee intend to publish in this time of great concern to us all. We intend to keep you abreast of decisions and policies that the Club have made which will affect St Albans City Youth FC as we respond to the challenge of the Coronavirus.

Firstly, on behalf of the Club, I want to take this opportunity to send our best wishes to you all and express that our thoughts go out to the City Youth Family at such a challenging time. Please look after each other and follow all the Government Advice and Guidance. Hopefully, in the near future, we can all be back training and playing football together and we will all be ready to embrace the new season with renewed spirit and hope, as we enter our 50th Anniversary Season as a Club.

The Trustees and Management Committee met via Video Conference last night (Wednesday) and the intention is to meet at least fortnightly throughout the spring and summer to deal with the unprecedented challenges the pandemic is causing. We aim to be clear and decisive in our decision making and have regular communication with you all. Rest assured we are putting welfare at the forefront of every decision that we make. We will strive to ensure that the Club is in a robust and healthy position when we return to normality.

All topics discussed, several of which will need to be continually assessed as the situation and the challenges provided by COVID-19 develop and change. However, in order to give you all as much information as possible please be advised of the following.

Events

Charity Golf Day (1st May) - This has been postponed and will now hopefully take place on Friday September 4th.

Boys (30th & 31st May) & Girls (7th June) Small Sided Summer Tournaments – These have been cancelled. It is possible that the Herts FA may sanction us to begin the new season with Small Sided Tournaments in September. This is to be advised. The club will be refunding all teams who have entered.

Annual Club Presentation Day (20th June) – We are awaiting a response from the Alban Arena. We will advise every one of the situation ASAP.

Safeguarding

This is crucial topic and the following should be read carefully and adhered to by all of us no matter what our role in the Club is.

Unfortunately, one potential outcome of an extreme disruption to normal practice is the targeting of Youth groups including Sports Clubs by potential abusers. Abusers look to exploit potential breaks in usual controls and target Clubs and Groups as Safeguarding Certification and DBS' expire. It is essential that all of us treat all offers of help from those unknown to your team or the Club or any unsolicited approaches from adults with the utmost caution. Be vigilant and make no assumptions. Please escalate any concerns immediately to the Club Welfare Officer. ian.829woods@btinternet.com
Further information and help on this topic will follow shortly – in the meantime, if your DBS is due to expire – again please contact ian.829woods@btinternet.com



F.A. CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB

www.cityyouthfc.com info@cityyouthfc.com

www.facebook.com/StAlbansCityYouthFC Twitter [@CityYouthFC](https://twitter.com/CityYouthFC)

Registered Charity No. 1089343

ST. ALBANS CITY YOUTH F.C.

Affiliated to:
Hertfordshire County F.A.

If anyone needs to renew their Safeguarding Recertification – I actively encourage you to do this via <http://www.thefa.com/learning/courses/online-safeguarding-children-re-certification>

Early Curtailment of the 2019/20 Season

As you will all be aware the Pandemic has caused the early curtailment of the 2019/20 season. This has brought uncertainty and hardship to many of our players' families but also to the Club. We hope that the majority of you will understand that as a Club we still have to meet many of our financial responsibilities. We are also missing out on vital opportunities for fundraising with the cancellation of the Summer Tournaments and the postponement of our Golf Day. These events were due to raise many thousands of pounds for the club which unfortunately now may not materialise.

However, we are your club; and we understand the financial uncertainty in the current climate. Under these extreme circumstances the Trustees have decided that should Parents/Guardians wish to apply for a partial refund of the 2019/20 season then they should do so in writing to the Treasurer (treasurer@cityyouthfc.com). It was decided that any potential refund be set at 10% of the annual fee (£19 for age groups U7-U12 and £21 for age groups U13-U18).

Registration Fees 2020/21 Season

As a further gesture of our commitment to all club members, our registration fees for next season will be **frozen** at current levels; U7-U12 £190 and U13-U18 £210.

Support for Those in Financial Difficulty (SFD Policy)

As many of you will be aware the Club is defined by the ethos of 'Football for All'. The Club is therefore in the progress of re-evaluating and updating its current 'Hardship' Policy in anticipation of challenges that the coming months may bring to many families. This will be communicated to you all and openly signposted at the earliest opportunity.

Community & Coaching

On a positive note our Community Managers, Charlie Boswell and Anthony Gosling, have been hard at work producing a fantastic 'skills at home' syllabus for our younger age groups to keep them engaged and to get them ready for the new season. Please watch out for an email regarding this and lots more information on our social media channels.

I realise there has been a lot to absorb in this first communication and I thank you for your time and consideration. Please look after yourselves and your families.

With kindest regards,



Sam Mardle
Chair of Trustees, St Albans City Youth FC



F.A. CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB

www.cityyouthfc.com info@cityyouthfc.com

www.facebook.com/StAlbansCityYouthFC Twitter [@CityYouthFC](https://twitter.com/CityYouthFC)

Registered Charity No. 1089343