



19th July 2020

Dear Members,

I provide this update with what appears to be a disappointing end to the rugby season. As you will no doubt be aware, with the reintroduction of Stage 3 restrictions Rugby Victoria and Southern Districts Rugby Club have suspended all training and rugby activities for the foreseeable future.

During this suspension period Rugby Victoria will be undertaking scoping work to develop possible models and scenarios to resume the season once restrictions are lifted. Although we fully support the opportunity for our members to safely play rugby, with transmissions remaining high it appears unlikely that we will be playing 2020. The Committee are therefore reviewing opportunities for off-season competitions and activities which will continue to keep our members engaged, continue to build our player base and to build their skills in preparation for what we hope to be a resumption of a more normal 2021 rugby season.

For those members who have paid "Player" registration fees for the 2020 season there a number of options available to you, including a refund. Due to the different components to registration fees the club will only be able to refund a certain component of the fee, however we will keep you updated as to whether further refunds become available. Details about registration options can be found on our website.

Whilst a 2020 rugby season is unlikely, I ask that you continue to support your club. This year the Club will not be able to rely on typical revenue streams such as match days and social events, which we would normally use to provide member benefits and cover club costs. Additionally, the delivery of training programs over an extended period, the building of playing squads, sustaining the additional costs of Covid-19 restrictions, and the development of new programs have all had an impact on the club resources. You can show your support for the club by purchasing a social membership, purchasing club merchandise, engaging in our programs and activities, or even showing your support for our sponsors; all of which assist the club and our community during this difficult time.

Although it is unlikely we will play rugby in its traditional form this year, I do not consider this the end of our "season". As a Committee we will continue to assess the landscape and look for opportunities to for us to engage as a club and community, including through a spring/summer touch/tag competition. Over the coming weeks the Committee will also be preparing for, and scheduling a Special General Meeting to vote on a new club Constitution. Due to the circumstances, this meeting will likely be a virtual meeting using one of the digital platforms and be the first of such in the club's history.

Until we can come together again as a club, please ensure you do your best to stay safe and look after each other during this period. Please also continue to engage with us on our social media platforms, check our website and send through any suggestions or enquiries to the Committee.

Further details about how you can continue supporting the club and about 2020 registrations can be found on our website at <https://www.southerndistrictsrugby.club/>.

Thank you and stay safe.

Travis de Gelder
President
Southern Districts Rugby Club