



## A letter from our Executive Director, Louis Richard

May 8, 2020

Dear FC Dallas-Emerald Coast Families-

I hope this letter finds your family healthy and safe during this challenging time. This spring is a unique situation for the entire world and like many other organizations, we are working to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. Your FC Dallas-Emerald Coast Board of Directors is continually reviewing information from experts, governing bodies of youth soccer, and government entities to evaluate our organizational plans and protocols. Our goal is to provide an environment where our players and coaches can safely return to the sport they love and ensure the ongoing success of our club.

Unfortunately, we had to make the decision to cancel the Emerald Coast Cup. FC Dallas-Emerald Coast hosts major tournament events (Emerald Coast Cup & Destin Soccer Rodeo) each year to support club revenue to keep costs low for players and maintain our status as a Nonprofit 501c3 organization. Despite the loss in club revenue from Hurricane Michael canceling Destin Soccer Rodeo in 2018 and the COVID-19 crisis cancelling Emerald Coast Cup 2020, FC Dallas-Emerald Coast remains a financially sound organization with a solid base from our families, a dedicated board of directors, and a professional coaching and training staff.

The Board of Directors created a financial plan of action to support the integrity and stability of FC Dallas-Emerald Coast with three key goals:

- **Support FCDEC Membership:** Stopped payments, refunds, deferred payments, scholarships, or discount codes were applied to player accounts depending on their program and form of payment. Many youth soccer clubs and sports leagues in our region were not able to provide this financial return to their members.
- **Fulfill FCDEC Financial Obligations:** Despite the ECC tournament cancellation, there were significant pre-tournament costs that could not be refunded, and we were able to satisfy these outstanding tournament expenses. FC Dallas-Emerald Coast was able to refund tournament entry fees for all teams who had paid (out of the 115 teams that had registered) as of March 31. This demonstrates integrity and the value that FCDEC places on inter-club relationships in the region. We received immediate thanks from some clubs for refunding full entry.

- **Maintain FCDEC Foundation & Growth:** We did this by retaining the entire coaching staff, improving our scholarship fund from new donations, and continuing to expand player opportunities moving forward through this crisis.

The FC Dallas-Emerald Coast Board of Directors continues to evaluate all current information and recommendations from US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and Florida Youth Soccer Association.

**CURRENT Return to Play Recommendation**

- May 15 US Youth Soccer
  - May 18 US Club Soccer
  - TBD, (Phase 3) Florida Youth Soccer Association
- [FYSA May 6 Document](#)

FC Dallas-Emerald Coast is currently making plans utilizing the guidance from US Club Soccer with the return to play date as May 18 for different parts of our program. The return to play date for STARS is May 18 and we expect to have the FCDEC Select teams follow soon after that with training, try-outs, and possible in-house events. When our governing organizations and governmental entities develop plans and protocols to return to play, we will follow those recommendations and update you on the process as we return to the field. The Adult League & the Youth Development Program are moving forward with restart dates in August & September. Depending on the timeline for FCDEC Select teams, there may be summer program opportunities as well.

**FCDEC Program**

- STARS
- Select/Academy teams
- 2020-21 Select Team Tryouts
- Summer Camp Program
- Youth Development Program (YDP)
- Adult League

**Return to Play Date (Subject to change)**

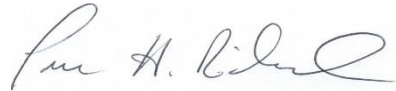
- May 18
- May 26
- TBA (Estimated June)
- TBD
- August
- August/September

Our goal remains to protect our players and their families while giving them an opportunity to return to play in the near future. We continue to learn more from medical experts every day and appreciate your patience as we work through this.

FC Dallas-Emerald Coast provides youth players in this region proper soccer development from a professional coaching staff, unique programs, and an MLS based curriculum. The structural foundation for FC Dallas-Emerald Coast has been laid out over the last 20 years in Northwest Florida with support from our MLS Club in Dallas, TX, countless local sacrifices of time, and extreme dedication to advance the game we love.

The loyal families of FC Dallas-Emerald Coast are the backbone of this amazing MLS affiliate club in the heart of Northwest Florida. The mission of FC Dallas-Emerald Coast has always been to provide our soccer players with the best technical training and playing environment necessary to reach the highest possible level of play. With the support of each other during this challenging time in history, we will continue to adjust, and together we will adapt and progress FC Dallas-Emerald Coast forward.

Stay safe and healthy! I look forward to meeting you all back on the field in the coming weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Richard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Louis Richard  
Executive Director  
FC Dallas-Emerald Coast

