

CHELSEA GULLS BASKETBALL



Dear Chelsea Gulls Families,

We sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and have managed the disruption of the past seven months as best you could. We have been encouraged by your support as well as the many positive messages we have received during this time. The one thing that has been so evident over this period is the critical role we play in the community by providing what we do as a club, so starkly apparent when it is absent. Many of us took the freedom to play basketball as something that just happened every week and never anticipated the impact and disappointment that this devastating pandemic would bestow upon us in 2020.

Unfortunately, this disruption has not bypassed us as a club. As you would be aware, we have had no basketball since late February and as a result no incoming revenue either. Whilst one may think this is insignificant for us as a club, it is not, as we are a not for profit association and our operational model has very little margin for coverage and absorption of a pandemic like this. We rely on cash flow to cover our commitment of wages, superannuation, utilities and fixed expense commitments.

This has proved very challenging for us as a club as we have employees to whom we have a responsibility under the current employment legislation, whilst balancing an obligation to you and our stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the club so the community has a place to return to once restrictions are reduced and we return back to normal in the future. We are very fortunate to have qualified for some government assistance although it must be noted this does not cover all our monthly commitments.

We have not been hasty with our financial communication to you as members as we needed to make sure that we were doing the right thing by yourselves as well as the club and ensuring that our approach was considered, prudent but more importantly made fiscal sense for all involved. We are also very aware of the financial impact this virus has had on our families and their financial position and what this might mean heading into the 2021 season and we expect many of our families may require payment plan assistance etc which we have always been willing to provide. In a nutshell there are many moving parts to this pandemic and how it affects us as individuals and a club right now and over the next few years.

The reality is that we had incurred at least half of the VJBL seasons costs when the COVID lockdown was announced not to mention the operational costs to keep the club doors open up to now. To get us halfway through the calendar period of the VJBL season there are court hire costs, rental costs, administration costs, wages and entitlements to name but a few of these expenses. Operationally we also have commitments that we had when the February lockdown started that do not just disappear and we will need financial support to navigate our way out of this over the next few years as we have players and families who have yet to pay a cent. Whilst we will be seeking financial institution support to ensure our long-term sustainability as a club, we are fortunate that we are a relatively small association.

After sketching the realities that we face right now as an association, what does this mean to you as members? Below is the approach that the club has adopted in the current circumstance. We think that you will find this a very fair approach and adoptive of your support to the club or lack thereof when it comes to the ability to recommence playing for us. We also have the Leagues backing to refuse player clearances where members have not met their financial obligation to us as an association for 2020.

The following scenarios apply:

- If you have paid your 2020 fees in full you will receive a credit of \$300 (50%) towards your 2021 season obligations
- If you have not paid any fees for 2020 season you will have to pay \$300 (50%) before you will be eligible to tryout and be selected for the 2021 season
- Should you require financial assistance in bridging your obligations please inform us accordingly using email accounts@chelseabasketball.com.au and each of these requests will be considered accordingly

On a final note, whilst the current circumstance is not ideal, we are confident that with our members support we can navigate our way through the impact of this pandemic and come out stronger the other side. We are no different to other clubs, businesses and families that have all been indelibly affected by COVID.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Chelsea & District Basketball Association Committee

