

5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Dear Boldens families,

The committee has made the very difficult decision not to proceed with entering Boldens teams into the Winter 2020 season.

Over the past 24 hours, it has become evident that the number of teams playing in the competition will be significantly reduced due to withdrawals by other large clubs.

As a result, the committee feels it would not be fair to our players and parents, especially during difficult financial times for some, to proceed in entering a competition which will likely be far less competitive and more uneven than a regular season due to the smaller number of teams.

Operating under the orange-50 covid restrictions which will be significantly more onerous on our players, parents and volunteers was something we considered at great length last week when we believed the competition would be at near full capacity. We believed at this time that the increased compliance protocols, slightly increased health risk and reduced spectator capacity were offset by the benefits of getting our kids back on the basketball court. However, the high chance that the competition will be uncompetitive and uneven (which is a continual source of player and parent frustration at times) has caused us to reconsider that position.

Some feedback during the latest confirmation process also indicated that many parents are concerned about the parent/spectator/sibling arrangements of the orange-50 restrictions, and nervous about the current situation in Victoria, and prospect of further state government restrictions and lockdowns affecting the season. Whilst it is unfortunately possible that these or other restrictions may still be in place for the summer season, the club and parents will be afforded more time to prepare for this possibility leading into summer season.

We do appreciate there were some players and parents who were keen to get back on the court, and we don't take this decision lightly. However, we believe it is the right thing to do for the Boldens parents, players, volunteers and club itself.

If any players would like to independently submit a team to play in the competition, the club would like to make that process as easy as possible. Any team who does this will be responsible for all aspects of their team's administration, finances, training/gamedays and other obligations.

However, the club will allow these teams to use the Boldens name and uniform for this purpose and may be able to assist the team in finding a training space (to be administered by the team itself with no other involvement from the club) if required.

The condition for teams operating under the Boldens name and/or uniform is that they are still bound by the Boldens code of conduct and we would expect them to play and behave appropriately. We also expect that all players, parents and teams will follow the covid protocols with 100% compliance.

As a club, we will now be focussing on more preparations for ensuring we can have a safe, competitive and amazing summer season, hopefully in a less uncertain and restrictive environment.

From a financial perspective we are happy to hold over all deposits for registered players into a summer season registration deposit when the time comes. For those families who require a refund, we will be in touch over the coming days with information on that process.

We are very keen to keep basketballs in our players' hands as much as possible during the winter season, and will endeavour to run some clinics, training sessions etc. for our players during this time. The committee will meet and discuss the logistics of this and advise.

We thank all of our parents and players for their understanding, and thank Aligned Leisure for their ongoing support and assistance during this time.

Regards

Richard Fox

President  
Boldens Basketball Club