



CITY HALL  
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

May 22, 2023

Dear Families of Hoboken City Futbol Club (HCFC),

I want to address recent inquiries my office received regarding the HCFC soccer program and its relationship with the City. At the outset, I would like to clarify that HCFC has no affiliation with the City of Hoboken's Division of Recreation. HCFC is a private organization and operates independent and separate from the City.

As a private organization, HCFC can secure space on City-owned fields as a permittee by submitting a request through the Division of Recreation, subject to City Code Ch. 58. To be clear, there has been an ordinance in place throughout the past six years (at least) for reserving field space. As it stands currently, HCFC has an outstanding balance of over \$76,000 for reserved field space between March and June of this year. According to City Code Ch. 58, organizations with outstanding balances cannot reserve field space in the future. Despite numerous attempts over the past several months by the City to contact the leadership of HCFC regarding this balance, the City has not received payment or any other response.

Given these unique circumstances, and in an effort to avoid any disruption to the hundreds of families that participate in this organization, I directed our staff to allow the Spring season to proceed uninterrupted.

Additionally, HCFC leadership has not submitted a request to the City to reserve field space for the upcoming Fall season. It is my understanding that HCFC is now asking families to pay for the Fall season. Entities are not permitted to reserve space without having paid the rental fee, therefore the HCFC will not be eligible to reserve field space again until their outstanding balance and any amounts owed moving forward are paid, and the process in the Hoboken City Code has been satisfied.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

I appreciate the importance of a competitive soccer program to our community and the positive impact it has on our children, as my son is also in this program. Moreover, I understand how critical recreation and the lessons learned from competitive athletics are for our youth. I assure you that the City of Hoboken is working to ensure the future of competitive soccer in Hoboken. Specifically, the City will be advertising to publicly procure a vendor to operate a travel soccer program in Hoboken. I am aware this brings uncertainty, but my administration and I will do our best to answer your questions as we move forward.

As HCFC is a private organization, and not a City program, I cannot speak to the future of their operations. But make no mistake, I am committed to ensuring that we will have travel soccer options available in the future for Hoboken families that operate with transparency and legal compliance.

Finally, I want to reiterate that the City of Hoboken remains dedicated to providing the best opportunities for our youth and maintaining a vibrant sports community in Hoboken. I believe, together, we can build a competitive soccer program that meets the needs and expectations of our families.

Very Truly Yours,



Ravi S. Bhalla  
Mayor of Hoboken