

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING PLAYER FEES FOR 2010-2011

The East Lansing Soccer Club is a not-for-profit, community-based volunteer organization that has been organizing and providing high-quality soccer instruction for more than 15 years. We serve over 500 children every year, providing programming for 5-year-olds through high-schoolers. In addition to our competitive and recreational programs, we offer an instructional league and a Kindergarten program for our youngest players. Although we have some part-time staffing to help keep everything running smoothly, the bulk of the work of the Club is provided by dozens of volunteers who graciously give of their time.

Despite that level of volunteer support, there are costs associated with youth sports such as ours. We must pay for field rentals, referee fees, insurance, training and equipment for our coaches, and our staffing and administrative costs. Although our Board of Directors is very frugal, those costs increase every year. Despite increasing costs, we have avoided raising our fees for several years, keeping the basic annual recreational-soccer fee at \$70, with the competitive-soccer/CASL families paying an additional \$90 per year per player.

For the 2010-2011 season, it will be necessary for the East Lansing Soccer Club to raise its fees to keep up with increasing expenses. We will also be changing how we collect those fees on the competitive/CASL side of our program. The new basic, annual recreational soccer fee will be \$80. Every player who registers with the soccer club, regardless of whether they will play recreational or CASL soccer, will pay that fee at the time of registration. For those who go on to play CASL soccer, an additional fee of \$95 will be due. The total CASL-soccer fee of \$175 per player will be due before the start of the 2010-2011 season. This means we will no longer be sending each family a bill in the winter or spring for the "second half" of their fees.

We anticipate that this may create some difficulty for some of you, and we will be explaining our scholarship policy on our website shortly. CASL itself also has scholarships available, and we encourage you to visit their website for more information.

We also encourage you to consider that, even with this fee increase, playing with the East Lansing Soccer Club remains one of the least-expensive organized youth-sports options available. According to their respective websites, the Chill SBC soccer program charges \$1,260 per year for U9-12, and \$1,560 per year for U13 and U14. TNT Dynamite Soccer charges between \$1,200 and \$1,900 per year across the same age range. With the East Lansing Soccer Club, your child receives training from coaches who have taken the same licensing courses as those that the for-profit programs require of their coaches, and your children play against some of the most talented youth players in the region. Our fees remain competitive compared to other sports alternatives as well. Just one week of the Dave Thomas Basketball clinic each summer costs \$125. Youth basketball over the course of the season charges \$1,750 per team for Tri-County and it is divided by how many players are on the team. Youth lacrosse in East Lansing currently costs between \$225 and \$150.

Playing with the East Lansing Soccer Club is still one of the most cost-effective choices you can make for your child. It is the intention of the Board of Directors that we keep our Club cost-effective for you, while continuing to offer quality training and fun and competitive games. Thank you for your understanding, and please let us know if you have any questions about the fee increase.

Geoffrey Ehnis-Clark
President, East Lansing Soccer Club