

METRO TACOMA FENCING CLUB

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26 July 2020

Dear Metro Tacoma Fencing Club Families and Friends,

This is an update about the health and direction of our club. Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) has been adjusting to our new normal with COVID-19, and we appreciate all the support of our members, friends, coaches, and board members during this challenging time.

While the board continues to be concerned about the long-term future of the club—particularly with increasing COVID-19 cases all over the country and in Washington State—we are cautiously optimistic about our current finances. We were completely closed to in-person fencing from 12 March 2020 through 5 June 2020. Many of our members and friends chose to continue supporting our club and our coaches with membership fees, private lesson fees, and donations. This generosity has been vital to our club. Thank you. We applied for and received funding from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) authorized by Congress to help support our coaches and our club for two months of our shut-down; those funds have been completely used as was required by the program. All our coaches took at least partial unemployment at certain periods during this pandemic to help stretch the MTFC emergency fund. And we are applying for other local grants to help with our financial situation. When Pierce County was allowed to reopen to in-person services, we started to slowly and carefully restart our small group classes and private lessons while continuing our virtual Zoom conditioning classes. Safety for our members and coaches continues to be our top priority. Stringent cleaning protocols were put in place during this time.

Traditionally August 1 is the beginning of the new fencing season. This year feels different and somber as the USA Fencing Summer National Championships were cancelled as were all other fencing tournaments since March. All our lives were upended in every way by this virus. But we are determined to be here for our community and for our coaches; the board is doing everything possible to help Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) weather this difficult period.

We have an updated fee schedule for membership, classes, and private lessons posted at our club webpage tacomafencing.com under the [FEES](#) tab. Every year we review our fees, and this year is no different. Our guiding principles have included: long term club financial stability, coach support, and flexibility for our fencing families. Our fees are subject to change but are expected to remain in effect until the end of 2020. As with most businesses in the country, we are taking a monthly financial loss which we feel we can currently manage. Club membership is how we pay for our non-salary costs including rent, utilities, and other expenses such as an increased budget for COVID-19 cleaning supplies. We are not increasing the membership fees at this time given the limited hours we have available for use of the facilities and that we cannot safely offer open fencing at this time. Our coaches rely on income from their classes and private lessons, and attendance is significantly lower than last season before the pandemic. We want to continue offering classes paid by the session or by

month with a discount. We are doing what we can to help support the coaches who are the foundation of our club, and thus we feel the need to raise the cost of private lesson fees however much we would like to avoid this. More details of the changes are found on our website. And we understand that for some families, the fee changes may be a significant burden. We have some limited funds available to offer [financial assistance](#), so please reach out to us if we can help.

A season membership is encouraged which helps the Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) budget. However, there is no refund to the season membership even in cases of club closure or personal injury/illness.

You can reach us at info@tacomafencing.com with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you again for being such an important part of our community.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toby L". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Toby Lee, MD on behalf of Diane Bartels, MD, Deborah Li, Jose Porras, Jiyon Kim, Lisa Wonneberg,
and Joy Kim
Metro Tacoma Fencing Club (MTFC) Board of Directors