



8 September 2020

Mrs. Patricia Allen
Honorary Secretary
Chief Leisure Officers Association

Dear Patricia

Re: Restructure of Intermediate Football

I write in respect of the above and to advise that at its meeting held on 27 August, the IFA Board considered the hugely changed football landscape in Northern Ireland since March 2020 as a result of Covid-19.

The ongoing financial impact on clubs (whilst yet to be fully understood) against the backdrop of an evolving global health pandemic is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, it is a matter of record that local councils across Northern Ireland (who are significant providers of Intermediate football facilities) are facing budget shortfalls due to Covid-19.

Following lengthy discussion on the subject, it was agreed that it was incumbent upon the Irish Football Association to act responsibly in choosing to safeguard the immediate financial viability and sustainability of current Intermediate Clubs. It was therefore, further agreed that the planned restructure of the Intermediate game will be discontinued at this time.

However, it fully remains the intention of the IFA Board to bring about a restructure of the football pyramid in due course as it remains imperative that a clear and equitable pathway is created for ambitious clubs.

This will provide greater opportunity for those ambitious clubs and players with aspirations to progress through the pyramid and continually compete at the highest level of competition possible. In doing so, it will strengthen the overall Performance Game element of the football pyramid, whilst also continuing to cater for those clubs where a more recreational centered football philosophy is more often than not viewed as of greater importance than a desire to continually seek progress and advancement to a higher level.

I trust that you will take note of the above and communicate to members as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Murphy
Chief Operating Officer