



FENCERS CLUB  
EST. 1883

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Dear Fencers Club Community,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. It is hard to believe it has been less than four weeks since government actions in response to the coronavirus precipitated the physical closure of Fencers Club. However, through the tireless work of our Executive Director Liz Cross, Programs Director Mallory Miller, and our coaches, Fencers Club Online is proving to be a vital new way to keep our community engaged, active and connected.

We know this is a tough time for all of us, mentally, physically, financially, and emotionally. I hope silver linings during this horrible period have been a chance for families to spend more time together and for each of us to have even greater appreciation for how important our social bonds are, often felt most powerfully when we can gather together.

In this difficult time, the Board is trying to balance the needs of our community, including being compassionate about our families' financial constraints, with the financial damage the club is incurring. With club revenues down over 75% since our March 13<sup>th</sup> physical closure, and the costs to maintain our current lease for West 28<sup>th</sup> Street, the mortgage on our new permanent home on West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and soon to begin costs for construction of our new home once construction is permitted, our operating losses are painful. The club is actively pursuing numerous funding opportunities offered by federal and local relief programs.

That said, we want to provide our members with options to help address the financial hardships they may be facing regarding fencing expenses while also providing the members an opportunity to support the club if they are in position to do so.

For members who have recently seen, or will soon face, an expiration of their annual club membership, we would like to offer an alternative to having to pay the full year membership renewal fee upfront. We will offer members the option to pay a monthly pro-rated membership (i.e., 1/12<sup>th</sup> of their full year amount) until we reopen our physical space. Note this monthly amount is greater than 60% less expensive than a regular one month membership. By retaining your membership, one can continue to

have access to FC Online classes and lessons, which are only for active members. Once we are able to reopen the club, we ask that the full annual renewal payment be submitted, starting a fresh new membership at that time.

For members that are opting not to participate in FC Online and don't plan to, waiting for our physical space to reopen, we will offer the opportunity to freeze your membership until our physical reopening. While this freezing of membership loses access to FC Online, given FC Online is only for active members, the extension of one's membership expiration date defers the eventual fee to renew the annual membership.

Lastly, for those members who are not using FC Online but are able and willing to support our club in this difficult time, they can choose to not freeze their membership during the period our physical space is closed but the club can still provide some financial assistance. By generously choosing this option, the club will honor the portion of this unused membership while the club's space is closed as a donation to FC.

If you have any questions about these policy initiatives to assist our community during this difficult time, please contact the club.

Please notify [info@fencersclub.org](mailto:info@fencersclub.org) of your choice by this Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. If we do not hear from you by then, we will default to not freezing your membership during the period our physical space is closed and we will honor the portion of your unused membership as a donation.

We welcome any financial assistance you can provide the club during this time.

I hope next time I write all of you, I can announce the reopening of our current space, provide an update on construction of our future home, and address the excitement and love for fencing that our fencing community is feeling and is about to be unleashed as we gather together once again.

I pass along my best wishes and support to you and your families.

Sincerely,

David Raso  
Chairman, Fencers Club



COMMUNITY OLYMPIC  
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FENCERS CLUB

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