



ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION INC.

2015 Pan Am Boulevard, Suite 2, Milton, Ontario L9E 0K7

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OCA Announcement on Membership Compensation as a Result of COVID-19

It is hard to imagine that it has been 130+ days since our cycling season came to a grinding halt as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. So many different phases of the sport were in play at the time: The Ontario track season had just ended with Junior/Para Nationals on the horizon, some of our young athletes had just returned from a training camp in Spain, our first road race was just around the corner in a few weeks, while many of our clubs and teams were mere days away from starting their outdoor seasons.

For many, it was a time of great anticipation of an exciting cycling season to come, and with that in mind, many of you purchased a UCI licence, Citizen Permit or an Affiliate Club Membership. COVID-19 notwithstanding, on the Ontario Cycling Association side the calendar was built out, plans were made, and contracts were signed. Just as we were about to ramp up outdoor for the road and mountain bike season, the world changed overnight.

With opportunities to ride, race or participate having been extremely limited over the last few months, a small number of you have enquired about the possibility of a refund. Despite the government-imposed lockdown, the organization continued in good faith to prepare for a cycling season that, in the final analysis, would not take place in the normal way. In truth, it is still unclear what will be permitted in the coming months.

“Trying to see what lurks around the corner has been a huge challenge in striking the balance between the needs of the membership and those of the organization,” said Chris Reid, Chair of the Ontario Cycling Association Board. Surviving the exceptional circumstances arising from the pandemic will come from finding where the junction is between supporting the organization and meeting with fairness those who have signed up for a membership.

“In the hopes of returning to normal at some point, we have been continuing to work which has meant incurring certain fixed costs like the insurance, which is pre-paid and non-refundable, in addition to other operating expenses,” said Jim Crosscombe, Chief Executive Officer. “The good news is that as we continue to progress through the various stages outlined by the Ontario government, opportunities for organized cycling have started to open up.” Although the activity is primarily at the club level for the moment, it is hoped that by the fall there may be physically distanced competitive opportunities that develop.

We are halfway through 2020 and are encouraged to be able to report that the OCA is in a stable financial position despite a significant downturn in revenue. This current state of affairs means that we are able to offer a partial credit towards a 2021 membership, or a limited cash refund, to those who would like to apply. We recognize that everybody’s personal financial situation is different and acknowledge that our season has been drastically reduced. This arrangement would allow for relief for some of our members as well ensure the sustainability of the association.



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Some will decide to take us up on the refund or credit options, while others may simply accept that by not taking a credit or refund, they are signalling a strong gesture of support for the Ontario Cycling Association. For those in this situation there is a further option to direct the value of your credit towards various OCA programs – Youth Development, Women’s Initiatives, High Performance Development, or an Organizer Event fund.

“This refund decision comes in the wake of wanting to demonstrate a sincere appreciation for the unusual times in which we all find ourselves. It cannot be overstated: we value you, the members, and what you bring to the Ontario Cycling Association and will do what we can to make sure we all come through this together as strongly as possible,” said Chris Reid.

If you want to contact the Ontario Cycling Association with any questions or feedback, please email us at compensation@ontariocycling.org For more information, visit the website: www.ontariocycling.org