

February 1, 2021

We, the Supporter Groups of Atlanta United, support the Major League Soccer Players Association (MLSPA) in their continuing negotiations with MLS of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

As we entered the 2020 season there was no way to predict what the season would present and the sacrifices to be made by players, fans, and teams alike. Now we are faced with another uncertain season with the continued negotiations between MLS and the MLSPA. As supporters of the game, and our teams, we ask as a collective group that MLS consider the hardships that lack of play and continued uncertainty of the season will have on all involved in making soccer in the North Americas possible and work diligently to return the players to the pitch in safe & equitable situations. The communities involved are affected through financial and social aspects and will continue to suffer when the season is affected. 2021 was intended to be a brighter season than 2020 but as of now we are left uncertain of its future.

Don Garber, MLS Commissioner, once said, “Our future is going to have us looking to these special players as the foundations for the sport, and we need to find ways to provide salaries that are competitive with other parts of the world. More important than that, we need them to believe in the league and their role in building the sport.” We have been asked by our commissioner to acknowledge the importance of our players in growing the sport. He has also tasked us with promoting recognition of their role in bringing MLS to the same level of respect as other international leagues. We now ask the same of him and the other members of the MLS board to collaborate with the MLSPA to find fair results for the players in their request to return to play.

A stoppage in play, or further delay in season, will only continue to tarnish the strides that have been accomplished so again we ask to let the players return to the pitch with safe provisions. The upcoming season has the potential to assist in bringing stability to wavering markets and normalcy to fans & supporters. MLS has a following old enough to remember its inception and owes it to these persons to bring forth all necessary dialogue to keep soccer on the pitch. We are looking to MLS to take into consideration its opportunity to solidify the league as one of the best to play for and support in the world.

#LetThemPlay2021

Atlanta United SGs:

All Stripes

The Faction

Footie Mob

La 12 de Atlanta

Terminus Legion

