



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of June 18, 2020*

**subject to change*

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General Questions

What guidance is MSYSA using to make its decision about a return-to-play date and about whether to postpone or cancel certain MSYSA programs/events?

MSYSA is using guidance from the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, US Youth Soccer, US Soccer, University of Michigan School of Public Health and MSYSA's insurance carrier.

If MSYSA further delays or cancels the Spring/Summer 2020 season, but soccer is not canceled in a different state, can my team travel there to play in a tournament?

No. MSYSA will not affiliate, sanction, or insure activities, such as team travel, until it is deemed safe to return to play in Michigan first.

If MSYSA cancels the Spring/Summer 2020 season, can our club/league still decide to continue our soccer programming anyway?

MSYSA will not affiliate, sanction, or insure activities of any kind until it is deemed safe to return to play.



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Do I get a refund if my club decides not to participate in the spring season if/when soccer resumes?

Please make contact with your child's club. Team/Club fees paid by parents directly to clubs should be addressed with your child's club and not with MSYSA. MSYSA does not intervene, as a third party, in parent/club financial agreements/obligations.

If a league cancels its spring season but MSYSA later communicates that it is safe to return to play, will players & team officials still be covered under MSYSA insurance during the summer months in order to participate in practices, trainings, scrimmages, sanctioned tournaments, etc.?

Yes. Based on challenges related to COVID-19, MSYSA's insurance carrier is extending some flexibility this year on coverage of our players/team officials. Typically, coverage for the 20-21 season would not normally start until closer to the fall. However, as of June 5, our carrier has relayed that secondary medical insurance is being extended through August 31, 2020, for all players training with an existing club or new club. As in past years, direct member leagues must submit Fall 2020 registration data (& final payment) to MSYSA in late September.

What is MSYSA anticipating in terms of what return-to-play will look like? Will it be regional or statewide? Will it be gradual (varying levels of activity reintroduced in phases) or all-or-nothing? Does MSYSA expect to receive further guidance from the state, USYS, etc. regarding "how" to return-to-play?

As of June 5, 2020, MSYSA has returned to training. Please review [MSYSA R2T Guidelines](#), which is available on our website.

Club Tryouts

With respect to the initially scheduled June 13th Official Try-Out Start Date, MSYSA will not be sanctioning or insuring in-person try-outs this year. Current social distancing restrictions in the State of Michigan are not likely to be relaxed to enable a traditional try-out event. Having considered a number of options, and in the absence of in-person try-outs this year, MSYSA has adopted a [2020-2021 Travel Team Formation Policy](#), along with related [rule changes](#), effective April 27, 2020. To give clubs a realistic idea of what types of communication are acceptable and not acceptable, please view the [Club-Parent Communications Document](#).

Spring 2020 Registration

Is MSYSA pushing back the spring registration deadlines?



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MSYSA's insurance carrier recently relayed new information with regards to insurance coverage (once it is safe to return to play). Based on challenges related to COVID-19, our carrier has relayed that secondary medical insurance coverage is being extended through August 31, 2020, for all players training with an existing club or new club. **Thus, MSYSA does not anticipate that any additional "spring" registrations will be submitted to MSYSA for the 2019-2020 seasonal year.**

If there is no Spring 2020 season, what happens to the money I paid to MSYSA as my initial spring registration payment?

At the conclusion of the seasonal year, any existing credit balances on registration accounts in GotSoccer will be refunded back to clubs and leagues. If the Spring 2020 season is canceled, or if your club/league decides to cancel your spring season programming, MSYSA will issue and mail a refund check back to your organization. The amount of the refund will be equal to the amount of your credit balance showing in GotSoccer for registration. Information on registration refunds was emailed to affected club and league representatives on June 5, 2020. For more information, or if your organization did not receive an email but you believe you are owed a refund, please email dhenry@michiganyouthsoccer.org.

State Cup, Junior State Cup, Midwest Regional and National Championships

What happened with the Spring 2020 State Cup and Junior State Cup?

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 Spring State Cup and Junior State Cup were cancelled before games even began. Teams/clubs were provided a full refund.

What is the plan for the upcoming Fall State Cup?

Right now, we are hopeful that soccer will resume in time for an uninterrupted Fall State Cup. In fact, Fall State Cup information is posted on our website and applications are currently being accepted. With that said, there are a couple big changes with the format of State Cup that teams & clubs can expect. They are outlined below:

- There are now two (2) divisions in State Cup.
- The top division is called the ELITE division and it is expected to be composed mainly of teams that participate in the NLC and MSPSP Premier 1. Other teams may be considered as "wildcard" teams when extra teams are needed to fill open holes in brackets.
- The next division is called the PREMIER division and it is expected to be composed mainly of teams that participate in MSPSP (not Premier 1) and other select leagues around the state.
- Teams in the Elite Division are competing to earn spots at the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships and potentially the National Championships. Meanwhile, teams in the



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Premier Division are competing to earn spots at the US Youth Soccer Midwest President's Cup and potentially the National President's Cup.

- The cost to participate is \$695 for teams in the Elite Division and \$595 for teams in the Premier Division.
- This year, teams in the Premier Division will be placed into brackets loosely based on geography. Meanwhile, teams in the Elite Division will be placed into brackets based on a seeding process and a double-blind draw.
- Regardless of division, teams will play either three (3) or four (4) preliminary games.
- It is expected that there will not be a Round of 16 (for either division). In that case, Quarterfinals & Semifinals will be held the first MSYSA-hosted weekend (October 3-4) and Finals will be held the second MSYSA-hosted weekend (October 17-18).

Please refer to the posted State Cup rules regarding the format of the tournament. As always, feel free to contact MSYSA (sarah@michiganyouthsoccer.org) with questions about the new format.

What happened with the 2020 US Youth Soccer Regional and National Championships?

US Youth Soccer announced on March 31, 2020, that the Midwest Regional Championships and the US Youth Soccer National Championships were canceled.

Director's Academy

What happened with the 2020 spring season of the Director's Academy?

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 spring season of the Director's Academy was cancelled before games even began. Clubs were provided a partial refund in the amount of \$640 per DA team.

What's the plan for the 2020 fall season of Director's Academy?

Right now, MSYSA is hoping/planning for a full fall season. Accepted clubs have been announced, and clubs should finalize individual team involvement in GotSoccer by June 22. Shortly thereafter, MSYSA will seek feedback from clubs on divisioning, and then match-ups will be determined and scheduling will begin.

National League Conferences

What happened with the 2020 spring season of the National League Conference (NLC)?

On April 15, US Youth Soccer cancelled all National League Conferences (NLC) games.

Since there is no spring season for NLC teams, will refunds be given?



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Yes. MSYSA refunded clubs the team registration fee (\$425 per team) for their spring season only teams. Note: Teams who played NLC or National League in the fall/winter are not eligible for refunds.

Decisions on whether to refund the programming fees (\$550) are at the discretion of US Youth Soccer. US Youth Soccer has announced that they will refund \$300 per team. The refunds will be sent to the state associations for disbursements to clubs. When MSYSA receives this money, it will be sent to each applicable club.

What's the plan for the 2020 fall season of National League Conferences?

Right now, US Youth Soccer is hoping/planning for a full fall season. Applications for the Fall season are currently being accepted. They are due July 5. More information is available is on the [MSYSA website](#), and the US Youth Soccer website for both the [Great Lakes Conference](#) and the [Midwest Conference](#).

US Youth Soccer has acknowledged that the situation with COVID-19 is always changing and has stated that they are looking into alternative play options for teams that would require less travel and accommodation if a full fall season is not feasible.

MSPSP

What's the plan for the 2020 fall season of MSPSP?

Right now, MSPSP is hoping/planning for a Fall 2020 season. Registration deadline for team enrollment will be July 11th, and player registration is due July 18th. The MSPSP Board of Directors will evaluate the changing climate to further assist clubs and teams with participation and will also permit flexibility in many rostering scenarios such as rule amendments permitting a minimum roster of 14 and evaluating all requests.

For more MSPSP information, visit www.mspsl.org

MSYSA Summer League

What is the MSYSA summer league we have been hearing about?

When it was announced that the spring 2020 season would be cancelled, MSYSA immediately began to make plans for some sort of summer programming. However, as the pandemic has continued to keep us all at home, it has become obvious that it simply will not be feasible or safe to jump into playing games in July. Thus, the MSYSA plans for a summer league have been cancelled.



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ODP & ODP 101

What does the cancellation of ODP Regional Camp mean for future Inter-Regional Events? How will those players be selected?

US Youth Soccer has cancelled all ODP Regional Camps. However, US Youth Soccer is hopeful its Fall Inter-Regional Events will take place. Currently, there will be 36 players selected per age group, per gender. State Associations will submit their 36 player rosters for each age group and gender by early August. Shortly after, players will receive invitations to participate in the Inter-Regional Events. We will compose player selection from the following elements:

- USYS State Association identification processes currently underway (2019-2020 State Teams)
- Player's participating in the 2019 USYS ODP Inter-Regional invite process
- USYS ODP consultation with USYS State Technical Directors and leadership to identify emerging talent

If you have further inquiries about US Youth Soccer ODP, please email [Mica Goodrich](mailto:Mica.Goodrich@usyouthsoccer.org) for assistance.

Will the ODP ID Weekend (Tryouts) be postponed, or even canceled?

At this time, the ODP ID Weekend has not been postponed or canceled. We hope to hold the event July 31- August 2, 2020 at Canton Independence Park in Canton, MI. The cost to register is \$125, if registered before July 11, 2020. If anything changes, Brandon Francis from MSYSA will be in touch, via email, with registered participants.

What will happen with ODP 101/GK Academy Summer registrations?

The ODP 101/GK Academy Summer sessions have been canceled. For both ODP 101 and GK Academy, registered participants will receive a:

- Full refund - If registered for Spring Only, Summer Only, or Spring & Summer
- Prorated refund - If registered for Full Season, Fall & Spring, Fall & Summer, Winter & Spring, or Winter & Summer

MSYSA will begin the refund process as soon as possible. Please note that the refund will be issued to the credit card that was used to register your player in GotSoccer. If there are any questions or concerns you may have about your refund, please feel free to email Brandon Francis at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance.

Tournament Sanctioning

What will happen to my sanctioned tournament and sanctioning fee?



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Currently, MSYSA will not sanction or insure any affiliated tournaments through July 31, 2020. However, this could change and be extended. Tournament Directors are encouraged to contact Brandon Francis, MSYSA Programs Coordinator, at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org, on rescheduling tournaments impacted by this temporary pause. Approval of new tournament dates is required from the MSYSA State Office in order for tournament to retain "MSYSA Sanctioned" status and insurance coverage.

Can I cancel my tournament (due to COVID-19) even if soccer resumes?

Yes. The MSYSA sanctioning fee and tournament bond are refundable. Please contact Brandon Francis at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance.

Can I still hold my tournament without MSYSA sanctioning?

If you choose to hold a non-MSYSA sanctioned tournament, MSYSA insurance coverage is NOT extended.

Coach Education

What will happen with the US Soccer Coaching Education courses that are currently 'in-session', and those on the horizon?

This decision will be made by US Soccer. Currently, all US Soccer Coaching Education courses hosted by MSYSA have been suspended through June 30, 2020. MSYSA will reschedule pre-July 2020 courses to a later date. MSYSA is currently in the process of scheduling courses for late July and early August and will announce the new course dates soon. In addition, the National 'C' Course is moving forward as scheduled. Refunds by MSYSA will be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact Brandon Francis, bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

Certificates of Insurance

Are we (MSYSA) issuing new Certificates of Insurance?

MSYSA will resume issuing certificates of insurance for outdoor fields only, from Friday, June 5, 2020. Please contact Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

Are players/team officials covered if they contract COVID-19 at a soccer related activity?

No. MSYSA's secondary medical insurance coverages excludes illnesses, such as COVID-19.



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Guest Player Pass Cards

If the spring season is canceled, can we secure a refund for Guest Player Pass Cards (GPPs) issued for the spring season issued prior to the temporary pause?

This is not known at the moment. Please contact Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

When will MSYSA be issuing Guest Player Pass Cards again?

MSYSA will not process any Guest Player Pass Card requests until it is deemed safe to return to play. Please contact Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

Tournament Only Teams

When will MSYSA be issuing Tournament Only Teams again?

MSYSA will not process Tournament Only Team requests until it is deemed safe to return to play. Please contact Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

If clubs are still taking registration for tournaments and they have a registration deadline, can we still get a Tournament Only Team, so their deadline is not missed?

Please contact the Tournament Director. MSYSA will not process Tournament Only Team Requests until it is deemed safe to return to play. Please contact Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

Soccer Camps

Is my organization allowed to hold a soccer camp this summer?

Yes, subject to guidance from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. It is highly recommended that groups within a camp be limited to 10 or fewer campers. For more information about day camps, residential camps, and/or camp guidance, please [click here](#).