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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.

Do I get a refund if my club decides not to participate in the fall 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.

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.
Fall 2020 Registration

Are there any changes for Fall 2020 registration for MSYSA direct member leagues (due to COVID-19)?

Information about league registration is available on the League Registration page of our website. Fall registration deadlines have not changed. However, there was an adjustment to our late fee schedule for registrations submitted after the final deadline, which is reflected on our 2020-2021 Fee Structure document. Also, a change was made regarding how initial registration invoices will be calculated for 2020-2021 registration, which was communicated via email to league representatives in late June. If you did not receive that email or have other registration-related questions, please reach out to Danielle Henry via email.

What if my league decides to cancel our Fall 2020 season?

If you are a direct member league and you’ve decided to cancel your fall 2020 season programming, please reach out to Danielle Henry via email as soon as possible in order to notify MSYSA and identify any next steps.

Fall 2020 State Cup

What is the plan for the upcoming Fall State Cup?

Up to this point, MSYSA was hopeful that soccer would resume in time for an uninterrupted Fall State Cup. Teams had been accepted, match-ups were established, and games were scheduled.

On July 14, MSYSA communicated that the start of the tournament had been delayed by about 2 weeks but that we still hoped to play the tournament.

Internally, we planned to make a decision on/around August 7 regarding whether the tournament would proceed ‘as normal’.

As of August 7, it does not appear that the tournament will be able to proceed ‘as normal’. At this time, MSYSA plans to run State Cup as more of an ‘invitational’ and the format will change. This means that only a small number of teams (from those who were initially accepted) will be invited to participate and the remaining teams will be refunded in their entirety.

MSYSA aims to invite eight (8) teams per age/gender/division to participate. Those eight teams will be placed into two brackets of four teams. Teams will play three round-robin games (self-scheduled) and the top team from each bracket will advance to the championship game. The hope is to play round-
robin games in September/October and then to play the championships games in October/November. An exact calendar will depend on when games resume.

MSYSA aims to send out invitations beginning the week of August 10. For the Elite Division, the top eight seeded teams will be invited first. For the Premier Division, teams will be invited based on their Fall 2019 standings and prior State Cup participation. If an invited team elects not to participate, MSYSA will send out additional invitations until all spots are filled.

Teams who are not part of the eight teams per age/gender/division can expect to start seeing refunds on their credit cards the week of August 17.

MSYSA acknowledges that this is far from ideal. We were excited to announce the new format of State Cup with two divisions and were encouraged to see an increase in participating teams. We always want all interested teams to participate! However, with the start of games remaining uncertain, MSYSA felt there was simply not enough time for clubs/teams to transition back into playing soccer with contact and to play the tournament as initially scheduled. We know teams will be disappointed if not invited to participate and we share your disappointment. Hopefully, games can get going in time for a fall league season and everyone can appreciate a return to league play.

If conditions necessitate further delays, MSYSA may make additional changes to the tournament, such as establishing knock-out rounds with the eight invited/accepted teams instead of round-robin play. More information will be communicated to those teams if/as conditions necessitate changes.

**Director’s Academy**

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

Right now, we are hopeful that soccer will resume in time for some sort of fall season of the Director’s Academy. Teams have been accepted, match-ups established, and games scheduled.

As of August 7, MSYSA has pushed back the start of the season until at least September 1. Games that were originally scheduled for August will be cancelled. Teams may re-schedule those games now or hold off a bit until more is known.

Teams with Canadian-based opponents are advised that the US-Canada border is still closed, and those games should not be scheduled at this time.

As of August 7, MSYSA is in the process of registering teams for the Director’s Academy although pass cards and rosters will not be distributed until a undertermined time in the future when playing games is an imminent reality.
When MSYSA begins to distribute rosters and pass cards, MSYSA will also begin to invoice clubs for the team registration fees ($275).

It is our hope to have some sort of fall season, even if just a shortened season. However, if games are not an imminent reality by September 15, it is likely the fall season will be canceled.

If the fall season is unable to be played in its entirety, clubs will be refunded for the missed fall season (keeping in mind that some money will be retained for the spring season which includes the JRSC).

MSYSA is aware that there will be challenges and concerns related to COVID-19. If (as) conditions change, so too may the rules, deadlines, etc. MSYSA is prepared to be flexible with reschedule requests and club pass carding requests for situations relating to COVID-19. Teams should contact sarah@michiganyouthsoccer.org with questions, concerns, reschedule requests, etc.

**National League**

**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.

As of August 7, fall divisions have been posted online.

As of August 7, MSYSA is in the process of registering teams for the NLC although pass cards and rosters will not be distributed until a undertermined time in the future.

**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
Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

- USYS ODP consultation with USYS State Technical Directors and leadership to identify emerging talent

If you have further inquiries about US Youth Soccer Regional ODP, please email Mica Goodrich for assistance.

**Since the ID Weekend was cancelled, will there be ODP programming this year?**

MSYSA intends on holding an alternative to the ID Weekend event later this year. Tentatively, the ODP Tryouts will take place on November 28-29, December 26-29, and January 2-3. Birth year will determine which set of days and times players will attend. Once remaining details and a facility are finalized, we will post all relevant registration information to our website and social media channels. We anticipate this information being available soon. Please email Brandon Francis with specific inquiries regarding ODP.

**Tournament Sanctioning**

**What will happen to my sanctioned tournament and sanctioning fee?**

Currently, MSYSA will not sanction or insure any affiliated tournaments through August 31, 2020. However, this could change and be extended. All tournaments that are cancelled due to COVID-19 are eligible for a refund of their Sanctioning Fee/Bond. In order to begin the refund process, Tournament Directors are encouraged to contact Brandon Francis, MSYSA Programs Coordinator, at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org with a refund request for their tournament. MSYSA will not transfer Sanctioning Fees/Bonds to the following seasonal year. Tournaments that are cancelled must reapply for sanctioning in the 2020-2021 seasonal year. We anticipate this being available in September 2020.

**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 August 31, 2020. MSYSA is currently in the process of scheduling courses for the Fall and will announce the new course dates soon. In addition, the National ‘C’ Course format has changed: Phase 1 will be online-only and begin in September. Phase 2 will be in-person and begin in December. Additional course details for the National ‘C’ License will be made available on our website in the near future. Refunds by MSYSA will be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact Brandon Francis, bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.
**MSPSP**

**What is the plan for MSPSP this fall?**

MSPSP hopes to hold our traditional Fall 2020 competitive season.

The MSPSP season start date has been moved to September 1\(^{st}\) at the earliest, formally August 21\(^{st}\). These dates are subject to change due to the ongoing circumstances.

In the event of further delay, a reduction of matches is likely and as a result, divisions could change to facilitate lower match counts.

**What is the plan for Scheduling?**

MSPSP has determined to resume scheduling operations on Monday, August 17\(^{th}\) in regards to scheduling fixtures for the Fall 2020 season.

**How can I stay informed with MSPSP?**

MSPSP communicates primarily via GotSoccer Club Staff Communications (email). Your clubs staff should be added / removed / up to date on your Club page to keep up to date on MSPSP communications. It is important that your club address is also up to date for any MSPSP mailings.

If (as) conditions change, so too may the rules, deadlines, etc. MSPSP is prepared to be flexible with reschedule requests relating to COVID-19. In the event that there are any rule changes – MSPSP will communicate this as well as post this information to our website as applicable.

**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.

Presently we cannot issue COI’s for the upcoming 2020-2021 season. If you need COI’s for the 2020-2021 season, please email Julie Pearson at jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org and they will be issued once our insurance rolls over into the new seasonal year. COI’s for the 2020-2021 season should be available mid-August 2020.
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.

**Guest Player Pass Cards**

**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.