



# Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of September 16, 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.

**How does MSYSA define 'facial covering'?**

MSYSA defines 'facial covering' as a clean cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that **covers both the mouth and nose**, including, but not limited to surgical masks, handmade or homemade. Athletes should utilize a facial covering size that comfortably covers both the mouth and nose. Athletes are encouraged to bring more than one facial covering to trainings, practices, and games in the event the facial covering is damaged, falls off, gets wet, or is bloodied in any way. Note: The use of plastic 'face shields' is not permissible as a substitute for facial coverings in matches affiliated with MSYSA.

**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.



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**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 RTP 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?**

As of September 8, the Fall State Cup is ‘on’, although in a significantly different format. Unfortunately, the change in format also reduced the number of participating teams, and many good teams who have played in MSYSA programs and tournament for years were left out. This was not an easy decision for MSYSA, but the best chance for having semblance of a Fall State Cup.

On September 8, it was communicated to teams participating in the new format that State Cup preliminary games would be played September 19 – October 11, 2020. Teams are to self-schedule their games and report the game schedules to MSYSA via email by September 13 ([StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org)).



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It is expected that the Final rounds of State Cup will be played October 24 – 25, 2020 in Saginaw.

MSYSA will distribute game day guidelines and processes to teams that will be in effect for the preliminary and Final rounds of State Cup. Notable items include the limitation of spectators, a face recovering requirement for players (and coaches & spectators), and changes to field layout.

The teams not selected for the new format of State Cup were refunded in their entirety on August 17. Refunds were credited to the credit card on file with the State Cup application.

MSYSA acknowledges that the new format is far from ideal. We hope that the new format allows some semblance of the tournament. However, if conditions necessitate further delays, MSYSA may make additional changes to the tournament, such as establishing knock-out rounds instead of round-robin play or changing the tournament calendar. More information will be communicated to teams if/as conditions necessitate changes.

## **Director's Academy**

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

As of September 8, the fall season of the Director's Academy is 'on', although schedules have been reduced to 6 games per team. The majority of games are already scheduled, and referees will be assigned to games shortly.

MSYSA is still in the process of registering teams for the Director's Academy. Rosters and pass cards will be distributed beginning September 11 for registered teams.

As games are now an imminent reality, MSYSA will begin invoicing clubs for the team registration fees. Registration fees are \$275 per team, although there will be a credit for reduction in fall season games. Prior to the season starting, MSYSA will distribute game day guidelines and processes to teams that will be in effect for the Director's Academy. Notable items include the limitation of spectators, a face recovering requirement for players (and coaches & spectators), and changes to field layout.

MSYSA is aware that there will continue to 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](mailto:sarah@michiganyouthsoccer.org) with questions, concerns, reschedule requests, etc.



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## National League

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

As of September 8, the fall season of the National League Conferences are underway.

MSYSA is in the process of registering teams, and distributing rosters and pass cards. Please contact [sarah@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:sarah@michiganyouthsoccer.org) with NLC-specific registration questions.

## ODP & ODP 101

### **What is the status of future Inter-Regional Events? How will those players be selected?**

US Youth Soccer is hopeful its November Inter-Regional Events in Orlando, FL will take place. Players should receive invitations to participate in the Inter-Regional Events by the end of September at the latest. Player selection was determined 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 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. The ODP Tryouts will take place on November 28-29, December 26-29, and January 2-3 at Total Soccer Wixom. Please [visit our website](#) to learn more about cost, specific dates of tryout sessions, etc. If you have any specific inquiries regarding ODP, please [email Brandon Francis](#), MSYSA Programs Coordinator.

### **Will there be ODP 101 programming this year?**

MSYSA has opened registration for [ODP 101](#) and [ODP Goalkeeper Academy](#) for the 2020-21 seasonal year. This year, the program will offer training sessions during the winter, spring, and summer seasons. Please visit our website to learn more about the various registration packages (full year, half year, etc), as well as dates and times for specific trainings. If you have inquiries regarding ODP 101 or ODP Goalkeeper Academy, please [email Brandon Francis](#), MSYSA Programs Coordinator.



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## Tournament Sanctioning

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

Currently, MSYSA will not sanction or insure any affiliated tournaments through October 31, 2020. However, this could change and be extended. Affiliated tournaments may begin the application process for sanctioning on September 11, 2020 for tournaments taking place during the 2020-21 seasonal year. Current restrictions will make the conducting of traditional tournament formats impractical and challenging. Please consider this as you plan and promote your tournaments. Please contact Brandon Francis, MSYSA Programs Coordinator, at [bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org) with any questions you may have regarding your respective tournament.

## 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 **\*in-person\*** courses hosted by MSYSA have been suspended through December 31, 2020. MSYSA has published new Grassroots In-person (blended) courses (11v11, 9v9, 7v7) on our website for October and November and will announce future course dates soon. Please [visit our website](#) to view the new courses and to register.

## MSPSP

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

MSPSP will proceed with a Fall 2020 season beginning Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and ending Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

While MSPSP is excited to return to competitive soccer, this will unfortunately not be a traditional fall season – the season has been shortened, there are less matches, many divisions are 'halved', and there is a requirement issued by the Governor for all players to wear facial coverings or face/neck gaiters.

### **What is the plan for the season?**

While our traditional objective is providing the state's best competition for soccer, our current objective is to return to competitive soccer in the safest way we feel possible.



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MSPSP will have a reduced match count for the Fall 2020 season. Teams will have either 4, 5, or 6 matches based on the amount of teams in that division.

The breakdown in divisions, as well as the changes to NLC Qualifying are below.

Divisions with 5 teams will play 4 matches; 2 Home, 2 Away

Divisions with 6 Teams will Play 5 Matches; 2 Home, 2 Away, +1 Home or Away

Divisions with 7, 8, 9 teams will play 6 matches; 3 Home, 3 Away

With this change, many of our divisions will not play all of their opponents in their division or the other half of their division. Many of the divisions are split into A / B (ex Premier 1 A & Premier 1 B), with teams placed with other clubs in their geographical area when possible to facilitate more local-play. As a result, these changes bring a lack of competitive balance we traditionally offer. Combined with the lack of contact soccer since March in MI, there will be no traditional 'Division Winners' & rewards for Fall 2020.

NLC Qualifying will endorse teams as these divisions remain competitively balanced and play all of their opponents.

For NLC Qualifying, the divisions have been split up into 5 & 6 team divisions.

NLC Qualifying divisions with 5 teams will play 4 matches; 2 Home, 2 Away

NLC Qualifying divisions with 6 Teams will Play 5 Matches; 2 Home, 2 Away, +1 H or A

NLC Qualifying divisions have been renamed numerically.

## Fall Flexibility

If (as) conditions change, so too may the rules, deadlines, etc. MSPSP is prepared to be flexible with reschedule requests in regard to fees. MSPSP reschedule policy is still active for deadlines.

Late-Player Additions have had their fee temporarily removed since registration – this will again be active Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In the event that there are any rule changes – MSPSP will communicate this as well as post this information to our website as applicable.

## Fall 2020 Passcards & Rosters

MSPSP Official Passcards & Rosters will be available (published) on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



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Any TEAMS requiring passcards or rosters prior to Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, please reach out to MSPSP via email to request early passcards - *the fee is currently waived*, but if you do not need passcards or rosters prior to Sept 16th, DO NOT request early passcards.

Any PLAYERS requiring MSPSP passcards or rosters prior to Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, please reach out to MSPSP via email. We will provide individual player passcards needed.

On Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, Passcards and Rosters will become available to Club Accounts in GotSoccer – users with access to the Club Account will then need to download and distribute the passcards as needed.

## **MSPSP Fall 2020 Credit**

MSPSP will not be issuing refunds for Fall 2020 registration fees.

Instead, there will be a credit attributed per team to the club for the next registration enrollment. This credit has been set at \$50 per team. For example, if a club had 10 teams in MSPSP Fall 2020, that club will have a credit of \$500 towards their registration fee for either MSPSP Spring 2021, or MSPSP Fall 2021 – whichever they next participate in.

MSPSP will notify clubs of their credits.

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

MSPSP communicates primarily via Email & GotSoccer Club Staff Communications. Your club's staff should be added / removed / updated on your Club Page in GotSoccer to keep up to date on MSPSP communications. It is important that your club address is also up to date for any MSPSP mailings.

## **Certificates of Insurance**

### **Are we (MSYSA) issuing new Certificates of Insurance?**

MSYSA will resume issuing certificates of insurance from Friday, June 5, 2020. Please contact Julie Pearson at [jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto: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

**When will MSYSA be issuing Guest Player Pass Cards again?**

MSYSA is now processing Guest Player Pass Card requests. Please contact Julie Pearson at [jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org) for assistance or with questions.

## Tournament Only Teams

**When will MSYSA be issuing Tournament Only Teams again?**

MSYSA is now processing Tournament Only Team requests. Please contact Julie Pearson at [jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org) for assistance or with questions.