



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of May 12, 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 for the Spring 2020 season, 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, and MSYSA's insurance carrier.

If MSYSA further delays or cancels the Spring 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 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, our carrier has relayed that they will provide coverage as early as June 1, or whenever it is deemed safe to return-to-play (whichever is later) for the 20-21 season (for those players that have committed, signed, registered, etc. with an MSYSA affiliated club). Thus, once it is safe to return to play, any future participation occurring over the summer months would be 'grouped in' with the Fall 2020 season (the new 20-21 seasonal year) for insurance purposes. As in past years, direct member leagues must submit Fall 2020 registration data (& final payment) to MSYSA in late September.

Can I transfer to a new club if my club dissolves or chooses not to play the spring season?

Yes, if the team or club dissolves, and if approval is granted by MSYSA, because the transfer request would be after the MSYSA transfer window. If the team/club chooses not to participate in the spring season once soccer resumes, please contact the MSYSA State Office for assistance or with questions.

If a league cancels its spring season, are those players released? Can those players transfer clubs in order to play in a different league that has not been canceled (once it is safe to return to play)?

This is not something MSYSA has considered yet. However, it is the intention of MSYSA to provide as much flexibility as possible to get kids back to playing soccer. Also, keep in mind that although various leagues may cancel, clubs may still offer programming for their registered players. Please contact the MSYSA State Office for assistance or with questions.

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?



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We are waiting on guidance from the State of Michigan. More information will be shared, when available. We anticipate some guidance from USYS and other organizations on how to safely return-to-play. We will communicate more information on that when we have it.

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?

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 will provide coverage as early as June 1, or whenever it is deemed safe to return-to-play (whichever is later) for the 20-21 season (for those players that have committed, signed, registered, etc. with an MSYSA affiliated club). **Thus, MSYSA does not anticipate that any additional "spring" registrations will be submitted to MSYSA for the 2019-2020 seasonal year.**

Once it is safe to return-to-play, any future participation occurring over the summer months would be 'grouped in' with the Fall 2020 season (the new 20-21 seasonal year) for insurance purposes. As in past years, direct member leagues must submit Fall 2020 registration data (& final payment) to MSYSA in late September.

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. MSYSA will communicate via email further about the timing expected for refund checks at a later date, as applicable. We anticipate that most registration refunds will be processed in June or July.



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

Will the Spring State Cup and Junior State Cup resume?

Unfortunately, MSYSA has canceled the 2020 Spring State Cup and 2020 Junior State Cup. This was a difficult decision that MSYSA did not take lightly. Many alternative options for State Cup were considered such as pushing dates back into the summer, eliminating preliminary games and going straight to a Quarterfinal or Semifinal round, changing the format to a series of friendly games, etc. However, several factors solidified our decision:

- Stress on Families – Many MSYSA families are experiencing economic and/or psychological stress due to COVID-19. When soccer resumes, many may be unable or unwilling to travel. MSYSA does not want to place additional burdens on families.
- Potential for Harm - If soccer were to resume in June, teams and players would need time to get into soccer shape. Placing young athletes into competitive environments without the proper fitness and conditioning is potentially harmful to them.
- Focus on League Play – Many soccer clubs, and their coaches, rely on registration fees. At this point in time, MSYSA is hoping to offer abbreviated spring programming. If spring soccer is able to resume, whether that be June 1 or another date, MSYSA believes our focus should be on uniting our communities and celebrating the sport, instead of just winning championships.

Since the Spring State Cup and Junior State Cup were canceled, will teams get a refund?

Yes. Those teams/clubs who paid by credit card were refunded by credit card. Those who initially paid by check were refunded by check. Full refunds were processed on April 8, 2020 (except those teams participating in the Director's Academy). Any team who did not receive their refund by Friday, April 17th should contact StateCup@michiganyouthsoccer.org. Please check with team managers, team treasurers, and clubs before contacting MSYSA.

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.



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- 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 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 is the plan for the 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's the plan for the Director's Academy?

MSYSA has made the difficult decision to cancel the spring season of the Director's Academy. Ultimately, the decision was made for the following reasons:

- Stress on Families – Many MSYSA families are experiencing economic and/or psychological stress due to COVID-19. When soccer resumes, many may be unable or unwilling to travel. This is especially true for our Director's Academy teams based in Canada, as they may be unable to travel to the United States even if they wanted to. Simply put, MSYSA does not want to place additional burdens on families during these tough times.
- Potential for Harm —If soccer were to resume in June, teams and players would need time to get into soccer shape. Placing young athletes into competitive environments without the proper fitness and conditioning is potentially harmful to them.



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- Removes the Uncertainty – As tough as this decision was to make, it allows everyone time to plan accordingly.

Although the spring season of the Director's Academy has been canceled, MSYSA might offer some sort of voluntary summer programming for those clubs whose teams participate in the Director's Academy. Information has been communicated to clubs.

Since the spring season of the Director's Academy was canceled, will clubs get a refund?

Yes. Clubs will be refunded a portion of their programming fees to reflect the missed spring season and the missed Junior State Cup. The exact amount equates to \$640, per DA team. Team registration fees will not be refunded, as the teams did register and played with MSYSA during the fall season.

National League

What's the plan for the National League Conferences?

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

Although the spring season of the NLC has been canceled, MSYSA might offer some sort of voluntary summer programming for those clubs whose teams participate in the NLC. Information has been communicated to clubs.

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

MSYSA is in the process of refunding 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.

MSPSP

What's the plan for MSPSP?

MSYSA has made the difficult decision to cancel the spring season of the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP).

This was a difficult decision but based on the following:



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- Stress on Families – Many MSPSP families are experiencing economic and/or psychological stress due to COVID-19. When soccer resumes, many may be unable or unwilling to travel. Simply put, MSPSP does not want to place additional burdens on families during these tough times.
- Potential for Harm – When soccer resumes, teams and players will need time to get into shape and placing young athletes into competitive environments without the proper fitness and conditioning is potentially harmful to them.
- Removes the Uncertainty – As tough as this decision was to make, it allows everyone time to plan accordingly.

We look to return to resuming normal programming for Fall 2020 and that starts with MSPSP Registration this summer. There have been some changes with registration the past few seasons and it now, generally, takes place online. We will work with clubs to facilitate help with registration during these challenging times.

Clubs can expect registration to take place as usual and to use SportsForms as used for Fall 2019 / Spring 2020. Something to note about SportsForms; there is a year-to-year archive – the archive will reset for next year and players will need to recomplete contracts for the Fall 2020 / Spring 2021 seasonal year.

What's the plan now that MSPSP Spring 2020 is canceled?

Spring 2020 team registration fees have been refunded to clubs & affiliating leagues.

MSPSP is hoping to offer a summer supplemental league for its Fall 2019 / Spring 2020 teams. This is an 'opt-in' program, and not required. More information as well as requested feedback on the summer supplemental league can be found here: <https://www.gotsport.com/forms/open/?FormID=2945>

I submitted a late-addition payment, reschedule payment, or early passcard payment – can I get a refund?

MSPSP will void all late-player addition credit card payments, refund any reschedule payments submitted, as well as refund any early passcard fees submitted. Late-player addition credit card payments that have been made for Spring 2020 were not charged and need not be refunded.

Are MSPSP Spring 2020 Passcards and Rosters still good to use?

No – MSPSP Spring 2020 Passcards and Rosters are invalid and not permitted for use.



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MSPSP Fall 2019 Passcards and Rosters *are* valid until July 31st, 2020 and only when MSYSA deems it safe to return.

How can I get valid passcards or a roster for a tournament now?

Passcards and rosters from MSPSP Fall 2019 are valid until July 31st, 2020 and may only be used when MSYSA deems it safe to return. Another alternative is MSYSA Tournament Only Teams, MSYSA Guest Player (for tournament), or registration through another summer league, that would provide insurance coverage as well as player documents.

MSYSA Summer League

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

As mentioned in other parts of this document, MSYSA may offer some sort of voluntary summer programming for those clubs whose teams participate in the Director's Academy, MSPSP, and NLC. The intention is to assist with getting players back on the field (when it is safe to do so) in an informal environment. The summer league is not intended to be super competitive. There will be no scores or standings kept, and teams are not playing to earn NLC endorsements, State Cup seeds, etc.

Who can participate in the MSYSA summer league?

At the U11 & U12 age groups, clubs who participated in the 2019-2020 Director's Academy may participate in the MSYSA summer league.

At the U13 – U19 Boys and U13 – U14 Girls age groups, clubs who participated in the 2019-2020 NLC and Michigan State Premier Soccer Program may participate in the MSYSA summer league.

Based on interest, MSYSA may also consider having a High School Girls Open division and it would be open to clubs who participated in the 2019-2020 NLC and Michigan State Premier Soccer Program.

For those clubs eligible to participate, please contact StateOffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org for more information.

For those clubs/teams who are not eligible, please contact your local leagues. Many of them (or others nearby) may be considering their own summer programming.



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What is the format of the MSYSA summer league?

The summer league is intended to be an extension of the (missed) spring season, so the age groups will be constructed as they were for the 2019-2020 seasonal year.

The U11 (2009) and U12 (2008) age groups will play 9v9 and the U13 (2007) – U19 (2001) age groups will play 11v11.

Clubs will decide what ages/gender they want to submit a 'team' (or multiple teams) and at what level they think is the best fit for that team (Tier 1, Tier 2, etc). In some cases, a club may want to play a team or players 'up' an age group – that is acceptable.

The intention for Tier 1 is to be statewide play, while all subsequent tiers will incorporate as many geography-based matchups as possible.

Games will be played in the month of the July, assuming it is safe to return by then. Each team will play 4-6 games. MSYSA is currently seeking feedback from clubs on the ideal number. Games will be self-scheduled by the teams.

Team rosters are fluid, which means player make-up can change from game to game. Team roster maximums do not apply, but game roster maximums are consistent with MSYSA rules (16 players for 9v9 games and 18 players for 11v11 games). Players need simply to be age/gender eligible and be a registered member of that club. Players are asked to only play for one club during the summer league.

How much will it cost to participate?

MSYSA anticipates there will be a team fee of approximately \$50. This will cover refereeing assigning and other administrative needs.

Players need simply to be age/gender eligible and be a registered member of the club that they are playing with during the summer league.

The home team is responsible for field rental costs, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the teams.

Teams are responsible splitting the cost of referee fees (outlined below). U11 & U12 age groups can expect 1 assigned referee while the U13 – U19 age groups can expected anywhere from 1 – 3 assigned referees.

Referee Fees By Age Group (split evenly by teams):



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- U11/U12 - \$30 (center referee)
- U13/U14 - \$40 (center referee) + \$30 (each assistant referee)
- U15/U16 - \$50 (center referee) + \$35 (each assistant referee)
- U17/U18/U19/HSO - \$60 (center referee) + \$40 (each assistant referee)

What does the calendar and deadlines look like for the summer league?

Right now, MSYSA is gauging interest in the summer league. If we are able to return to soccer by July and if there is sufficient interest, MSYSA is looking at the following calendar:

- June 8 – Deadline for clubs to commit “teams” to the league
- June 12 – Teams placed into divisions, and MSYSA distributes divisions for review
- June 16 – Deadline for clubs to request changes and add/remove “teams”
- June 19 – MSYSA releases matchups
- June 24 – Schedules due into MSYSA
- June 26 – MSYSA send schedules to referee assignors
- July 1 – Games Begin
- July 31 – Games End

How does a player register directly with MSYSA for the summer league?

Players need simply to be a registered member of the club that they are playing with during the summer league. Clubs should be able to demonstrate a player’s “registration” through their own normal commitment processes (MSYSA recommends some sort of paper trail).

How does a coach register directly with MSYSA for the summer league?

Coaches need to be on staff of the club that they are coaching with during the summer league. Clubs should be able to demonstrate a coach’s involvement with the club through their own normal employment or volunteer processes (MSYSA recommends some sort of paper trail).

Coaches do need to have current risk management background checks, current SafeSport certificates, and CDC Heads-Up Concussion training certificates. It is the club’s responsibility to make sure that every coach participating in the summer league has these items.

What sort of safety precautions will be taken for the summer league?

First, the summer league will not proceed unless MSYSA has deemed it safe to return.



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If we are able to have this summer league, there could be recommendations or requirements in the interest of keeping everyone safe. For example:

- No pre-game or post-game handshakes or other similar actions
- No spectators on the sideline (parents stay in cars)
- Every player & coach to use hand sanitizer at the start of each game, at halftime, at the end of the game, and every time they enter the field of play
- Ball to be disinfected before the game, at halftime, and at the end of the game
- Face covers (masks) permitted to be worn by field players, coaches, and referees during games
- No spitting on/around field area

Keep in mind that participation in the summer league is completely optional. Clubs are under no obligation to participate. This was simply a service that MSYSA wanted to provide based on the feedback we have. Similarly, families should not feel pressured to participate by their clubs.

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](#) 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.



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

The ODP 101/GK Academy Spring sessions have been canceled. Spring registrations will be transferred to the Summer dates by MSYSA, unless otherwise requested. MSYSA is offering full refunds to those individuals who are unable to attend the Summer sessions. For those who registered for both Spring and Summer sessions, a partial refund for the Spring component will be provided once a decision has been made on viability of Summer Sessions. Please email Brandon Francis at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or with questions.

Will ODP 101/GK Academy Summer Training sessions be postponed or canceled?

At this time, the ODP 101/GK Academy Summer sessions remain as scheduled. If anything changes, Brandon Francis from MSYSA will be in touch, via email, with registered participants.

Tournament Sanctioning

What will happen to my sanctioned tournament and sanctioning fee?

Currently, MSYSA will not sanction or insure any affiliated tournaments through May 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.

MI Soccer Publication

Will the publication still be available in an online format?



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No. However, to assist players and parents, *general information about our affiliated clubs will be posted on the MSYSA website only, at no cost to clubs.

*General information includes, but is not limited to:

- Coaching line-ups and credentials
- Team official credentials
- Website addresses
- Club calendars/schedules
- Virtual Trainings (Zoom or other services)**
- Relevant phone numbers
- Tournaments/Showcases you may attend
- Age Groups/Teams you may have openings in
- Club History: Past Club/Team successes or accomplishments
- Club Philosophy

**Must have supervision of a club staff member and a parent/guardian to be covered under MSYSA insurance.

Please contact Brandon Francis at bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org for assistance or for additional information.

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?



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MSYSA will not issue new certificates of insurance, for any reason, until it is deemed safe to return to play. 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.

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.