



# Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of August 21, 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.

**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.



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## 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.

Eight (8) teams per age/gender/division were invited to participate. Those eight teams were 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



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games in September/October and then to play the championships games in October/November. An exact calendar will depend on when games resume, however games are not expected to start prior to September 15.

As of August 19, teams that were not part of the eight teams per age/gender/division were refunded in their entirety. Refunds were credited to the credit card on file with the State Cup application. Please allow for 3-5 business days for the refund to appear in your account.

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 21, MSYSA will delay the start of the season until at least September 15. Games that were originally scheduled before then will be cancelled.

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 an undetermined 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).



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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](mailto: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.

## 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 Regional ODP, please [email Mica Goodrich](mailto:Mica.Goodrich@usyouthsoccer.org) for assistance.



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## **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 September 30, 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](mailto: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 **\*in-person\*** courses hosted by MSYSA have been suspended through December 31, 2020. MSYSA is currently in the process of rescheduling courses for the Fall and will announce new course dates soon. Candidates from D License courses that were suspended due to Coronavirus will be invited to complete the course in a new 'blended' format, which will begin in October and culminate in Spring 2021. Additional online-only grassroots courses (7v7, 9v9, 11v11) will be hosted by MSYSA on various dates from October through December. We will release all registration information once the courses are finalized.



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## MSPSP

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

The MSPSP season start date has been moved to September 15<sup>th</sup>, formally August 21<sup>st</sup>. These dates are subject to change due to the ongoing circumstances.

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

We have received a lot of concerns regarding the traditional 8, 9, 10 match schedule should we be able to return to competitions September 15<sup>th</sup> or later, and how teams would complete their seasons under the current circumstances of the pandemic which has brought many difficulties and safety concerns. The current uncertainty / lack of available facilities and venues brings major concerns especially as we host the season on the later end where weather is frequently a problem. There are concerns regarding the traditional amount of travel that would be required but in such a short time, and traveling to certain areas of increased risk in regards to COVID-19.

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

MSPSP will have a reduced match count for the Fall 2020 season. Teams will have either 4, 5, or 6 matches based on the number of teams in that division. This change comes after many have reached out to us regarding their concerns as well as our concerns on the matter and our intent to approach the fall season in a safe and flexible manner to accommodate our membership as best we can.

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 of these changes brings 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.



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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.

## **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](mailto:jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org) for assistance or with questions.

COI's for the 2020-2021 seasonal year are now being issued (upon request). COI's will only be issued to clubs/leagues that have completed their League Affiliation paperwork for the 2020-2021 seasonal year.

### **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](mailto:jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org) for assistance or with questions.



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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jpearson@michiganyouthsoccer.org) for assistance or with questions.