



Western Suburban Soccer League

Coronavirus COVID-19 Statement (4/5/20)

WSSL Members,

We're in unique times and unprecedented waters together, but we wanted to provide an update on the spring 2020 season thus far.

On March 31, the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) suspended all soccer activities through April 30. On April 2, Gov. Whitmer ended the school year and closed the buildings to activities statewide. Although this does not necessarily close school-owned fields, some districts have independently extended that as such. On April 3, MSYSA held two conference calls with league and club representatives statewide, but there was minimal additional information provided in regard to the spring 2020 season and MSYSA urged clubs to work together to provide field space if and when it is deemed safe to play again. Additional info is posted in MSYSA's FAQ at www.michiganyouthsoccer.org.

Due to limited field availability and early reports of entire teams already withdrawing from spring activities, WSSL is **canceling the spring 2020 RECREATIONAL season**. We do encourage clubs to run in-house programs within their individual clubs for as many age groups as possible once MSYSA and each individual club deems it safe. Even if MSYSA deems it safe to play starting May 1, it is up to each individual club as to whether to start recreational programs then, delay that start further or cancel the entire spring season. As needed, please work together with clubs adjacent to yours in order to allow teams to find field space and players to play a few friendly games this spring if everything is deemed safe. Other alternatives in the meantime could be digital training videos or planning future summer camps. MSYSA will eventually refund fees for those teams not participating in soccer activities this spring season.

With select teams already established and less of a strain on what is anticipated to be limited available field space, WSSL will make a **decision on the spring 2020 SELECT season by April 14**. If a select season is to proceed, WSSL will not extend it beyond the MSYSA tryout date, which is currently June 13. However, MSYSA is seeking feedback via email on whether clubs would like that date pushed back. More information could be available by April 14 from both the MSYSA and State of Michigan.

To further assist in determining the spring select season decision and interest levels, we ask that each club have a single representative email both wssladm@gmail.com & chrisjackett@gmail.com by 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in response to the following three questions (based on the May 1 clearance date):

- 1. Are there fields available to you in either your school district or municipality for use in May? We realize the situation is fluid and this could change over the next three weeks.**
- 2. Would your club be interested in a four-game season, targeting weekends only?**
- 3. Would your club be interested in a six-game season, including 1-2 midweek games?**

If you're open to both the four- and six-game options (ie. whatever's available), please express that.

Realize that different people have different opinions on this, which is why we're trying to gather feedback. There are 55 clubs in WSSL, all with different circumstances. Some want as much as possible, some want it all canceled. All options are being considered. Please be respectful of all opinions and decisions tied into this pandemic as we navigate these unprecedented times together.

Chris Jckett, CPRP

President, Western Suburban Soccer League