



Western Suburban Soccer League

Coronavirus COVID-19 Statement (9/5/20)

WSSL Members,

Following announcements from the State of Michigan and the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) over the past 48 hours, the Western Suburban Soccer League (WSSL) is happy to state plans for a fall 2020 season will move forward; albeit with some restrictions.

As MSYSA reviews their Return-to-Play Guidelines and will announce no sooner than Sept. 8 as to when full-contact practices/trainings are allowed to begin, MSYSA has said they hope to announce next week that games are cleared to begin Sept. 19. As such, WSSL is planning for select games to begin as soon as Sept. 19 and recreational games to begin Sept. 26; pending MSYSA clearance beforehand. The goal is to allow players to get back onto the fields for a six-game season heavily taking place in October, although games may be scheduled through Nov. 15 if needed and if fields are available. Although there will be fewer teams, standings will be kept to assist with spring 2021 divisioning; but medals will not be distributed. This allows the focus to stay on getting back onto the field to develop young players both physically and socially after a long hiatus.

Although we are poised to get competitive games back this fall, there are restrictions outlined in the State's Executive Order 176, which can be viewed in full at <http://bit.ly/MichEO176>. Among those restrictions is item 7B, which states **facial masks (including gaiters) must be worn at all times, including on the field during play, for everyone at a field during all games and trainings when social distancing is not able to be practiced. No exceptions.**

WSSL also recommends attendance at games – including players, team officials, referees, staff, spectators, etc. – does not exceed 100 people per field; thus clarifying item 6 of EO 176. It is further recommended that field schedulers do their best to stagger game times and field usage so outgoing and incoming teams do not cross paths from separate games.

Although the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) currently recommends against contact sports, neither the Governor's Office or MDHHS has issued restrictions prohibiting such activity. With the safety precautions outlined by MSYSA in use, a fall season should be achievable.

Chris Jackett, CPRP

President, Western Suburban Soccer League