



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as of April 15, 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 the start to the Spring 2020 season is delayed significantly, can our Spring season programming dates be adjusted (past the try-out date) in order to get more games or playing time in? How late can the 'Spring' season go?

Yes, spring programming dates may continue beyond the current try-out date in order to get more playing time in. MSYSA is prepared to allow the spring season to continue through July 31, if needed. The Fall season (in GotSoccer) begins on August 1, 2020.

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.



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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.

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 who were registered in the Fall 2019 season still be covered under MSYSA insurance in order to participate in practices, trainings, scrimmages, sanctioned tournaments, etc.?

Yes. If a player or team official was already registered with MSYSA this seasonal year (19-20) by a direct member club/league, insurance coverage will be extended for affiliated activities once MSYSA communicates that it is safe to return to play.

If a league cancels its spring season, will players and team officials still be covered by insurance if teams decide to practice, train, scrimmage, or participate in sanctioned tournaments (after it is safe to return to play)?

Any participants (players or team officials) who have not yet been registered with MSYSA this seasonal year (19-20) would not be insured/covered for any affiliated activities when it is deemed safe to return to play. This includes practices, trainings, scrimmages, "friendlies," participation in sanctioned tournaments, etc. Any players or team officials who wish to practice, train, scrimmage, or participate in sanctioned tournaments must be registered with MSYSA by one of our direct member clubs/leagues in order for insurance coverage to be extended (once it is deemed safe to return to play). Teams who wish to participate in affiliated activities after it is safe to return to play should contact their MSYSA affiliated league to ensure they have been properly registered. Please contact the MSYSA State Office for assistance or with questions.

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.



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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.

Spring 2020 Registration

Is MSYSA pushing back the spring registration deadlines?

Yes. For now, the Spring 2020 Registration deadline has been pushed back to June 1, 2020 (subject to change). This means that June 1, 2020 is the deadline to submit registrations (generate invoices in GotSoccer) and make a final registration payment to MSYSA. MSYSA has been actively working with our direct member organizations (e.g., clubs & leagues) to delay spring registration payments, upon request, until the final registration deadline. MSYSA has already offered clubs/leagues the option to disregard the initial registration invoice and postpone making a registration payment to MSYSA until final registrations are due.

What if my initial spring registration payment was already processed by MSYSA?

For those organizations that made an early payment to MSYSA, if your payment was processed successfully, you will see it reflected as a credit balance on your registration account in GotSoccer. You can also confirm that your payment was processed if you see that those funds have cleared your club/league bank account. Please keep in mind that any existing credit balances for registration will be refunded back to clubs/leagues at the end of the seasonal year (more info below).

What about the April 25 registration deadline?

For now, MSYSA has extended the final April 25 registration deadline to June 1 (subject to change). We will communicate any future updates about registration deadlines as soon as those decisions are made, which will likely be when we have a better outlook on the Spring 2020 season. For now, for all clubs/leagues (including those who opted to skip the initial payment) – please plan to remit final payment to MSYSA based on your final registrations that will be invoiced in GotSoccer. Your amount owed will be shown as your registration account balance in GotSoccer, after you have completed your invoicing. Again, the current deadline is June 1 (subject to change) for your player and team official registration data to be submitted/invoiced in GotSoccer, along with your final payment made to MSYSA.



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What about late fees?

For now, the registration deadline is June 1 (subject to change). As we get a better outlook on the Spring 2020 season, MSYSA will evaluate the late fee schedule and will communicate information accordingly to clubs and leagues.

Aside from making spring registration payments, what should we do about submitting (invoicing) our registrations in GotSoccer?

MSYSA would suggest that clubs and leagues do not submit (invoice) any new registrations in GotSoccer until we have a better idea on the outlook of the Spring 2020 season. For those who have already invoiced some registrations for the upcoming season, it is possible that you may have to adjust or redo your Spring invoicing to account for fluctuations in registrations. If that is the case, please contact Danielle Henry at dhenry@michiganyouthsoccer.org so we can work through that together.

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.

What if MSYSA does not cancel the Spring 2020 season, but my club or league decides to cancel our Spring season programming? Do I have to submit any registrations? Do I still get a refund?

If your club/league decides to cancel your Spring season programming, you do not need to submit any registrations to MSYSA for the Spring season. However, **you must inform MSYSA that your club/league has canceled your Spring programming**, so that we know we won't be receiving any additional registrations from your organization. Then, we will also know that your registration account balance is final for the seasonal year, and we can confirm the amount of any registration refund owed back to your organization. If your club/league has canceled its Spring season programming, please notify Danielle Henry via email (dhenry@michiganyouthsoccer.org).

Your club/league will receive a registration refund from MSYSA if you had submitted an initial payment toward spring registration, or if you otherwise have a credit balance showing in GotSoccer for



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registration. The amount of the refund will be equal to the existing credit balance on your registration account in GotSoccer at the conclusion of the seasonal year.

Please also keep in mind that any new participants (players or team officials) who have not been registered at all this seasonal year (19-20) would not be insured/covered for any affiliated activities when it is deemed safe to return to play. This includes practices, trainings, scrimmages, “friendlies,” participation in sanctioned tournaments, etc. If you have any new players or team officials who wish to participate in affiliated activities once it is deemed safe to play, those participants will need to be registered with MSYSA in order for insurance coverage to be extended. For questions on this, please contact Danielle Henry via email (dhenry@michiganyouthsoccer.org).

If the Spring 2020 season is delayed significantly, will there be any reduced/discounted registration fees since we are only participating in a partial season?

MSYSA is not currently considering reducing registration fees for an abbreviated spring season but this could change.

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

Will 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 - As of April 15, the spring season in Michigan has been postponed through May 14 with a potential re-start date of May 15. If soccer were to resume May 15, 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 an abbreviated spring season. If spring soccer is able to resume, whether that be May 15 or another date, MSYSA believes our focus should be on uniting our communities and celebrating the sport, instead of just winning championships.



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

Yes. Those teams/clubs who paid by credit card will be refunded by credit card. Those who initially paid by check will be refunded by check. Full refunds were processed on April 8, 2020 (except those teams participating in the Director's Academy). Any team who has not received 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 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 are canceled.

What will happen with club tryouts? How will this impact State Cup?

MSYSA is currently discussing club tryouts. When decisions are finalized, clubs and leagues will be notified via email.

Director's Academy

What's the plan for the Director's Academy?

Soccer has been pushed back until at least the middle of May, and 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** – As of April 15, the spring season in Michigan has been postponed through the middle of May. If soccer were to resume mid-May, 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.
- **Removes the Uncertainty** – As tough as this decision was to make, it allows everyone time to plan accordingly.



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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. More information will be communicated to clubs once known.

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 is being determined now and will be communicated to clubs directly. Team registration fees will not be refunded, as the teams did register and played with MSYSA during the fall season.

What will happen with club tryouts? How will this impact Director's Academy?

MSYSA is currently discussing club tryouts. When decisions are made and information is known, this will be communicated to clubs and leagues via email. Decisions on club tryouts will be communicated to clubs and leagues via email.

National League

What's the plan for the National League Conferences?

Decisions about the National League Conferences (NLC) will come from US Youth Soccer. MSYSA will forward communication from US Youth Soccer to the NLC teams.

If there is no spring season, MSYSA will look into offering some sort of summer programming for those clubs whose teams participate in the National Leagues Conferences. More information will be communicated to clubs once known.

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

If there is no spring season, MSYSA will refund the team registration fees for those teams that did NOT play in the fall. However, decisions on whether to refund the \$550 NLC fees will be at the discretion of US Youth Soccer.

If there is a partial spring season, MSYSA will evaluate the question of refunds once more is known.



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What if soccer resumes but my team decides not to participate in the NLC?

Unless US Youth Soccer releases a statement with a different process, please notify MSYSA within 3 days of official word that competition will resume. MSYSA will direct your inquiry to US Youth Soccer. Any decisions on credits and/or refunds are at the discretion of US Youth Soccer.

What will happen with club tryouts? How will this impact National League Conferences?

MSYSA is currently discussing club tryouts. Decisions on club tryouts will be communicated to clubs and leagues via email.

MSPSP

What's the plan for MSPSP?

Soccer has been pushed back until at least the middle of May, and 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:

- 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 – As of April 15, the spring season in Michigan has been postponed through the middle of May. If soccer were to resume mid-May, 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.
- Removes the Uncertainty – As tough as this decision was to make, it allows everyone time to plan accordingly.

Although the spring season of MSPSP has been canceled, MSPSP might offer some sort of voluntary summer programming. More information will be communicated to clubs via email.

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

Spring 2020 team registration fees will be refunded. More information will be provided to teams and clubs by MSPSP via email.



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MSPSP might offer some sort of voluntary summer programming. More information will be communicated to clubs via email.

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 reschedule payments, as well as refund any early passcard fees submitted. Late-player addition credit card payments that have been made for Spring 2020 were not processed in GotSoccer and need not be refunded.

What will happen with club tryouts? How will this impact MSPSP?

MSYSA is currently discussing club tryouts. Decisions on club tryouts will be communicated to clubs and leagues via email.

ODP & ODP 101

Will ODP Regional Camp be postponed, or even canceled?

US Youth Soccer has indicated that a decision will be made on ODP Regional Camp by June 1, 2020. At this time, USYS plans to move forward with the ODP Regional Camp taking place at SVSU in Saginaw, MI in July. The Boys camp runs July 6-10 and the Girls camp runs July 11-15. The cost is \$600. If anything changes, Brandon Francis from MSYSA will be in touch, via email, with participants.

When will ODP Regional Camp registration information be disseminated?

Invitations to ODP Regional Camp will be disseminated in two groups. The first group will receive invitations on April 17, 2020 and must respond to those invitations by May 1, 2020. The second group will receive invitations on May 1, 2020 and must respond to those invitations by May 15, 2020. [Click here to view the latest communication to State ODP Technical Leaders from USYS.](#)

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 14, 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.



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MI Soccer Publication

Is the deadline for Michigan Soccer Tryout Guide going to be moved beyond April 3, 2020?

Based on continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and an unknown return-to-play date, MSYSA is, regrettably, **not going to proceed with a printed Michigan Soccer Tryout Guide**. Brandon Francis, bfrancis@michiganyouthsoccer.org, will make contact with all advertisers by email regarding an electronic version, refunds, etc.

Will the publication still be mailed? If so, when?

The publication will be hosted electronically with Issuu only, at no-additional cost to clubs.

My advertisement currently aligns with the MSYSA Tryout Date. Will there be any adjustments to the MSYSA Tryout Date? (I may need to adjust my ad)

MSYSA is currently discussing club tryouts. Decisions on club tryouts will be communicated to clubs and leagues via email.

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 May 31, 2020. MSYSA will reschedule pre-June 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?

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.



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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.