



Mass Youth Soccer Extends Suspension of all Soccer Activities through and including Sunday, May 17, 2020

We hope this communication finds you, your family and friends healthy and staying safe. Again, our sincere thanks and best wishes go out to our medical heroes, front line and essential workers for putting themselves in harms way to help meet our needs

The Governor and the Department of Public Health have extended the non-essential business closing, stay-at-home and assemblage orders through May 17, 2020. They announced a “phased opening” starting May 18, the details of which are unknown at this time. Additional information and guidance, including any expected modifications to the stay-at-home and assemblage orders, will be forthcoming from the Governor’s Reopening Advisory Board.

Mass Youth Soccer finds the May 18th start of a phased opening period to be very optimistic with regard to youth sports. Mass Youth Soccer will target May 18th for the first phase of limited soccer activities to commence knowing that multiple updates are expected from the Governor’s office between now and then. As with previous suspension announcements, *this is subject to change*. We hope that our member organizations will be able to return to play as soon as possible, but also expect that any phased reopening will carry with it short-term modifications to our normal soccer activities. That said, we know the benefits of having our children out on the fields will be worth any temporary limitations.

The previously-announced extension of Mass Youth Soccer’s suspension of all affiliated and sanctioned soccer activities statewide is now further extended through and including Sunday, May 17, 2020. This suspension covers and pertains to our member organizations (towns, clubs and leagues), and continues to include, but is not limited to: all games (of all types), practices, clinics, training, tournament and in-person meetings. Per U.S. Soccer the earliest in-person Coaching Education Courses may commence is July 1.

Assuming that circumstances do not warrant or require a further extension, commencing Monday, May 18 the suspension will be lifted on all soccer activities, except for league games (in-town, travel and club) and tournaments, which may possibly commence starting on Saturday, May 23. All soccer activities will be strictly conducted under the requirements of the assemblage orders in effect at that time, which may limit some or many soccer activities.

All Mass Youth Soccer affiliated League Presidents, with their concern being the ultimate health and well-being of our entire soccer community, are in unanimous agreement with our decision to further extend the present suspension of soccer activities described above.

We continue to monitor closely the situation via various federal, state and local public health agencies. We also remain in close contact with US Soccer, US Youth Soccer and other State Associations, as well as the other major sport organizations and events throughout the country, most or all of whom, like us, have made significant cancellations and postponements. Membership can expect regular updates as this situation continues to evolve.