

To: All Members

From: Ohio Travel Soccer League Board

Re: Fall 2020 Soccer Season

August 2, 2020

All,

As our country, state, and local areas continue to battle the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we as an organization recognize that we encompass over 12 counties within Ohio. As of yesterday, the State of Ohio Department of Health continued their current order relative to contact sports. This means as of today, a club can continue to practice within the club, but no scrimmages, games, or tournaments can be played or attended.

Over the last week many things have happened. The board of health of both Summit County and Cuyahoga County have recommended schools start remotely and all after school activities, including athletics, be suspended. The OHSAA on Saturday announced that the fall sports season would start as planned except that contact sports at this point are limited to practices only. Their current guidance stated that they hoped soccer would begin games on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Obviously this is subject to change.

Having reviewed all the information, the OHTSL board is suspending league play from now until Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This date is very subjective. The board will meet again on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. If at that time the board approves the Sept. 13 start date, the league will reschedule as soon as possible. We will do our best to give you as much time as possible as some games for week one (Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>) need to be adjusted. If you know that your club is not going to participate in the fall due to all the school cancellations or simply parents changing their minds and teams needing to be canceled, please get them to Becky by Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Should we still not be allowed to play or if we feel the conditions are not safe, we would look at beginning on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> with a four-game season. Should we need to go with this option, standings would not be kept. The goal would be to at least get the players on the field. We would, however, allow teams to schedule up to 2 additional games on their own within their division for a six-game season if they chose.

As rules within the State have not changed, members may continue to practice during this time. Registration is open for passes and we do recommend your club get coaching passes for any coach who will be on the field practicing with players. As for player passes, they afford players secondary insurance in the event of an injury and cost \$14-16 per player based on age. If you begin practicing, you may want to go ahead and get passes. This, however, is a club decision and passes are not required to practice. Please remember you do need to have player and coaches passes in order to have COI coverage (field/liability insurance). A US Club required form is needed.

If you have any questions relative to any of the above, please contact Greg Byerly, Covid-19 chair for the board or Howard Klebanow, President.

Most importantly, please follow the state and OHTSL guidelines, social distance, wear face-covering when required and be safe.