



## WISCONSIN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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## WYSA COVID-19 Update | 04.30.20

### **Please allow clubs 48/72 hours to put a plan together to address individual club needs**

We hope once again, this finds you safe and well. Since our March 12 suspension of activities, WYSA has carefully monitored expert guidance from numerous, relevant organizations and maintained the health and safety of members as our highest priority. We remained optimistic about an imminent return to play date (RTP), even as the Safer at Home orders were imposed. Unfortunately, as details of the [Badger Bounce Back Plan](#) were released and we obtained advice of medical professionals on WYSA Return to Play Guidelines, it became apparent that we could not reasonably pursue the June 1 RTP we had hoped for. It is with the heaviest of hearts we move in this direction, but also with confidence that we have made an appropriate decision emphasizing member safety.

Here are detailed updates as of April 30, 2020:

### [WYSA Administered Competitions](#)

At this time we are officially canceling the following Spring 2020 programs:

- ODP
- First Touch
- SWCL, SECL, State League, WDA & Youth Academy
- Presidents Cup & State Cup

Spring 2020 program fees will be refunded in full.

### [Local League Play](#)

All in house recreational or local classic leagues are also being canceled at the direction of the WYSA State Board.

### [Club Training](#)

In person club training remains suspended until WYSA indicates otherwise. Clubs may only begin in person training when government directives indicate it is safe to do so and they are able to achieve the minimum health guidelines recommended to gather in groups. [Specific WYSA Return to Play Guidelines](#) will be issued in a future update.

### [Club Member Communication](#)

Club communication to member families is very important to player retention and the perceived youth soccer response to this pandemic. Please refer to our communication guidance for suggested touchpoints. [Club Communication Guidance](#)

April 30, 2020



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### 2020 Tryout Policy

The 2020 Tryout Policy has been amended to reflect current conditions. In particular, the early offer date is being advanced to May 15 to provide clubs an early start on retention efforts, if they choose. Open Promotion begins on June 1, 2020. The first date of tryouts for ages 11U-19U is July 13, 2020 and the Uniform Offer Date for ages 11U-19U is July 21, 2020 at 12 noon. Please review the full policy for details including offer and acceptance requirements. [2020 Tryout Policy](#)

As a practical matter, it is possible that tryouts in their traditional form will be an impossibility, even under the new dates. As such, we highly recommend clubs develop contingency plans in case the size of gatherings and other RTP guidelines limit the size and structure of club tryouts.

### Summer League Opportunity

If an RTP is possible this summer and the timing does not interfere with Fall 2020 activities, WYSA will administer abbreviated local leagues at no cost to clubs. Additional information around this possibility will be provided later.

### Sanctioned Tournaments

Tournaments sanctioned in May and June 2020 are being canceled. Tournaments in July and beyond remain under review. Cancellation of future tournament sanctioning will depend on the Governor's orders for the State of Wisconsin and WYSA Return to Play Guidelines. Those tournaments that have or may be canceled as a result of the pandemic should contact [Greg Rosenthal](#) to request sanctioning for a future date in 2020 or to obtain a full refund of tournament sanctioning fees.

### Player Registration

Please continue to sync Spring 2020 player/team registration to guarantee insurance coverage. Players must be added to teams to be counted, so be sure to take this additional step. WYSA will report, but not invoice clubs for spring only players. Individual player registration fees for all high school aged boys and/or players registered after November 1, 2019 will be waived or refunded.

### Refunds

One of the most immediate ways WYSA can assist clubs is to provide refunds of Spring 2020 fees. We are working diligently to begin the process of refunding spring program and player registration fees. WYSA program fees will be refunded directly to the registrant. Player registration fees will be refunded to the Club or District who made payment. Unpaid invoices that relate to Spring 2020 registrations will be forgiven. Refunds will only be issued to Clubs/Districts who have no outstanding balances with WYSA. (Please contact [Julie Schmitt](#) if you have a question about a club balance.) We will begin issuing refunds the week of May 10 and hope to have all payments processed by end of May. Local refunds are the discretion of the individual Club or District. (See Club Communication Guidance for recommendations.)

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### Insurance Coverage

Despite the cancellation of various sanctioned activities, all [insurance coverages](#) remain in place. This includes: General Liability, Excess/Umbrella Liability, Excess Accident Medical, Non-Profit Liability (Directors & Officers), Employee/Volunteer Dishonesty Crime. Player injuries incident to virtual training of a club are covered under the Accident Medical Policy, but the club must certify the injury occurred as a result of a sanctioned activity of their club. Again, no other activities are sanctioned in May and June.

### US Youth Soccer

US Youth Soccer has canceled Regional and National programming for Spring/Summer of 2020 including National Leagues, Presidents Cup, National Championship Series and Olympic Development Program activities.

### U.S. Soccer

Coaching Education courses have been postponed or canceled through June 30. All Referee program events are postponed or canceled through June 30. WYSA continues to encourage participation in [online Coaching Education](#) and [online Referee Education](#) available through U.S. Soccer. Dates for postponed courses will be made available as soon as secured.

### Webinars

We are scheduling a series of webinars to discuss this update and the amended 2020 Tryout Policy.

- The webinars to cover this update are scheduled for Monday, May 4. Click these links to register: [May 4 at 12pm](#) | [May 4 at 7pm](#)
- Webinars discussing the 2020 WYSA Tryout Policy are scheduled for Tuesday, May 5. Click these links to register: [May 5 at 12pm](#) | [May 5 at 7pm](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support of WYSA and all the work you do for youth soccer! We look forward to getting back to our vision of providing memorable experiences, creating a soccer culture and instilling a lifelong love of the game.

April 30, 2020