



Dear Maryland Youth Soccer Clubs, Families, Coaches and Players,

As the governing body for youth soccer in the State of Maryland, we hope you and your family are staying safe and well during this extraordinary time. The health, safety and wellness of our Maryland State Youth Soccer (MSYSA) family will always be our top priority.

We want to share with you a new video produced by US Youth Soccer (USYS), “We are Youth Soccer” that encourages everyone to support the clubs and coaches that support our kids every day. It’s a great video. Take a look, we hope you like it.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eyavxvdtlnsopsb/AAA8rl\\_EBGa81Lp5RsNMyikia?dl=0&preview=USYS\\_PSA+Video.mp4](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eyavxvdtlnsopsb/AAA8rl_EBGa81Lp5RsNMyikia?dl=0&preview=USYS_PSA+Video.mp4)

Maryland, along with our member clubs in DC, has one of the most committed and passionate soccer communities in the country. Although we are all going through hard times, our organization stands together with our member clubs to provide leadership and guidance as they continue to support their teams and players.

We appreciate everyone’s patience as we navigate these new challenges. MSYSA and our member clubs share the same goal to provide opportunities for every child to play soccer in a safe and healthy environment.

### **Spring Season and Potential Financial Impacts**

These are uncertain times affecting all of us and while we are hopeful that the spring soccer season may be played at some level, we are awaiting Governor Hogan’s decision regarding the State’s stay at home order. Recently, US Youth Soccer extended their return to play date for all USYS programming until May 15. The USYS Regional and National Championships normally held in June and July have been cancelled.

As you may know, most of our member clubs operate as non-profit organizations. Many have limited cash reserves and we are concerned that without a spring season many of our clubs, especially the smaller clubs, may not survive. Each of these clubs contribute to the fabric of our soccer community. Coaches, administrators and other key staff continue to work hard through this pandemic to find creative ways to provide your children with a positive soccer experience through digital engagement. Our soccer community has always supported each other and now

that is more important than ever. The diversity of our clubs provides opportunities for children across the state. That diversity is one of our strengths that we should protect.

During tough times we are reminded of the positive impact our clubs and coaches have on our children. They dedicate countless hours to not only improving your child's soccer skills, but more importantly teaching the many positive life lessons learned through sports such as patience, perseverance, teamwork and the belief that together we will overcome all challenges.

### **Additional Resources**

For more than 40 years, MSYSA has developed and conducted programs, events and educational seminars for coaches, players, officials and parents to promote and grow the game of soccer in Maryland. We serve more than 140 soccer clubs that represent more than 63,000 players throughout the state.

In support of our clubs and players, we offer extensive coaching education programs such as our Grassroots Coaching Program. In addition, we manage several events including Maryland State Cup, Presidents Cup and the Olympic Development Program (ODP) and summer camps. Please visit our website ([msysa.org](http://msysa.org)) to review the many resources on our Covid-19 page.

This is an unprecedented time and we will get through it together. Please encourage your child's passion for soccer while we wait to get back on the field. Please remember the important role your coach and club play in your child's love of the game. They will continue to need your support during this difficult time.

And please join us in supporting the Maryland leagues and clubs as they make tough financial decisions today to ensure our beautiful game will continue for your children now and in the future.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on the pitch. As always, we encourage everyone to continue to stay home, stay well and stay safe.

The MSYSA Team

Mark Cantor, President