



## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #4**

### **April 1, 2020**

---

As you know, due to the COVID-19 virus, Maine is under a Stay-at-Home order through April 30<sup>th</sup>, which is slightly later than our most recently published return-to-play date of April 27<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, our parent organizations, US Youth Soccer and US Soccer have extended their return-to-play date for their conferences and regional/national leagues to May 1<sup>st</sup> as well. As a State Association, Soccer Maine must determine our own return-to-play date based on what is happening in our respective state, and we will continue to stay on top of the issues in Maine. We have been consulting our parent associations, fellow state associations, and medical professionals in order to best serve our members this spring. The health and safety of our member players, coaches, referees and volunteers always remains at the forefront.

Based on what we know today, we will join with US Soccer, USYS and our neighboring state associations to extend our return to play to May 1st, and will push our league games start date to the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>. We realize this is a very incremental approach, but at this point in time, we want to continue to be slow and thoughtful in response to what is happening here, and see what transpires in April. This remains a fluid situation and we will update you as we know more. This approach is in keeping with our fellow associations around New England and the Country.

We have already created and shifted schedules for both of our spring leagues. Should we find that we need to shift them to a later date, we are prepared to do so. We believe that, when it is safe to do so, it will be beneficial to provide opportunity for our players to return to the fields for their physical and mental health and wellness.

Bright spot: Soccer Maine is hosting a webinar this Saturday morning with Got Soccer to unveil the new GotSport registration platform so that our clubs can begin using it for their fall registration programs. Your club registrar should have received a sign-up link for the webinar. Please make that they take advantage of this instruction. This new platform will be 100% utilized for all clubs for the Fall 2020 season. I am really excited about this greatly improved registration platform.

Thanks everyone and be safe – please continue to follow the CDC guidelines and ask your players, coaches and volunteers to follow them as well!

**Shari Levesque**  
**Executive Director**  
**Soccer Maine**