



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #3

March 20, 2020

We at Soccer Maine have spent the last week talking with national and regional soccer leaders as well as local leaders, the Maine CDC, and health professionals and have decided that we will suspend all sanctioned soccer activities until April 27th, in keeping with the most recent school decisions - many schools announcing today that they are closing until April 27th, and the start of spring school sports having already moved to that start date. This affects all Soccer Maine affiliated clubs, ODP, premier, travel, and recreational programming, training, games, etc.

Our current plan is to begin our Maine State Premier League play on the weekend of May 2nd/3rd. We will not be publishing a new schedule for the Maine State Premier League until such time as we have a better feel for where we will be at the end of April. We are taking several weeks to evaluate. As May 3rd is already the planned start date of The Pine Tree League, there are no changes to that start date at this time.

The current state of the coronavirus outbreak indicates that April will be a trying time for all of us. Our number one priority is the safety, health and welfare of our players, coaches, referees, and volunteers. We can't emphasize enough the importance of following all of the protocols currently in place. We sincerely wish all of you the best during this difficult time period, and hope you will take solace in spending time with family, helping your community where you can, and, if you are a player, finding ways to do some individual training to keep up your fitness.

Soccer Maine personnel will be working remotely so please email us if you need anything! On behalf of our organization, be well and we hope to see you in May!



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #2

March 13, 2020

Soccer Maine has suspended all programming through March 29th, including March 29th Maine State Premier League games and ODP training. We will work to reschedule those games/activities. We have also cancelled a planned coaching course, along with our AGM, both of which were to occur on April 4th, and will move several parts of the AGM to an online platform. We **strongly recommend** that all Soccer Maine clubs follow our protocol and cancel all planned activities such as games and training through March 29th.

It is our wish that all clubs be on the same page in terms of the safety of our players, coaches and referees. Trusting that players, coaches, referees and spectators would never knowingly compromise themselves or others, the fact is that our sport and its related activities provide an opportunity for the virus to spread which we feel it is our duty to help avoid (except from the CDC below):

"...COVID-19 is mainly spread through respiratory droplets (sneeze, cough, or sweat) when in close contact (within 6 feet) OR by touching a surface with such droplets and then touching one's own mouth, nose or eyes..."

As a result, US Soccer and US Youth Soccer have made a similar decision regarding soccer activities under their purview. They asked the state associations to assess the risks and benefits of postponement, suspension and/or cancellation of upcoming events and Soccer Maine – along with many other state associations – has taken this guidance, as well as information from public health and medical professionals at the federal, state and local levels with the highest level of concern. Our decision to suspend soccer activities and promote social distancing was not made lightly, but in the interest of making the health and safety of the entire soccer community, in addition to all others statewide, paramount, we know this is the right step to take.

Soccer Maine will evaluate conditions on a continuing basis to determine when it is appropriate to reinstate our soccer activities. Further communications will be provided via email and our website.

Protocols for individuals pertaining to travel, wellness and good health habits in the previous update should be followed by all.

As new developments arise each day, we at Soccer Maine want to remind everyone that first and foremost, our responsibility is for the safety of our players, coaches and



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #1

March 12, 2020

referees. We are regularly seeking comment and advice from all resources regarding the Coronavirus and any other health cautions (i.e. seasonal flu) - federal, state and local in addition to the CDC and WHO.

After seeking advice from a myriad of health professionals we currently plan to continue to hold upcoming soccer related activities (games, practices, coaching courses), none of which are scheduled over the next two weeks. We realize we may need to make changes to our position, and we will update all parties involved as soon as possible. We are monitoring the information on a hourly/daily basis and will be following CDC recommendations.

We are working with US Soccer and US Youth Soccer as well as health professionals to gather additional information as it pertains to the safety of playing the game within our borders as well as interstate travel and travel abroad as some members will do in the ensuing weeks. The Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, the US State Department, FIFA, Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Maine CDC and other health organizations are being consulted.

We fully understand the need to be cautious. We ask all players, coaches and attendees to games/practices to consider the following questions and their answers prior to attending these activities:

- Do you have an onset of a cough?
- Do you have a fever or have had one in the last few days?
- Do you suffer from shortness of breath?
- Have you been out of the country or have knowingly been exposed to anyone who's been outside the country at any time in the last 14 days?

If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, we ask you to not attend. Even if you have the common cold or just getting over the flu, it is imperative that everyone remains in as good health as possible.

Good Health Habits



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To reinforce health safety and best practices for illness prevention, please read the list below:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth prior to proper washing or disinfecting.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow the CDC's recommendations for using a face mask.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including Coronavirus.
- CDC recommended face masks should be used by people who show symptoms to help prevent the spread of the disease.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

We also recommend, out of an abundance of caution, that teams forgo high fives and handshakes between themselves, opposing teams and officials during and after competitions.

Please see the following additional resources and communications which may provide further answers to your questions.

[CDC - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[CDC - Coronavirus Overview](#)

[CDC - Travelers Health](#)

[Maine CDC - Updates](#)

WHO - [Advice for Coronavirus](#)

[U.S. Department of State](#) - Country Specific Travel information

USOPC - [Coronavirus Update](#)