

Club and League Officials:

As each day passes, there is more news and additional organizational responses to the COVID-19 outbreak. As you know, our tournaments have been cancelled as an initial response to protecting our youth players. Some may view these steps as overreactive, while most view this as prudent given the severity of this situation. Since the safety of our core customers – the youth players – is paramount, making these decisions has been our only rational course of action.

As noted, each passing hour brings forth more safety measures being undertaken by a host of organizations and institutions. As I'm sure most of you know, the NBA, the NHL, and MLS have suspended play. US Soccer has suspended all programs. The Big 10, the ACC, the Pac-12, the SEC and seven other conferences have cancelled conference championship tournaments. Major League Baseball has suspended all operations. The PGA is planning on continuing competition, though without galleries. Concert tours are cancelling daily, as are conventions and other large gatherings. Universities across the country are sending students home, and are moving toward on-line courses only for the spring semester.

Today, the Clark County School District is expected to suspend all extra-curricular activities including sports.

NYSA has been monitoring the actions of the school district for the past couple of days, viewing them as the most analogous provider of activities to those provided by NYSA – sports, youth, extracurricular, etc. Their action is in line with what we are seeing other educational institutions do; for example, the Ivy League has suspended all spring sports, including practices and games, and other conferences are following suit.

NYSA is suspending all soccer activities until further notice. This includes all league games, practices, friendlies, clinics, and any other activities that would cause our players, families, officials and staff to gather in close proximity. We cannot take this lightly. We are also not doing this to simply follow all other organizations, since our standard of care for our youth customers should be higher than that of commercial sports activities. We are suspending all activity because the body of evidence that has presented itself over the past several days suggest that this is the most responsible and, frankly, only rational course to take.

All clubs and leagues will be asked to honor this suspension of activity immediately. We fully realize that this is an unprecedented action, and it is not one that we would take without considerable thought. In the end, however, our duty to our customers to provide a safe environment for activity is our preeminent responsibility. We will communicate with you as more information becomes available, and we sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you,

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