

Manitoba Soccer Association Inc.

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Dear Manitoba Soccer Community,

As you are aware the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused much concern in our community and we hope that you are all staying safe and doing your part to help keep this virus under control.

The public health authorities, government agencies and soccer governing bodies have provided important guidelines that we are all following. This has meant the suspension of all sanctioned soccer activities, including all competitions, all league play, training, in person coach and match official education, and team building activities, until further notice.

Please follow the guidelines provided and avoid any gathering of players, in an attempt, “to have practices” that go directly against the suspension of all soccer activities. We urge you to maintain the “social distance” and apply all the recommendations for reducing the risk of exposure.

The MSA is holding meetings with Canada Soccer twice a week and following up with Sport Manitoba to monitor the current situation. We are regularly in contact with the Member Leagues to also discuss how to prepare for the future.

We are providing you with a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help you through the process:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long is sanctioned soccer suspended?

Until further notice is provided by the MSA, in consultation with Canada Soccer.

2. What is considered as sanctioned soccer?

All activities under the jurisdiction of the MSA, including provincial competitions, league play, practices, coaching clinics, referee clinics, seminars, team building activities, camps, try-outs, and on or off field events.

3. Does suspension of sanctioned soccer mean that a team may not practice?

Yes, all practices or gathering of teams are cancelled.

4. Who in the soccer community is impacted by the suspension of sanctioned soccer?

Only the participants who are registered through an MSA Member Organization (clubs, leagues, community centres, associations).



5. Should Member Organizations be hosting meetings?

It is recommended that meetings be held remotely through online platforms, and to avoid in person meetings.

6. Has the outdoor season been cancelled?

The outdoor season has NOT been cancelled. This will be evaluated in due course with Canada Soccer and the Member Leagues. At this point, there has been no indication when a decision will be made regarding the outdoor season.

7. Is the MSA office closed?

The MSA office is closed. Staff members are working from home and can be reached via email. Contact information for all staff members can be found here:

http://manitobasoccer.ca/page.php?page_id=82748

8. Will planned coaching and referee clinics be rescheduled?

The MSA is working on a revised schedule on when activities such as coaching and referee clinics may resume. We are working on offering portions of the clinics online, if possible, to minimize the delay in getting participants accredited through the necessary clinics.

9. Should I be registering for the summer programs/activities?

Yes, registration of players and teams to participate in summer competitions normally takes place at this time of year, and leagues will be making every effort to help the participants with registration during this difficult time.

10. When will we know if soccer programs are to resume?

The MSA will advise all Members of the timing of when we are able to resume activities as soon as possible. This is being monitored regularly and we will follow the guidance of the government and health authorities.

11. What plans does MSA have for the next few weeks?

The MSA staff are currently working on adjusting the previously set schedule of activities for March and April. We will be striving to reschedule the activities for when we are given the green light to resume activities.

In addition, in order to maintain as much normality for our Members as possible, the MSA staff is following up remotely with players, coaches, referees and administrators for all the activities that would normally be addressed at this time of year.

12. How is the MSA dealing with Club Licensing requirements?

MSA Staff continues to provide support to the organizations working on completing the licensing process. If your organization needs assistance, please contact the MSA Staff via email.

13. Is the MSA Board meeting?

The MSA Board will continue to meet remotely, to address the agenda items in order to keep as much normalcy and timely review of matters, such as Club Licensing, for the upcoming outdoor season.

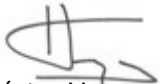
14. What safety precautions should be followed?

Please follow the recommendations from the health authorities, such as:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Good hygiene habits – do not touch your face / eyes / mouth with your hands
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, preferably with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow
- Disinfect and clean frequently touched surfaces
- Maintain good general health (eat a balanced diet, rest, exercise)
- Stay home if you are sick
- If you need to meet someone, maintain social distance
- Contact Healthlink Manitoba or your health care provider for questions about your personal health situation

We suggest that any communications that an organization is sending out to its members acknowledges the impacts that COVID-19 is having on the soccer families and provides appropriate accommodations under these difficult circumstances.

Thank you for your understanding.



Héctor Vergara
Executive Director