

Manitoba Soccer Association Inc.

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May 15, 2020

Dear Manitoba Soccer Community,

The Manitoba Soccer Association is continuously working to provide information and updates to best support our membership as we collectively work through the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

Canada Soccer announced yesterday that all member organizations must follow the [“Return to Soccer Guidelines”](#) before returning to the pitch. We wanted to provide an update on how these guidelines are being adhered to in Manitoba, and what steps we are currently taking to ensure that we can return to play in a timely, yet safe fashion.

Manitoba Soccer staff have been diligently working with Canada Soccer and the other provincial soccer bodies to develop “Return to Play Protocols”. These protocols will have multiple phases, and will include timelines, recommendations, and guidelines that anyone participating in sanctioned soccer will need to follow.

The “Return to Play Protocols” must follow a process of review before it can be approved and implemented. The process includes but is not limited to, being reviewed by Canada Soccer, MSA Member Leagues and Organizations, MSA Board of Directors, Sport Manitoba, and the provincial health authorities. This review process will ensure that we gather feedback and that the protocols have all the key components for a safe return to the game.

In addition, we have been informed by our insurance broker that there is a contagion exclusion that does not cover any situations arising out of COVID-19. This means that liability is being pushed down to sports and local communities/organizations. For this reason, we all need to be comfortable that we are doing everything that is appropriate and reasonable to mitigate risks associated with return to play.

As soon as the protocols have been finalized, we will provide them to our Members along with Canada Soccer’s “Return to Soccer Assessment Tool” and any other support documents to help our Members prepare for a return to play date.

We understand that everyone wants to return to playing the sport that they love, but we must continue to put the health and safety of all our members first. As of right now, we do not have a definitive date of when sanctioned soccer will be able to return in our province, but we will continue to work with all essential parties involved and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Please remember that Manitoba Soccer has postponed any in person sanctioned activity for the month of May, this includes any training and team building activities.

Thank you for your support and we encourage everyone to remain active and stay positive that soccer will return in our province.

Stay safe,

Héctor Vergara
Executive Director

