

Dear KYSA Families,

I hope that you are all doing well—and I hope that you and your loved ones are all healthy and safe.

At our meeting last night, the KYSA Board made the difficult decision to cancel our proposed plans for an Intramural Fall 2020 soccer season. I know this news is very disappointing to all of our kids and to all of you, and the members of the KYSA Board and I share in that disappointment as well.

While we worked carefully and extensively to develop plans for a potential in-house season after NEFYSL cancelled league play in late July, we concluded that we are simply not able to responsibly and safely execute the Fall season for our kids as we had hoped might. The range of challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic require us to meet clear, specific, and stringent protocols and guidelines to ensure the safety of our players, our coaches, our referees, and our families, and we just do not have the necessary personnel or volunteer support resources to effectively meet and sustain those standards across all age divisions for a Fall season. There remains too much uncertainty about the risks of youth sports for the Fall for us to move forward without full confidence that we can give our kids what we know they want and need—fun on the soccer field—according to the manifold safety specifications we must uphold to do so.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who volunteered to coach for the proposed Fall season, and to those who stepped forward to volunteer over the past few days as we've tried one more time to make the season work. We are also deeply thankful to all of the families who signed up for the proposed Fall season and were willing to give it a try. Your dedication throughout this process has been immeasurable, and I am sorry that we could not achieve our shared goal of making some sort of season possible for the kids of KYSA. I know that it has been sad and indeed devastating to not have KYSA soccer for what will now be an entire year, and I know that it is difficult and frustrating to have to once again look ahead with hope to next season while sitting out this one.

The KYSA Board will continue to meet throughout the remainder of the Fall to plan for the Spring 2021 season. That season, too, may still be affected by the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and playing in Spring 2021 may only be possible according to required safety protocols similar to those currently in place for youth sports in Pennsylvania; however, the entire KYSA Board is committed to ensuring that we have the personnel and volunteer and support resources we will need to meet those demands so that our kids have an opportunity to return to the game they love.

We will continue to update you on the proceedings of our meetings this Fall, particularly in terms of plans for the Spring 2021 season as they take shape, and also in terms of volunteer opportunities on the Board as the calendar year winds down.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the KYSA Board.

Thank you again, everyone, for your patience with and commitment to KYSA throughout these past several months.

Take care—and stay safe.

Best,

Tom

Tom Hamill  
President  
KYSA