



NCSL Spring 2020 Update  
04/25/20

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To the NCSL Community:

The NCSL Executive Committee has been meeting formally and informally over the past month to review the latest health guidance and to continue to discuss various contingency plans that we may implement going forward. We remain flexible and will be ready to implement appropriate plans when the time comes, but we still are faced with the reality is that nobody knows when it will be safe to return to play.

Of course, the decision to return to practice and play is not our own. We must follow the requirements of our state and local jurisdictions, all of which have ordered our activities to be suspended indefinitely. Several of those jurisdictions are now interpreting epidemiological models to predict a “peak” in virus cases that may not occur for several weeks, and any sustained decline from that “peak” would necessarily depend on many weeks thereafter of additional sheltering in place and social distancing. That does not bode well for a return to play in the short term.

Indeed, when we provided our last update, we expressed our expectation that we would not be allowed to resume normal soccer practice and play before some time in May. And while we hope it is not, that now looks to be an optimistic view, with return to play appearing increasingly unlikely before June or July.

Because the current crisis and government responses are unpredictable, we have not been able to make any concrete decisions about the Spring 2020 season, including whether we will be able to extend play into the summer months, either as an extension of the Spring 2020 season, or as an independent 11v11 or 7v7 option. And we appreciate those in club leadership who have reached out to us to offer input into these considerations. We have found that input to be very valuable and encourage you to continue to reach out. As we have previously explained, our intention is to continue to the best of our ability to provide safe, fun, and appropriate league programming for our clubs, their teams, and the children who love the game of soccer.

While we continue to evaluate alternative contingency plans to ensure that any return-to-play allowance can be swiftly and safely implemented, we are also focused on providing the kind of leadership and support for our membership that you have come to expect from NCSL. We have transitioned to online content, including professional player spotlights, stay-at-home how-to videos, college recruiting updates, and coaching forums with APFC, an elite Catalan coaching academy founded by former FC Barcelona Academy Director Albert Puig. To follow us on social media, make sure to subscribe to us on YouTube ([NCSL Social Media](#)) and follow us on Twitter ([@NCSL2](#)) and Instagram ([NCSL2](#)). And to view these particular resources, follow any of the below links. We will continue to add more content when available.

- [NCSL Q&A with US Men’s National Team standout Paul Arriola](#) (in cooperation with DC United)
- [NCSL College Recruiting Update in the COVID-19 Era](#) (featuring area D1 and D3 college coaches)

- [Step-by-step guide to building a soccer kickwall at home](#) (led by W&L Univ. freshman midfielder)
- [Coaching Methodology Overview](#)
- [Training Structure & Design Webinar](#)

We remain confident that we will get through this emergency together. We must all do our part, however, and that includes being vigilant about shutting down in-person social gatherings and practices. We thank our clubs for their impressive leadership within their communities. We look forward to seeing you back out on the pitch as soon as possible.

Richard Smith  
President, National Capital Soccer League