



**TO:** Member Leagues/Clubs and Sanctioned Tournaments  
**FROM:** Jen Fickett, Executive Director  
**DATE:** March 13, 2020  
**RE:** COVID-19: Ohio North Update

President  
**Paul R. Emhoff**

Vice President  
**Tom Pickett**

Secretary  
**Sarah Hodgson**

Treasurer  
**Ronald Gedrich**

District I  
Commissioner  
**Scott MacMillan**

District II  
Commissioner  
**Nic Olechnowicz**

District III  
Commissioner  
**Oliver Condell**

District IV  
Commissioner  
**Paul Holdgate**

Ohio North has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The last 48 hours have been the most significant in the history of sports the country has ever seen. As the safety and security of our soccer community is our highest priority, we are following all state and federal government orders and guidelines as well as following suit of our governing bodies, U.S. Soccer and US Youth Soccer.

Based upon the available information and recommendations about ways to slow the spread of the virus, in our [March 12 Revised Updated Memo](#) we made the determination to suspend all Ohio North ONPL and State League games, Cup Series games, ODP, TOPSoccer and coaching education through April 15, 2020. This also applies to Ohio North sanctioned tournaments.

Our decision aligns with US Youth Soccer, which has suspended all of its league activity through April 15, 2020 and is in line with U.S. Soccer's decision to suspend all of its league activity, international matches and coach and referee education through April 30, 2020.

We strongly encourage our member leagues and clubs follow [Governor DeWine's orders](#), along with the recommendations of our sport's governing bodies, the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and other expert organizations to suspend **ALL** soccer activities, including practices, effective immediately. We hope it is an easy decision to support the goal of helping to mitigate the spread of the virus. This is not just a soccer decision, but a public health decision.

For those seeking information on [US Youth Soccer](#) or [U.S. Soccer](#) programming, please visit their respective websites and social media channels.

Please share this information with your teams, clubs, leagues, sanctioned tournaments and families through your various communication platforms (e.g., websites, social media, email distributions, etc.).

Our hope is that if we all play our part in slowing the spread of this virus, we can resume activity after April 15. We will continue to keep everyone informed as contingency plans are put into motion.

Thank you for your understanding, flexibility and patience during these unprecedented times.

