March 31, 2020

To:       NTX State Cup Teams
          NTX Presidents Cup Teams

From:    Jim Mills - North Texas Soccer Youth Commissioner
         Kathy Rudd – NTX State and Presidents Cup Tournament Director

Re: Cancellation of NTX State Cup and NTX Presidents Cup

USYS has issued an update to the current programming suspension and today’s notice will likely be disappointing to many of you. As of today, Tuesday March 31, 2020, USYS has decided to push back their return to activity date for all US Youth Soccer Conferences to May 1st, 2020. Part of this decision includes cancelling the 2020 Presidents Cup, the 2020 National Championships and all the regional competitions leading up to those two events. With this information North Texas Soccer has made the difficult decision to cancel North Texas State Cup and North Texas Presidents Cup.

The decision embraces four core priorities:

1) Financial Impact to Families - COVID-19 is likely to have a devastating financial impact on many USYS families. As a result, many teams are unlikely to attend or attend with reduced rosters. At this time, we feel it would be unfair to place that additional burden on USYS/NTX families in need.

2) Stress on Families - If it were possible, however unlikely, that we could return to play in May, many families will still be hesitant to travel on an airplane or stay in a hotel. Again, we do not want to place that additional burden on our USYS/NTX families.

3) Integrity of USYS Competitions - If teams that would normally qualify for a Championship do not have the opportunity because of the impact of COVID-19, is it really a Championship? We must ensure that every club within the USYS Family has an equal opportunity to succeed and if they don’t, we diminish the integrity and meaning of the Championship. As of today, many States will not be able to complete their State Cups in time to qualify for Regionals, thus eliminating all their potential teams from qualification.

4) Focus on Local USYS Leagues and Communities - many soccer clubs and their employed coaches survive on registration fees. At a time where every community will be struggling to find fields to start and complete even a part of their spring schedule, our focus should be on those local leagues to bring our communities back together through sport, not distracted by a national tournament. 2020 must be about coming back together, not just winning.

We can imagine the disappointment many players, coaches and families will feel. Not being able to join their team in a run for the Cup and fulfill their dreams and goals is extremely hard to fathom, especially for our oldest players hoping to make one last run at hoisting the National Championship Cup. We are also acutely aware of those older players hoping these competitions could support their collegiate recruiting efforts. While there are no words to ease the disappointment, some day when they think about why the decision was made, they will hopefully come to agree that this was the right call.
The North Texas Soccer State and Presidents Cup Committee have met and set in place the procedure for receiving your full refund for both events should a payment have been made. Refunds will be processed over the next two weeks.

On behalf of North Texas Soccer, we thank you to all you do in helping to make soccer the preeminent sport in the United States and Igniting a Passion For The Game.