



# NHSA Town Hall



Return to Play Informational Session  
Tuesday, July 28

# Introduction



## Tonight's Speakers:

- Rusty Wightman - President, NHSA - State of the State; Phase III Outline
- Jeff Cousineau - State Director, ODP; State DOC - Coaching Education during COVID-19; ODP plans for upcoming season
- Anne Fichera - State Administrator - GotSport; Registration Information
- Ryan Joy - NHSL Director - League Timeline, Scheduling, Odds & Ends



# Meeting Protocols

- Everyone on the call will start by being MUTED, to prevent background noise
- Each speaker for talk for approximately 10 minutes.
- Q/A section will immediately follow each speaker's presentation.
- As you think of questions, enter your question into the Chat Box (CB).
  - The CB will be monitored by the MC.
  - The MC will establish an order for people to ask their question.
  - When called, UNMUTE yourself and ask your question.
- Length of town hall will last 60-75 minutes



# Continuing to Re-open - PHASE 3 - CURRENT PHASE

## Activities permitted in Phase 3

- Practices can be held, recommended using ½ field per team/age group
- Games, friendlies and scrimmages can be played.
- Tryouts can take place.

## Activities NOT permitted in Phase 3

- Tournaments or jamborees outside of New England.
- Travel to tournaments outside New Hampshire shall be handled on a case-by-case basis.



# Return to Play Protocols - Rusty Wightman

- Athletes, coaches, officials, etc. should wear face coverings and practice social distancing when not actively engaged in athletics and when social distancing is not possible
- Spectators, including parents, guardians and children above the age of 2 should be asked to wear face coverings and practice social distancing of 6'
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol must be made readily available to coaches, athletes, volunteers and staff and used frequently
- Assign a staff member or volunteer to monitor these safety protocols and be point person for your organization

# Return to Play Protocols Continued - Rusty Wightman



- All staff, volunteers and athletes are required to report symptoms to coach and/or organization.
- Staff, volunteers and athletes who show symptoms are not allowed participate in any activity per CDC guidelines.
- Screen coaches, staff, athletes and volunteers upon arrival to every sporting event, meeting or training session.
- Take attendance (this could aid tracking by health officials, should it be necessary).
- Check temperatures upon arrival (temperatures over 100.4 can not participate).

# Return to Play Protocols Continued - Rusty Wightman



Ask the 3 questions:

- Have you experienced any symptoms ? Fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, etc.
- Have you had close contact with anyone suspected or confirmed positive with Covid 19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you traveled outside of New Hampshire, Maine or Vermont in the past 14 days on public transportation ?
- Person(s) that have been in contact or experienced symptoms should be instructed to call their health care provider and not take part in activities until cleared and/or meet criteria for return

# The Question Everyone is Asking - Rusty Wightman

**Q.** If a player on a team tests positive for COVID19, does the entire team (if they have been in *close contact* with that athlete) need to quarantine for 14 days?

**A.** Consult with local health officials if you determine your team or coaches have been exposed to COVID-19. Individuals who recently had *close contact* with a person with COVID-19 should follow **CDC's guidance for when you can be around others.**



# Close Contact; Defined - Rusty Wightman

## Close contact as defined by the CDC

For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

It is recommended upon any positive case of COVID 19 within a team, the coach/club suspend all team activity for at least three days even if “close contact” was not a factor to allow adequate time for the health dept.

# Final Thoughts - Rusty Wightman

Individual commitment to a group effort,  
that is what makes a team work, a company work,  
a society work, a civilization work.

- *Vince Lombardi*

# Questions?



Any questions for Rusty Wightman regarding

- RTP protocols
- Current Phase status

# Coaching Education - Jeff Cousineau



## CURRENT STATUS:

- USSF has given state associations control of when and how they offer coaching education courses.
- NHSA is committed to offering coaching education in the future.
- USSF Coaching Education courses to shift to hybrid version, online and in-person.
- NHSA to continue to offer free coaching education webinars.

# Coaching Education - Jeff Cousineau



## HYBRID GRASSROOTS COURSE OPTION

Coaching candidates earn a USSF Grassroot License by completing a two specific segments, classroom and field.

Part 1: Classroom - Candidates attend a coaching methodology webinar (virtual/distance learning) that covers the lecture portion of the USSF Grassroots Course. This webinar would be 2 hours in length.

Part 2: Field Session - Candidates attend an in-person training session that matches the desired play model (4v.4, 7v.7, 9v.9, 11v.11). The field session segment would be 2 hours in length.



# Coaching Education - Jeff Cousineau

## COACHING COURSE OFFERINGS

- USSF Grassroots Licenses (4v4, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11)
  - Looking for Club Hosts (field only)
  - Planning to set up courses in late August and/or September
  
- USSF D License Fall 2020
  - Spread over several months via video conferences
  - One or two in-person field sessions

# OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - Jeff Cousineau



## CURRENT STATUS:

- NH ODP is targeting Sunday, September 13, as the new open tryout date for the winter training program, NH Winter Futures..
- NH ODP has created a committee to rethink and redesign the winter training program to incorporate social distancing protocols. The objective is to create a 'new' winter training program that is still dynamic and rigorous.
- It is likely the number of winter sessions per team will decrease, but the winter training program's footprint will remain the same.

# OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - Jeff Cousineau



## PROTOCOLS FOR WINTER TRAINING AT HAMPSHIRE DOME:

NH ODP will be following best practices and recommendations from government (CDC, State of NH, etc.) and soccer organizations (USSF, USYS, NHSA, etc.)

### Examples of safety protocols to be employed

- Reduced number of players in winter pools
- Reduced number of teams on field
- Individual training equipment issued to players
- Organized and synchronous team movements in facility



# Questions?



Any questions for Jeffrey Cousineau regarding

- USSF Coaching Schools
- NH Olympic Development Program



# State Administrator - Anne Fichera

- GotSport
  - Player fees paid by NHSA
  - Credit card fees paid by club
  
- On-board Process (Time sensitive and needs to be done ASAP)
  - Link: <https://gotsoccercom.pipedrive/com/scheduler/mkre0U6/gotsport-demo>



# State Administrator - Anne Fichera

- Roster Change Deadlines
  - Weekly changes due by Tuesday for completion for the weekend
  
- Roster Change Fee Structure
  - Three (3) changes allowed per roster/per season
  - \$20 processing fee for each additional roster change

# State Administrator - Anne Fichera



## Birth Certificates

- All existing verified players are exempt
- Only new players must submit birth certificates



# State Administrator - Anne Fichera

- Coach's SafeSport Certification
  - Existing coaches are grandfathered through the process
  - New coaches must be SafeSport certified
  
- Risk Management
  - Yearly background checks required (\$11.00 per coach)
  - All background checks expire annually in August
  
- GotSport webinar on August 3, 3:30 PM, for all Administrators

# Questions?



Any questions for Anne regarding:

- Gotsport
- Registrations
- Rosters
- Miscellaneous



# League Timeline - Ryan Joy

## CURRENT STATUS:

- We are currently in PHASE III - so season is moving forward as planned

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- August 1st - State Affiliation Fees Due
- August 3rd - Location Manager Contacts
- August 6th - League Registration Closes
- August 7th - Preliminary Divisions Released
- August 10th - Team Drops Due by Noon - Scheduled Released to location managers



# League Timeline (cont'd) - Ryan Joy

- August 11th - Remaining league fee balance automatically billed
- August 14th - Location manager schedule deadline; schedule given to assignor
- August 17th - League and Jamboree Schedule Released to Public
- August 22nd/23rd - Preseason Jamboree
- August 29th - Start of Fall Season

LEAGUE KICKOFF MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL AND TENTATIVELY ON  
AUGUST 18th or 19th.



# Scheduling - Ryan Joy

- Blackout dates - please be sure to send those to me for your club. See league policies on blackout date requests
- Blocking of games
- Spacing of games
- Remember weeknights
- The mid-afternoon traffic jam

# Odds & Ends - Ryan Joy

- Jamboree
- Development Divisions
- High School
- COVID-19 Guidelines Document
- Best Practices Blog
- Club Specific Procedural Database

# Questions?



Any questions for Ryan Joy regarding

- Upcoming NHSL season?
- Operation and expectation of clubs/teams in NHSL?
- Anything else?

Any other questions for any of the speakers?



Thank you for coming!

