

## **VMSL Update to All Members regarding Impacts of Covid-19**

The VMSL Board's thoughts are with anyone affected by COVID-19 physically, mentally and financially.

Clubs/teams that are interested in a return to modified training must complete Canada Soccer's "[Return to Soccer Assessment Tool](#)" which requires you to commit to offer soccer activity under the terms in BC Soccer's Return to Play Plan Phase 1 – Recommendations and Guidelines.

New COVID-19 case counts are not dropping off in the lower mainland as fast as everyone would like. The VMSL is constrained by the Provincial Health Authority and Via Sport who govern BC Soccer's Return to Play plan. The current phase of BC Soccer's plan still requires 2m physical distancing during modified training. BC Soccer has reported that they hope to get new information from Via Sport in early to mid August.

Given where we are at today (July 24), the VMSL Board does not believe there is any chance for remaining critical league make up games to be played before the league's normal start date for the 2020-21 season (September 11, 2020). These games would need to be played before the divisional structure could be finalized and a schedule then developed. Only a fraction of the teams in the VMSL have something serious left to play for in the league. Once we are cleared for game play, we would not want to delay the new season for all to allow a few teams to finish out up to 5 games. Scheduling the season after these games would add further delay.

The Board has taken the difficult decision to cancel all remaining 2019-20 league make up games. The VMSL rules contain the basis for dealing with all league title, promotion, and relegation determinations in this worst case outcome where no more 2019-20 games will be played. As it turns out, the basic rule of points per game resolves all matters without a need for tie breakers. The website home page will be updated shortly with the league champions and golden boot and glove winners.

The VMSL is committed to finding a way (assuming it is possible) to play the 15 remaining league cup matches interleaved into the 2020-21 season. (10 semifinals and 5 cup finals)

The health and welfare of VMSL referees, players, staff and supporters are our priority. We will continue to follow Government advice and work collaboratively to keep the situation under review and explore all options available to get back to VMSL game play. On the following page we provide some detail on the VMSL's high level contingency plans.

We would like to re-emphasize that our thoughts are with everyone affected by COVID-19.

Stay safe,

Your VMSL Board of Directors

Shaheem Ali  
Amar Bains  
Mathew Bird

Geoff Catliff  
John Catliff  
Scott Coulter

Mark Gomes  
Angelo Pulice  
Ruben Tremarco

## Contingency Plan for Upcoming VMSL Scheduled Activities

Activity	Normal Schedule	Current Outlook	Contingency Plan
2019-20 League Make Up Games	Target completion end of March. Typically slips into April / May	Cancelled by VMSL	Use VMSL Rules 5.3 and 6.3
2019-20 League Cup Semifinals	March 13-14-15	Plan to complete and assume this will require interrupting 2020-21 league play. Unlikely to be able to be played as multigame events	Presumably would only cancel if could not be played in 2020.
2019-20 All Cups Day	March 28		
2020 Provincial Cup Draws	April 9	Cancelled by BC Soccer	n/a
2020 Provincial Cup Competitions	April 17 – May 24	Cancelled by BC Soccer	n/a
2020 VMSL AGM	Mid June	To be held online. Planning to schedule before 2020-21 season starts but only once there is visibility to a return to game play and known Return-to-Play parameters	Hold prior to clarity on restart date and parameters if required by law and then hold special general meeting before restart
2020-21 VMSL Team Registration	Mid June through early July	Open July 24 <sup>th</sup> – August 6 <sup>th</sup> (Needed to develop 2020-21 divisional structure and provisional schedule)	Late team registration after August 6 <sup>th</sup>
2020-21 VMSL Player Registration	Mid July through March 31, 2021	Will open once VMSL has visibility to a return to game play	n/a
2020-21 VMSL Season	September 11 – March 31, 2021 or thereabouts	Unclear. Expecting a delayed start given we are only in BC Soccer Return-to-Play phase 1 and only 6 weeks away	Shortened season, half season, no season? Subject of AGM
2020 Western Canadians (assuming a VMSL participant)	[September 25-27] [City TBA]	Cancelled by Canada Soccer	n/a
2020 National Championships (assuming a VMSL participant)	October 7 - 12 (Halifax)	Cancelled by Canada Soccer	n/a