



Hello All Town Presidents, Travel Directors, Referee Assignors, Treasurers, and Registrars,

Thanks to everyone who joined us on the March 17 All-BAYS conference call. Apologies to those who were not able to join us due to technical difficulties. What follows are the topline takeaways from the call, a summary of the key decisions, and a call “transcript.”

## TOPLINE TAKEAWAYS

- The season is scheduled to kickoff May 2. (We will schedule games for April 25, but they will be considered rainouts to be made up if possible.)
- We will not participate in MTOC for youth teams, and the last weekend for games will be June 27.
- Five games is the shortest season we will schedule.

## SUMMARY OF THE CALL

### Determining when it is safe to play soccer

For guidance about when to play the season, we will look to the sources listed below. The ***BAYS season will not start unless all of the sources below agree that it is safe for children to play outdoor sports*** this year.

- Massachusetts Youth Soccer (MYSA)
- Status of Schools
- Centers for Disease Control / Mass Department of Health
- Federal and state authorities
- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA – controls High School sports)

### MTOC Participation

- The majority of BAYS Clubs seemed in favor of NOT participating in MTOC this year in favor of having more kids play more soccer later into the season. This will allow us to extend the season until June 27, the last Saturday before the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.
  - We will put out a Doodle poll to confirm this; we ask all Club Presidents make sure that they participate in the doodle poll.

- *We did clarify since this call that the MTOC-eligible team percentages are as follows:*
  - *162/1246 Youth Grade 3-8 teams: 13% of teams are MTOC eligible*
  - *55/97 HS teams: 57% of teams are MTOC eligible*
  - *217/1343 BAYS teams: 16% of overall BAYS teams are MTOC eligible*
- Many towns noted that high school players only play because it's their last chance to go to MTOC. BAYS will look at options to have high school players in eligible MTOC divisions still participate in the BAYS Playoffs and MTOC tournament.

### **MIAA's decision impacts the start of the BAYS season**

- For many towns, MIAA's decision to postpone athletic activities until April 27 constrains field use in many BAYS towns.
  - The towns asked BAYS to push back the start of the season to accommodate that timeframe.
  - This means the earliest start time for the season will be May 2.

### **The logistics of the BAYS 2020 schedule**

- Towns said they needed at least two weeks to prepare for the start of the season. So if games were to start on May 2, towns would need confirmed notification by April 18.
- We agreed that ***a five-week season was the shortest season that we could play.***
- If we need to cancel the season, that decision would be made by May 16.

### **The BAYS spring 2020 schedule: a May 2 start date and a June 27 end date.**

- Based on the MIAA's impact on the BAYS schedule, the season will kick off on May 2.
- We will try to squeeze in a 10-game season with a schedule showing an April 25 game that will be considered an automatic rainout.
  - Teams would be allowed to make up the April 25 game if they can. If they can't, the game will be treated as an unplayed game. Teams would not be charged with a forfeit, and we would not charge a forfeit fee.

### **Regarding notifying towns about the start of the season**

If we end the season on June 27, BAYS would give towns two weeks to prepare for the season kick off. For example,

- For a 10-game season; the start or postpone decision would be made by April 18
- 8-game season; the start or postpone decision would be made by April 25
- 5-game season or to cancel the season; the start or cancel decision would be made by May 16

## Call Transcript

We had two excellent note takers, Katie Bigelow and Reg Wilcox. What follows reflects the “transcript” of the call.

### Running Transcript of the BAYS All Clubs Call

7 pm on 3/17/2020; adjourn @ 8:35 pm

Facilitator: Tony Loftis

Bill from **Framingham United** - Season is buildup to MTOC. No one cares about 10 week season. Believes MTOC is important. Try to make MTOC and Presidents’ Cup possible. There should be less emphasis on regular season and focus on tournaments.

**Norwood Youth Soccer.** Believes focus should be on regular season - not tournaments.

**Arlington Soccer** - wants to see figures. Focus should be on offering the best soccer to the most kids

Tony believes MTOC will be a casualty of this season.

**Cambridge** - Believes we should focus on getting most kids playing. Focus should be on majority of players

Evelyn - states MTOC will be an issue. There are going to be a lot of make up games. If we continue with MTOC, availability of fields will be an issue and don’t want “preference” given to MTOC teams over other teams for fields

*25% of kids play in MTOC - 75% do not: **See clarification in Tony’s summary.***

**Walpole** - consider 3 and 4 play all 10 weeks. Div 1 and 2 play 5 weeks and they can still play MTOC.

**Framingham** - Division 3 and 4 coaches happy to play shortened season (8 weeks).

Manchester Youth Soccer - Need to focus on 75%. Program is about getting kids on the field.

**North Attleboro** - Treat Div 1 and 2 like playoff. Do not do MTOC.

Teresa- Reason for taking Presidents’ Cup off line is due to field availability, if we treated Div 1 and Division 2 like playoff, field availability will also be an issue.

Michele from **Canton**- Need to simplify

**Belmont** - People are having a hard time getting on call and being dropped.

When do we want season to start? Cannot start until MYSA says we can. US Soccer is dictating what we can do. April 1 is the next time we will be given info. Schools are closed until April 27. MIAA games will start then as well.

Option 1: Treat April 4 and 11 as rain outs and have make ups.

Option 2: Start our season on April 22. First game May 2 - April 25 would be rain out.

**Medway** - Does not believe we can start before MIAA

Town ? - Does not believe can start before MIAA starts

**Norwood** - Same boat

**North Attleboro** - Same boat

**Walpole** - same boat - suggestions - # of families will not release players to play even if town starts season. Teams may not be fully rostered. What do we do?

Teresa - Competition committee will not allow double roster, but can roster

? Garcia - town? - little changes happening day to day. Want to get kids on field. Does believe 10 week season will work. Suggesting 5 week season. Mid season start may make sense. 10 weeks will be very challenging. Kids will not be able to play

Tony - an advantage to play May 2 with pretend start of April 25 - 10 game season and bound at end. Will know schedule, but can peel games off.

Door #2 - will be lucky to get season in. advantage to have 1st game May 2 we can get

**Belmont** - Craig - Does not know when fields will be available. Belmont states fields are closed. Town is listening to Board of Health and seeing when schools restart. Each town should offer what their town is telling them so we can find out when enough towns will be available.

Charlie Hurwitch – Let's be positive and try to get in as many games as possible. If we need to cut back we can. Would like to be prepared to play and pull back if necessary.

**North Attleboro** - They were affected by Triple E and it may affect this Spring season

Melissa Hart - **Belmont** - poll towns to see when they can actually start. Jamming as many games in and then having to reschedule may be problematic due to other issues.

Tony - There will be no forfeits assigned or fees charged. Suggesting May 2 starts date with April 25 pretend start date.

Teresa - Can plan on a 10 week season but if we get past 1st week in May we need to be flexible in cutting back our game numbers

Craig - **Belmont** - Will there be team fee adjustments to towns if games are canceled?

Charlie - Would like to wait and see. There are set costs, but will evaluate depending on how many games are played. The decision will ultimately be made by towns. Board will discuss with towns to make a final decision. The towns all have set costs.

Call dropped - waiting for people to get back on

Teresa - with regards to cost. Should we refund vs have credit.

Craig from **Belmont** - Certain families of grade 8 players will not be returning

Evelyn - May not want to refund on credit card since you pay more. Insurance through MYSA is all year. Perhaps we can offer programs/clinics in summer to bring people close to whole.

Tony has returned to call. Clicking is gone on call so people are happy

We were talking about refund. BAYS will be transparent. It would be great if towns can communicate so towns can provide similar refunds/credit so it all seems fair to everyone.

Evelyn - Question? Should we go through a period where we put out a date and see if towns are going to drop and set up new schedule.

Teresa does not believe we are in a place to do that.

Tony- If we try to have a 10 week period it is best for kids and a decision of refund does not need to be made.

Town? - We need to be ready for parents to make last minute decisions. They may not let their kids play. Be aware that things are constantly changing and be ok with rolling with the punches

**Norwood** - Do not know who is affiliated with Admin. Admin states if we use Admin, they can automate systematic refunds to families.

Town ? - Please provide best practices with regards to what each town is doing with regards to refunds and credits so that some consistency can be maintained.

Someone suggested a live google doc that towns can share what their "credit" policies are

**Cambridge** - mentioned BAYS is very firm on no dual roster. Can we reconsider.

Michelle/**Canton** - We should set guidance as to if a team has 7 players, other team should play with 7. Some do not like that if one team has 16 then you have many kids not playing

**Lincoln** - stated that kids registered with BAYS can play on another team but if not on roster game is immediate forfeit but the game is at least played.

Town - special waiver for being double rostered

Teresa - Seems like a roster nightmare.

Peter - If we are not going to play in MTOC - you can play on a team that is placed higher than on a team than the team you are rostered.

David - There was going to be a club pass - BAYS has chosen not to do it. Three or four are listed on a roster that are rostered on a lower team, but can play up if needed.

Teresa would like to know how many towns will run into this issue of not having enough players.

**Lexington** thinks we should wait to see what happens. If we start pushing now, parents will start pulling kids out not knowing what to do or what is going to be happening.

Tony - Believes we should start a google doc and discuss at April 8 meeting.

Patricia from **Bellingham** - Games start May 2, but first game April 25 that would need to be made up. Is there a go or no go date?

Tony does not believe that we are ready to set those dates. Tony would like to know when we think it should be.

**Bellingham** believes April 7 should be the go or no go date. Teresa thinks it is too early.

**Belmont** - Once season is less than 5 weeks, there really is not a season. Early or mid May would have to be the decision made.

Evelyn - most sections play teams twice so if we plan on a 10 week season it would be "easy" to go to a 5 week season

**Westborough** - we are not in situation to pick a drop dead date right now. Believes we should go with a full schedule and if we have to cancel we will. News is changing daily.

**Bellingham** - what is date if we go to 10 or 5 week season? It would be helpful to have a plan as to when decisions will be made -

**Belmont** - agrees with **Bellingham** we should have dates as to when we decide what we can and cannot do

**Dover Sherborn** - agrees having dates as to when BAYS will make decisions would be very helpful

**Sudbury** - Bob Lee - There was mention of weekly meetings - Tony stated that was League committee presidents. Bob believes there should be BAYS weekly updates

Teresa agrees that that is a fair ask

Tony - will work on dates and will start google doc

**Norwood** - We need to remember that if the season does happen, there are things that towns need to do to prepare for the season. Another reason for having dates.

Tony believes this is good information to have.

**Marlborough** - Getting feedback to towns is great. Town needs to purchase things for their towns. Does not want to purchase things that are necessary since they cannot charge players if not used.

**Belmont** - The uncertainty that goes along with this. All of the unknowns are difficult, but having dates would be very helpful even if the decisions are wrong. We can only make decisions based on the information we have. 5 week season date, 10 week season date, or no season date.

Tony - looking at calendar should we only look at 5, 10 week or no season.

Town ? - Between 5 - 10 weeks is acceptable

**DS** - Craig - If less than 5 week season there should be no season. Anything before that is a possibility.

**Northborough** - Need to discuss time frame. Are we extending season? Limited in field availability. If we change end date that would affect towns.

Town ? - Not keen on starting season with 2 makeup games. Believes games should be lopped off. 1 play 10 weeks in 8 week span. 2 play 8 weeks 6 week span

Tony - Believes we will be scratching MTOC based on feedback so far. June 27 is last possible day we can play this season. Earliest possible date is MAY 2. If we have 10 week season start date is April 25. If we cannot play up to week 5. We still need to know when we will start season. Most towns say they need two weeks notice. Need to report to towns by April 18 to have 10 week season starting May 2. Need to report to towns on May 16 for 5 week season. May 16 will also be date if there is no season.

**Dorchester** - Will Casey - will families stick around if schools get out June 18 as some are scheduled.

Newton Girls -

**Arlington** - What are dates to register for HS teams.

**Winchester** - There are a lot of HS towns that may not enter if we know there is not going to be MTOC.

Tony - He appreciates everyone's time and apologizes for quality of call