

Dear Rush Families:

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. I want to take this opportunity to provide some important updates to the season. You will find the following information enclosed in this document:

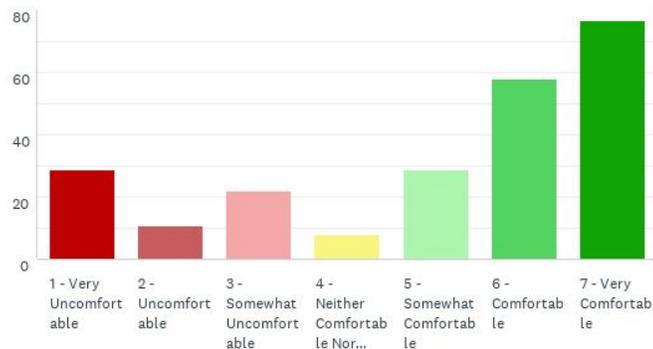
1. Club Survey Results
2. Status of Fall Practices
3. Status of Leagues
4. Process moving forward
5. Addressing concerns

1. Club Survey and Results

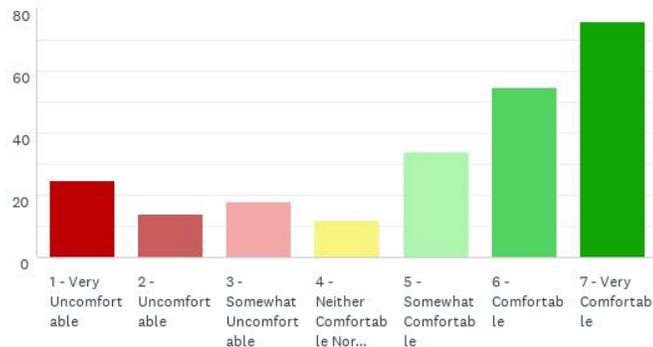
Thank you to everyone that participated in the club survey on Return to Playing Games. While there is conflicting data and approaches that govern Return to Play Phases (Dane County (Phase 2) versus other counties in the State (Phase 3), Madison Area Youth Soccer Association versus Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association), the goal of the survey was to seek your input and assess the comfort level of our membership moving forward with competitions.

With more than 230 "return to play" survey responses, we have been able to receive a comprehensive look at families' comfort level with competitive play for the 2020 Fall season. Thank you for all of your input. I'm especially grateful for the poignant comments and opinions expressed. This is your club and your voice matters. It was important to preserve the anonymity of respondents and this will be maintained throughout the reporting process.

Q1 How comfortable would your family be allowing your player(s) to compete in an "all away" schedule for all or a portion of the Fall season in the event Dane County disallows home games?



Q3 How comfortable would your family be allowing your player(s) to compete in games outside of Dane County at present time, given current environmental factors?



Responses, while certainly polarized, showed overwhelming support for a return to play. Still, the results were far from unanimous. A quarter of respondents indicated at least some discomfort in an "all away" schedule. A similar percentage (24%) reported reservations about returning to play right now. COVID-19/health concerns topped the list of worries in the free responses written by families who indicated at least some discomfort returning to play. Many also indicated concerns about the amount of travel that might be involved with an "all away" schedule.

A major challenge we confront in making the "best fit" decision for our club is the wide and varied interpretations of data and differing phases adopted by associations and counties in Wisconsin and around the country. We are in constant communication with our governing bodies and we rely heavily on health professionals to navigate our decision-making process. We are also exploring ways to minimize travel and expenses associated with potentially playing an "away heavy schedule". More information to follow as we develop strategies and possibilities with area soccer clubs. It is important to note that with the possible exception of Midwest Regional League games, no team will be required to stay overnight to accommodate an "away" game schedule.

The club survey results don't provide an easy answer. No matter what we choose to do as a club, there will not be unanimous support. What is clear, however, is that the vast majority of the club wants to return to play. So, we will attempt to do so in the safest way possible, while making sure we are respecting the wishes of families that don't feel comfortable returning to competitive games.

2. Practices: Next Steps

Rush Wisconsin will continue to operate training based on the guidelines and mandates associated with Phase 2. This means we are not allowed to scrimmage in training unless we

can maintain social distance protocols. Coaches are exploring ways to create more possession type activities and mimic scrimmages and games while conforming to protocols.

A critical note to parents about the current format of training:

While coaches and players can tire easily from the current format which can be very repetitive and technical in focus, this could actually be the best remedy to address and accelerate individual player development. We are learning many lessons from the adjustments forced upon us and one critical insight, in coaching terms, is under normal circumstances we would progress (potentially too quickly) into team organization and development at the expense of individual player development.

Players of all ages are being challenged to focus and develop a level of discipline and focus around individual technique (dribbling, passing, receiving, etc.). This can be a tedious but critical process if technique has any chance of becoming a skill. Technique is defined as the ability to perform a specific task in a specific situation presented by the game. Skill is the ability to perform that same task, consistently, when the player is under defensive pressure. The dividends for the work we are doing now will be realized when we return to more normalized training and games.

3. The Status of Leagues - Playing Games

The current status of leagues is as follows:

Youth Developmental Academy

All League games are suspended due to restrictions in Dane County. Two options exist for our players:

1. No games for the fall season. Provide additional training days on weekends to replace game days.
2. Clubs in Dane County are looking to create "recreational-academy pods" to play games once Dane County moves from Phase 2 to Phase 3. Games will be scheduled in the latter part of September and into the month of October.

Classic League

All League games are suspended due to restrictions in Dane County. Three options are being explored to secure games for player/s and or team/s:

1. Clubs are looking to create "competition pods" to play games once Dane County moves from Phase 2 to Phase 3. These are "friendly" games between "like minded - like skilled" clubs and teams. Games will be organized with officials and will be sanctioned by Madison Area Youth Soccer Association but will not count towards league standings this Fall. Games will be scheduled in the latter part of September into the month of October/November subject to Dane County moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3

2. A group of clubs are looking to create "competition pods" outside of Dane County in areas that are in Phase 3. These are "friendly" games between "like minded - like skilled" clubs and teams. Games will be organized with officials and will be sanctioned by Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association but will not count towards league standings this Fall. Games will be scheduled in the latter part of September into the month of October/November subject to the designated county maintaining Phase 3 protocols
3. Club passing individual players into teams at Rush Wisconsin (if appropriate for the player and there are available roster spots) to secure games in State League. We are also working with our satellite clubs in Lacrosse, Kenosha and Elkhorn to determine if there are opportunities to club pass onto their teams

State League and Midwest Regional League Teams

All League games are moving forward. We have approximately 60 games between all our competitive teams (not inclusive of High School Boys). There are approximately 40 of the 60 games that are scheduled to be played in Dane County. There are approximately 30 out of the 40 games that are classified as home games for Rush to be played at the Rush Hwy. Q. facility. Rush Wisconsin approach to these games are as follows:

1. Rush Wisconsin will play all away games as scheduled subject to a number of conditions being met. *Please see below for additional details.
2. Rush Wisconsin will reconcile all home games and games in Dane County to a later date (late September into October/November). This will allow us to monitor any change to Phases in Dane County
3. If Dane County remains in Phase 2 at the time of a home game, we will reconcile the game to be played at the site of the away team, if the away team is located in a County that is in Phase 3

With the possible exception of Midwest Regional League games, no team will be required to stay overnight to accommodate the game schedule.

* Specific conditions must be met in order for away games to be played including but not limited to:

1. The host club must be in strict compliance with WYSA standards and protocols for hosting a game. For additional details, please click on the link provided: [WYSA Return to Play Checklist & Requirements](#)
2. The host club must be in a County that is in Phase 3
3. There is no spike in reported Covid 19 cases reported in the host club County
4. The host club is adhering to the strict protocols outlined by WYSA

Rush Wisconsin leadership reserves the right to forfeit any home and/or away game if any of the above conditions are not met.

High School Boys - Fall Season

Rush Wisconsin continues to lobby for league opportunities for HS Boys. We are still awaiting updates from MAYSA and WYSA on possible options.

4. Process: Moving Forward

Rush Wisconsin will continue to monitor the Phases of Return to Play within Dane County and around the state. The sources of information we will consult in all matters moving forward will include:

Madison Area Youth Soccer Association
Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association
United States Soccer Association
Dane County Bounceback Plan
Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services
CDC Recommendations and Protocols

The challenge we confront in making the "best fit" decision for our club is the wide and varied interpretations of data and differing phases adopted by associations and counties in Wisconsin and around the country. We are in constant communication with our governing bodies and we rely heavily on health professionals to navigate our decision making process. We recognize there are members in our club who might not be comfortable with the decisions we make for the club as a whole and/or the individual team/s. We respect and support your opinion and understand that you must make the best decision for your individual player/family on how to proceed.

5. Communication: Addressing Concerns

Rush Wisconsin recognizes this is a very difficult time for our families and we are all struggling, in our own ways, to find the best fit path forward and make the best decision for our community at large. We are here to help, support, guide and advise in any way we can. Please use the multiple resources available to you to discuss your thoughts and concerns. You can certainly start with your team manager and coach but other resources at the club include:

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Sincerely,

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