

Louisiana Soccer Member Clubs:

I hope this finds each of you and your families well.

I wanted to share with you some information that I've gathered during the last three weeks that can be of assistance during your attempts to weather the crisis at hand.

Please be sure that your club reviews the recent CARES Act to see how to apply for payroll relief if you are eligible. There are provisions for employees as well as guidance for independent contractors. It could be valuable assistance for the finances of your club, where it's big or small.

Many of our clubs have been posting materials and videos on social media pages and such for members. First of all, please make sure these videos are free of music that would require a license from the music company. The music companies have been scouring social media looking for improper usage and have been serving various entities with fines for unpermitted use. Nobody wants to have to pay out money for something that can easily be avoided.

It's important to note that, as long as these activities are not being "live-streamed", those players at home are under the supervision of a parent or guardian and not the coach. That means the risk (and the insurance) is on the individual player and his/her family according to the USYS insurance carrier. Be cautious and reasonable with what you're asking players to do and be mindful of the "stay-at-home" order as well.

Since all soccer activities have been suspended, coaches and volunteers should not be submitting background checks at this time as we are not in contact with youth during the stay-at-home order. We've had close to a dozen submissions since activity was suspended. We'll let you know when coaches and volunteers should submit again.

We're all on the same team when it comes to stopping the spread of the virus. I'm optimistic that we're going to see each other on the fields in May and June. In the meantime, stay safe, stay at home, and be well.

Sean Esker
President
Louisiana Soccer Association