

Hello Sterling Soccer,

There are so many things going on in the world right now, so I hope this message finds you well.

As Covid continues to limit everyone's daily lives, Sterling Youth Soccer is exploring the possibility of providing some sort of a spring soccer program. We all know that physical activity is incredibly important and youth sports provide an additional opportunity for social interactions (which most people could really use these days).

This is NOT a replacement for Mountain Soccer Club

Mountain Soccer Club is an organization providing competitive, travel soccer for Grade 3+ for surrounding towns (Sterling, Princeton, Rutland and Paxton). Mountain Club has provided Sterling kids with competitive spring soccer for many years and will continue to do so in 2021. Mountain Club teams may include players from any/all 4 towns and the "home" location of the team is based on coaching and field availability. Our proposed program is not intended to compete with Mountain Club and would instead provide a more casual/recreational option that would stay in-town.

What would a Sterling Youth Soccer spring season be like?

At this time, ***nothing has been determined and we are simply exploring our options***, but below is the current thinking of what a season might look like:

- The format would likely be very similar to the 2020 fall "in-town" program. Teams would consist of Sterling players (with potential for some limited players from surrounding towns) and activities would be in Sterling.
- Activities would be planned for Sunday afternoons (1 – 1.5 hr duration). The season would likely start in mid/late April and run through mid-June. We are seeking to avoid conflicts with recreational baseball and softball, so day/time may need to be adjusted for certain age groups.
- There are no plans for mid-week practices.
- The specific format is TBD but would likely be small-sides games. The specifics would be better determined once we know how many players might be participating and the format may vary by age group. We would likely have a different approach for younger and older kids.
- We would expect the Covid protocols to be similar to the fall and would include mandatory masks and social distancing. Obviously, a lot can change between now and then, but I would expect the most conservative approach.
- At this time we're considering PreK through Grade 8. High school players are encouraged to check out the "W5" program that is being run through Holden Youth Soccer. Travel soccer for HS is also being offered through Mountain Club.

We Need Coaches Before We Can Do Anything!

Before we can proceed further with potential season planning, we need to gauge interest in this approach. Unlike the fall season, we will need to identify coaches **before** we open any registration as this would determine how many players will be able to accept (more coaches = more teams = more players). We will collect information about interested coaches in the survey. Speaking of a survey...

SURVEY - Please follow [THIS LINK](#) to a short survey about spring soccer.

We would like to get as many responses as possible to understand the general interest, so we would appreciate it if you completed the survey even if you aren't interested in participating. The survey should be very quick, but you will need to complete it for each SYSA player.



Please Consider Helping Out

Several members of the SYSA Board have reduced availability in the spring (myself included) and therefore we would need additional support to make a spring season happen. Please consider becoming more involved with the Sterling Youth Soccer Board if you really want to make this happen! Stay tuned for additional information about our next Board meeting where we will be electing officers for 2021 (spoiler alert – it'll be scheduled for Monday, February 22nd).

In closing...

Please [take the survey](#) and let us know where you stand. We understand the desire to have activities to get everyone active and out of the house, but we will need your support to make it happen. As always, please reach out with any questions.

Be safe.

Brent Powers

President, Sterling Youth Soccer

