

MHSFCA calls prolonged pause 'disappointing'

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JACKSON – A decision announced Monday by state officials to extend restrictions across the state has once again delayed the high school football season.

It is disappointing, says Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Executive Director Scott Farley, but there remains some hope that the state playoffs will continue and, ultimately, come to a completion.

“I think there will be some opportunities,” Farley said. “We applaud the efforts of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and (Executive Director) Mark Uyl and hope the season can resume.”

Less than 100 games remain on the schedule to conclude the playoffs for 11-Player and 8-Player football in Michigan. The 11-Player teams are at the Regional final level while the 8-Player teams are at the semi-final level. Games were scheduled to be played next week starting Tuesday but the announcement Monday by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Health and Human Services officials makes that impossible.

“We’re obviously disappointed in the decision to extend the partial shutdown,” Farley said. “It is our feeling that teams, schools, coaches and players have done a great job mitigating the virus. Many districts have made the proper decision to cancel practices and games when necessary and follow guidelines and protocols to remain safe.”

Data from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and cited by the MHSAA, indicates that Covid-19 transmission during competition is extremely rare, at most.

The MHSAA’s Representative Council meets later this week and is expected to begin discussing options for the playoffs to be completed.

The MHSFCA and its members have been devoted to the promotion of high school football since its inception in March 1972. For more information about the organization, its 2020 All-Region teams, the upcoming virtual coaches' clinic and more, visit www.mhsfca.com.

To schedule an interview with MHSFCA Executive Director Scott Farley, send an e-mail to dougdonnelly@hotmail.com.