

**MYSA Annual General Meeting
February 28, 2009
Sheraton Four Points - Leominster, MA**

The meeting was called to order by Sid Bloom, president of Mass Youth Soccer, at 10:00 AM. There were 37 delegates present, representing 130 votes. A quorum was determined to be present to conduct business. Sid made welcoming remarks. He is looking forward to our hosting the national championship this summer at our complex in Lancaster. Sid thanked the board and the membership for their support over his tenure. He recapped our accomplishments during his 8 year term as president, highlighting the fact we have 5 full time development coaches and the field complex in Lancaster and reminded everyone that the game is for the kids- they have to have fun.

Approval of last year's minutes

The minutes were approved by a voice vote

Reports of Officers & SYRA

Sid Bloom stated the reports were contained in the booklets handed out at the registration table and in the interest of time was not going to ask the program managers to read them at the meeting.

Financial Report

Carl Goldstein stated the financial report was also contained in the booklet handed out at registration, but reviewed key points of the auditor's report. He has a positive outlook for the organization. The new executive board will examine any budget cuts that might be required if registrations are significantly lower than last year.

Election of officers –

Sid Bloom turned the meeting over to Steve Smoller, chairman of the nominating committee, who presented the slate:

Three year term:

President – Skip Gorman

Treasurer – Carl Goldstein

Director Olympic Development – Jared Scarpaci

Director National Championship Series – Terri Filippetti

Director District 1 – Carol O'Brien

Director District 7 – Kevin Krumpholz

Two year term:

Director Outreach Programs – Ray Robinson

Bill Shaughnessy (Mass Youth) moved, seconded by Nancy Hart (Mass Youth), that the clerk cast a ballot for the uncontested candidates as presented. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Following the election, Skip Gorman took over running the meeting. Skip thanked the membership for their trust in the board and remarked it was not always like that. He also reviewed the accomplishments during Sid Bloom's term as president, pointing out the field complex, the tape and DVD of "Attitudes Are Contagious" which was distributed nationally. Skip commented he had mighty big shoes to fill and thanked Sid for his efforts.

Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

Skip Gorman turned the meeting over to John Burrill to present the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws.

PROPOSED CHANGES

PREAMBLE

PURPOSE - Its purpose is to promote and enhance the game of soccer. Mass Youth Soccer will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin. This association is affiliated with and complies with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer).

NEW

PURPOSE - [The Association is organized exclusively for one or more of the charitable, educational, and scientific purposes specified in Section 501\(c\) \(3\) of the Internal Revenue Code.](#) More specifically Its purpose is to promote and enhance the game of soccer. Mass Youth Soccer will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex or national origin. This association is affiliated with and complies with the authority of the United States Soccer Federation (US Soccer).

Reason: Change to due audit requirement

Section 120. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in either February or March to hear the reports of the Board of Directors and Program Managers, review the Corporation's financial reports and to conduct other Corporation business as is deemed necessary.

The date for the next AGM will be set annually no later than December 1st. [No change in the date of the AGM may be made within sixty \(60\) days of the specified date.](#)

Proposed change

[No change in the date of the AGM may be made within sixty \(60\) days of the specified date, except in cases of a weather emergency, as declared by the President of the Board of Directors. In such cases five \(5\) days notice shall be deemed sufficient.](#)

Reason: to deal with emergency situations

Section 130. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Corporation shall consist of the following elected officers:

- [National Cup Director](#)
- [Director – Outreach Programs](#)

Proposed Language

[Director, National Championship Series](#)
[Director, Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer](#)

Reason: To reflect current program

Section 133. Nomination and Election of BOD

[4...A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven \(7\) persons,](#)

- five (5) persons designated by the President, at least one (1) of whom shall not be a present Board member, and two (2) persons designated by the Leagues Committee, neither of whom shall be a present Board members.
- The Nominating Committee shall designate its Chairperson from that number.
- The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of proposed candidates to the Executive Director on or before November 15.
- The Executive Director shall distribute the list of nominations, together with a copy of Sections 130 – 135 of this Constitution, by mail, postage prepaid at the address of record, or via e-mail to the e-mail address of record, to every Organization Member no latter than the second Monday of December.

Proposed change

4..A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) persons,

- Four (4) persons designated by the President, at least two (2) of whom shall not be a present Board member, and one (1)) person designated by the Leagues Committee, who shall not be a present Board member.
- The Nominating Committee shall designate its Chairperson from that number.
- The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of proposed candidates to the Executive Director on or before **November 25**.
- The Executive Director shall distribute the list of nominations, together with a copy of Sections 130 – 135 of this Constitution, by mail, postage prepaid at the address of record, or via e-mail to the e-mail address of record, to every Organization Member no latter than the second Monday of December.

Reason: To reflect the practical approach to the matter

Section 134. Qualifications

All officers must be Members of the Corporation. The President, Treasurer, and Secretary/Clerk shall be different people. Any other two offices may be held by the same person. **No Member of the Mass Youth Soccer BOD may be an employee of Mass Youth Soccer.**

Proposed language

No member of the Mass Youth Soccer BOD may be a full time employee of Mass Youth Soccer. A member of the BOD may act in the following capacities: Part time instructor, Part time player development coach, ODP coach.

Reason: to deal with change in Mass law

Section 149. National Cup Director

The **National Cup Director** is responsible for aspects of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer State Cup Championship and for applying Mass Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer rules and regulations.

Proposed Change

Director, National Championship Series

Reason; To reflect current program as defined by US Youth Soccer.

Section 150. Director – Outreach Programs

The **Director – Outreach Programs** shall be responsible for determining, developing and delivering special soccer programs approved by the Board of Directors to support the goals and objectives of Mass Youth Soccer. He/She shall oversee the TOPS Program and other such programs that may be assigned by the BOD.

Proposed change

Director, Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer

Reason: To reflect current practice

164.2 Rural Community Advisory Committee

The rural community advisory committee shall be comprised of 5 members, all from rural communities and shall elect its chairman from the group.

The committee shall be charge with recommending new programs or how to expand existing programs to be specifically geared to increasing participation from rural communities and for delivering new services to the rural communities.

Proposed Change

Delete Section. This section was a requirement of the original loan financing for the field complex, however that loan has since been paid off.

Reason: Section no longer required

Section 166. Special BOD Meetings

The BOD may hold Special BOD Meetings as they deem necessary. Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary/Clerk whenever requested by the President, by three (3) or more Directors, or as required by the Constitution.

Proposed Change

To reflect actual practice.

Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary/Clerk or the Executive Director whenever requested by the President

Reason: to reflect actual practice

Section 167. Notice of Meetings

A written notice of every meeting of the BOD shall be sent to each director at least fourteen (14) days before such meeting. The notice shall state the agenda, the place, the date, and hour of the meeting. Announcement of intent to hold a future meeting given at a prior meeting of the BOD fulfills all the requirements of notification.

Proposed Change

A written notice of every meeting of the BOD shall be sent to each director at least twenty four (24) hours in the case of a telephone meeting or seven (7) days in the case of an actual meeting, before such meeting. The notice shall state the agenda, the place, the date, and hour of the meeting. Announcement of intent to hold a future meeting given at a prior meeting of the BOD fulfills all the requirements of notification.

Reason: to reflect actual practice

Section 191. Disposition of Property

In the event of the dissolution of the Corporation, all property and assets available after the settlement of all liabilities shall be turned over to a charity or charities as determined by the BOD at the time of dissolution. Such disposition shall be in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts general laws.

Proposed Change

In the event of the dissolution of the Corporation, all property and assets available after the settlement of all liabilities shall be shall be distributed for one or more exempt organizations within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as determined by the BOD at the time of dissolution. Such disposition shall be in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts general laws.

Reason: New audit requirement

New

Section 193. Prohibition against private inurement.

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors or trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

Reason: New audit requirement

New**Section 194 Prohibition against political activity**

Mass Youth Soccer will not endorse any candidates, make donations to their campaigns, engage in fund raising, distribute statements, or become involved in any other activities that may be beneficial or detrimental to any candidate. Mass Youth Soccer will not engage in any activities that encourage people to vote for or against a particular candidate.

Reason: New audit requirement

All of the above changes require a 2/3 majority vote to approve change.

Steve Smoller (Mass Youth) moved adoption of the constitutional changes through section 194, seconded by Charles Calcagni (MAPLE). The motion carried on a voice vote.

Section 201. Multiple Rostering

Multiple rostering permits a player to play for more than one team during the same playing season.

A player may be rostered to more than one team during a playing season if the player is age appropriate to play U-14 and younger.

A player may not be rostered to more than one team during a playing season if the player is age appropriate to play U-15 and older with the following exceptions:

A player on a team playing in the Massachusetts Premier League (MAPLE) or Massachusetts Soccer Conference (MASC) whose league team does not enter National Championship Series play (i.e., State Cup) may be rostered to another team for National Championship Series play only.

A player may be placed on a state roster called a "TOURNAMENT TEAM ONLY ROSTER" without the need for multiple rostering. A TOURNAMENT TEAM exists only for the duration of a tournament and is NOT the player's primary team. For purposes of this rule, MTOC is a competition, not a tournament.

The following rules shall apply to all players, irrespective of age.

1. A player can play on only one team entered in National Championship Series play in a soccer year, regardless of what state that competition is played in.
2. Within the entirety of the MTOC eligible leagues, a player can play on only one team during a playing season. A player may not play in two separate MTOC eligible leagues at the same time, in the same season.

Proposed Change

[Add section 3](#)

3. [A player may play on only one \(1\) team in a competition.](#)

Reason: To clarify current practice

Section 212. Adult Membership Registration

All volunteers or paid adult Members shall fill out a [KidSafe Volunteer Form](#), be registered using a Mass Youth Soccer required registration form or procedure, shall be listed on the Mass Youth Soccer adult affiliation form and shall pay the current fees.

Proposed Change

All volunteers or paid adult Members shall fill out a [CORI Background form](#), be registered using a Mass Youth Soccer required registration form or procedure, shall be listed on the Mass Youth Soccer adult affiliation form, [have an accurate date of birth provided](#) and shall pay the current fees.

Reason: To clarify current practice

Section 243. Player Transfer and Release

A player has the right to transfer from one team to another and Mass Youth Soccer has jurisdiction in matters of Player Transfer and Release. US Soccer and/or US Youth Soccer rules govern player registration and requests for transfers. **All requests for transfers shall be submitted to Mass Youth Soccer on the Mass Youth Soccer Player Release/Transfer Form.**

Proposed language

All requests for transfers shall be submitted to Mass Youth Soccer on the Mass Youth Soccer Player Release/Transfer Form, or the respective league. In the case of a transfer, either to or from, a team or teams eligible for MTOC, the leagues agreement shall control whether or not the team or teams shall remain eligible for the competition.

Reason: To clarify current practice

Section 250. Fees

All player and adult Membership fees will go to the General Fund. The General Fund will be used to pay: US Soccer Membership fees; insurance costs; other appropriate services and programs to Organizations; general administrative costs; **the costs of *The Bay Stater* (one issue per household)**; and the costs of the Instructional and Development Programs. Financial shortfalls incurred by self-funded Mass Youth Soccer programs are funded by the General Fund. Any shortfalls are to be repaid to the General Fund in subsequent years. **Non-budgeted expenses greater the \$10,000 must be approved by the Corporation.**

Proposed change

Eliminate the language the costs of *The Bay Stater* (one issue per household);
Eliminate the language Non-budgeted expenses greater the \$10,000 must be approved by the Corporation.

Reason: To reflect current practice

Section 252. Adult Membership Fee

It is an annual fee and, once paid, the adult is a fully affiliated Member of Mass Youth Soccer and US Soccer for the seasonal year. All volunteers and adults compensated by a Member Organization must be affiliated including, but not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, administrators, helpers and in-house referees. Non-affiliated individuals may not perform any role in an affiliated program.

Proposed change

At the end of the 1st sentence add the following language **subject to complying with the provisions of section 212.**

Reason: To reflect current practice

Section 270. Appeal Procedures

Section 1. The Chair of the Appeals Committee (AC) shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. An appeals panel shall consist of no less than three (3) members, unless otherwise required. The Executive Director, in consultation with the chair of the appeals committee shall form panel as necessary.

Proposed change

At the end of the last sentence add the following sentence. **In the absence of an appointed chair of the Appeals Committee, the Executive Director shall form appeals panels as necessary and the panel shall designate a chairperson for the hearing.**

Reason: To reflect current practice

All of the above changes require a majority vote to approve change.

Steve Smoller moved, seconded by Nancy Hart the adoption of bylaw changes 201 through 270. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The following changes to Section 300 have been made by the Board of Directors.

Section 301. Development

The Director - Recreational Programs and the **Director - Special Programs** are responsible for determining, developing and delivering new and/or innovative soccer programs to support the Mass Youth Soccer mission and affiliated Organizations.

Proposed change

Change Director –Special Programs to Director, Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer

Reason: To reflect current practice

Section 303. Olympic Development

The State ODP program fields approximately 10 teams statewide. Players are selected via a fall tryout process and training is provided throughout the winter and spring.

Proposed change

The state ODP program shall fields teams as deeded appropriate by the Director, Olympic Development Program and the Director of Coaching. Players are selected via a tryout process

Reason: To reflect current practice

Section 305-1

Section 305 – 1 Qualifying League for National Championship Series Play.

In order for a Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association affiliated league to be recognized for and act as a qualifying league for state cup play (i.e. National championship Series Play) the league must have at least 8 teams in a respective age group. All teams competing in the league must be affiliated through a state association affiliated with US Youth Soccer.

The age groups can be single age groups or two years combined into one age group (It may not have three ages groups combined into a single age). However if the age group is a combined age group, the group must contain at least 4 teams in the specific age group a team is qualifying for (i.e., if the age group is a U-16 and contains both U-15 & U-16 teams, in order to qualify for either age, there must be 4 U-15 and/or 4 U-16 teams in the group).

No more than 2 teams in a single age group and 3 teams in a combined age group can be from the same club. The same club is considered to be one owned, managed, controlled or operated by a single entity. If a league has more than one playing section (i.e. Division 1, 2 or 3 or Division 1 – Section A, B, C, etc.), these rules shall apply to each playing section

The league must play full regulation matches and use USSF certified referees.

The league can be a fall only league, a spring only league, a fall and spring league, or even a spring/summer league. However in order to qualify, the league must schedule and play at least 70 % of all games on or before the Thursday immediately prior to the round robin portion of state cup play.

Each soccer year he league must petition the Director, National Championship Series for certification as a cup qualifying league. This certification must be done by March 1 of the soccer year for a spring or spring /summer league and by July 15 for a fall league (for 2006, the date shall be August 1, thereafter it shall be July 15). Such request must include a listing of all teams entered in the league by age group and a tentative schedule which shows compliance with the playing requirements of the paragraph above. Failure to meet these requirements could jeopardize the league's status as a "Cup" qualifying league.

If a team or club is seeking to use a non Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association league as a "Cup" qualifying league, the league must be affiliated with an US Youth Soccer affiliate and must meet the requirements of paragraphs 1-4 above.

Any league run or operated by Region 1, or any of the other 3 regions of US Youth Soccer may be used as a "Cup" qualifying league. Only the provisions of paragraph 4 above must be complied with by a Regional league.

The Board has voted to suspend this rule for the spring 2009 season. League play will be governed by US Youth Soccer Policies and Procedures for National Championship series, rule 221-section 1.

Section 308. Massachusetts Big Apple Festival

The Mass Youth Soccer Big Apple Festival is a special outreach program that provides play between teams from inner city areas outside of Massachusetts and Massachusetts teams.

Proposed change

Delete section as it is no longer applicable.

Reason: To reflect current practice

Section 334. Recommended Playing Guidelines

Mass Youth Soccer endorses the following guidelines for the number of players participating in small-sided games **and the Under 10 and younger age groups:**

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Maximum # of Players</u>	<u>Recommended # of Players</u>	<u>Goalkeepers Permitted</u>
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Under 6	4	3	No
Under 8	5	4	No
Under 10	7	6	Yes

Proposed change

Delete the words and [the Under 10 and younger age groups:](#)

[Add Under 12](#) 9 8

Yes

Reason; To support the official position of the Board of Directors to add weight to small sided up through U-12.

New Business

Skip Gorman introduced the members of the Mass Youth board of directors and the league presidents who were present.

John Burrill presented Sid Bloom with some parting gifts of appreciation and following Sid's remarks he was given a prolonged standing ovation by the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller, Executive Secretary