

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED



# PROGRAMS DESCRIPTIONS

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**MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED**

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## PROGRAMS

### 1. Programs

#### 1.01. Programs.

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, shall establish the Programs and any related fees to support the Mass Youth Soccer mission statement. Any Program and its related fee that is adopted by the Board of Directors must be presented for approval by the Members at the regularly scheduled meeting next following the date such Program was established; provided, neither such Program nor the associated fee is subject to ratification, amendment, or rejection by the Membership.

#### 1.02. Instructional.

Mass Youth Soccer has developed four coaching curricula which are recognized by USSF and meet USSF license criteria. They are: 4(G), 8(F), 16(E), and 36(D) hour courses. The G course is for the beginning coach and is designed to give that coach, with only a little free time, a quality introduction to soccer. The focus of the G curriculum is to prepare the coach to deal with young players in a small sided playing environment. The F course begins to present the coach with more of the development of player's individual and team skills. The E course builds on the F course with more game tactics, strategy and specific coaching for goalkeeper skills. E, F and G courses are put on in local towns using local site coordinators and Mass Youth Soccer instructors. D courses are put on at regional sites. The D course provides the committed coach with a modern, advanced approach to comprehensive player and team development for older aged players. D course graduates are qualified to advance to USSF C, B and A license courses.

Mass Youth Soccer has a full-time Technical Director responsible for all coach and player development programs. Mass Youth Soccer has a very accomplished group of instructors and a comprehensive training plan for new instructors. Mass Youth Soccer graduates over 2,000 coaches from our coaching schools each year.

#### 1.03. Development.

Mass Youth Soccer's Development activities seek to promote, enhance, and expand soccer in Massachusetts through a variety of special programs.

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

Development programs include GOALS, Special Olympics, TOPSoccer, and

MassOutreach.

GOALS uses college soccer athletes as instructors providing a combination of soccer athletics and scholastics to the GOALS attendees. This program focuses on inner city kids and tries to show them that an education should be balanced with athletic activities.

TOPSoccer delivers soccer training to children with disabilities, allowing them to experience the joy of soccer within the constraints imposed by their disability.

MassOutreach is a state-wide effort to expand Mass Youth Soccer programs and services to areas of the state that are currently underserved or not receiving those services. Many of these areas are urban, inner-city areas.

1.04. Olympic Development.

The objective of the Olympic Development Program (ODP) is to identify and train the ‘best of the best’ players in the commonwealth. Also known as the State Team Program, players must try out for selection to a team and then train with top State Team Coaches to develop their soccer abilities. This program is a first step in a Regional and National selection process and are an avenue to the United States Olympic Soccer Teams and the USSF National Teams. This is also an excellent way for top soccer athletes to be seen by college coaches and a very good way for quality athletes to help pay for college while playing a sport they love.

The state ODP program shall fields teams as deemed appropriate by the Director – Olympic Development Program and the Director of Coaching. Players are selected via a tryout process and training is provided throughout the winter and spring. State Teams travel to tournaments and identification weekends in early summer.

1.05. District Select.

The District program fields teams in each of its designated districts. The District program operates in the summer.

1.06. Massachusetts State Cup.

The Massachusetts State Cup is a statewide tournament involving teams throughout the state. Winners of this competition represent Massachusetts at the USYS Region 1 Competition. Winners at the USYS Region 1 Competition from ages 14 and above go on to represent Massachusetts at the USYS National Competition.

1.07. Qualifying League for National Championship Series Play.

In order for a Mass Youth Soccer 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 eight teams in a respective age group, each of which

plays against the others. 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; there may not be three or more age groups combined into a single age. However, if the age group is a combined age group, the group must contain at least four 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 four U-15 and/or four U-16 teams in the group).

No more than two teams in a single age group and three 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 seventy percent (70%) of all games on or before the Thursday immediately prior to the round robin portion of State Cup play.

Each soccer year, the League must petition the Director – National Championship Series for certification as a cup qualifying league. This certification must be done by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year for a spring or spring/summer league and by July 15<sup>th</sup> for a fall league (for 2006, the date shall be August 1<sup>st</sup>, thereafter it shall be July 15<sup>th</sup>). 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-Mass Youth Soccer league as a "Cup" qualifying league, the league must be affiliated with an USYS affiliate and must otherwise meet the requirements of this section.

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

#### 1.08. Massachusetts Tournament of Champions.

The MTOC is a tournament sponsored by Mass Youth Soccer and scheduled after the end of the spring soccer season. The MTOC provides a tournament for the Boys and Girls champions of each age group from U-12 – U-19 for all affiliated Leagues with Division I and Division II teams. Though these champions do not go beyond the state, this is an important competition for our Leagues.

1.09. Kohl's American Cup Jamboree.

The Kohl's American Cup Jamboree is an event that is designated solely for recreational teams in Massachusetts. It is primarily designed for younger teams. Play consists of small-sided games in a non-results oriented format.