



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER

DISTRICT SELECT PROGRAM

Player / Parent Handbook

2021 DSP Season

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CLICK ON THE PROGRAMS TAB AND THEN ON DISTRICT SELECT**

Welcome to DSP

DSP PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This program is designed to be a development opportunity for players affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer over the summer. The goal of the program is to provide a “pressure free” yet competitive soccer environment in which players can focus entirely on their development. This program is developmental and therefore no standings will be kept during the season.

THE DSP PLAYER

1. Be affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer.
 - a. If the player is a resident of any other state than Massachusetts and they play for a Massachusetts based club or town program during the 2020-2021 soccer year (fall and/or spring playing seasons).
 - b. If the club is not currently affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer these players will become affiliated at the time they register with DSP and pay the registration fee.
2. Complete their online Mass Youth Soccer DSP player registration.
3. Pay the DSP Registration fee.
4. Upload a clear, color, “head shot” photo during the registration to be used for player identification.
5. Agree to pay for their DSP uniform including shipping and handling.
6. Have a completed Medical Authorization form (handled with online registration).
7. Agree that after the first game of the season all registration fees paid are nonrefundable.
8. In the event we must cancel the season prior to the first game, a full refund less credit card and processing fees (approximately \$5) will be refunded.

DSP PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

1. Attend all scheduled training sessions and games. Excused absences due to illness or family functions shall be communicated to the team coach ahead of time.
2. Arrive to games 30 minutes prior to the official game start properly prepared with New Balance uniform kit, shin guards, water, and everything necessary to play.
3. Be attentive, respectful, and cooperative to coaches, officials, teammates, and parents. Players will exercise maximum effort during the training sessions and games.
4. Abstain from the use of profanity.
5. Strive to conduct themselves in a manner so as to avoid yellow and red cards.
6. Players will recognize that they are responsible for the success of their own development.
7. Players will display an inclusive attitude with their teammates.
8. Communicate with their coach about questions or concerns relative to their participation within the team.
9. Always promote the DSP in a responsible manner.
10. Properly dispose of individual and team trash before and after practices and games.

DSP ROLE OF A PARENT

1. Support their child in a positive manner throughout their developmental journey.
2. Assist in the development of players' decision-making abilities by not offering instructions from the sidelines during training and games.
3. Entrust soccer decisions to the coaches.
4. Assist players' timely arrival and pick up to and from training sessions, games, and events.
5. Be a supportive and respectful spectator of all teams, players, officials, coaches, and family members.
6. Allow the coach, referee assignor, or DSP Program Manager to handle all communications with the referees during and after all matches. The DSP observes a Zero Tolerance policy regarding disrespectful interactions of any kind on our fields between referees, parents, players, and coaches.
7. Not use alcohol, other intoxicants, vaping materials, or tobacco products during training sessions or games.
8. Abide by our 'No Pet' policy during training sessions and games.
9. Communicate directly with the coach regarding questions or concerns as they relate to your child.
10. Continue to be a positive role model for your child, our program, and the soccer landscape.

DSP ORGANIZATION

The program is administered by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer office in Lancaster. There are also DSP District Administrators in each District. Any issue beyond the scope of the DSP Handbook will be resolved by and in the discretion of the DSP Administration who reserves the right to amend the DSP Handbook in the interest of maintaining a fair and balanced program.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Program Director	Lynn Gugliuzza	978-902-6459	lynng@mayouthsoccer.org
Program Support	Mary Relic	978-466-8812 x222	mrelic@mayouthsoccer.org
Marketing & Communications	Rob Holliday		rholliday@mayouthsoccer.org
Schedule Coordinator	Paul Golder	508-586-4499	pwalnut@comcast.net
Referee Assignor	Steve Dileo		rsdileo@aol.com
Board Liaison	Dana Santilli	617-549-5332	coachsantilli67@gmail.com
District 1 Administrator	Rui Correia	508-566-2568	ruicorreia14@gmail.com
District 2 Administrator	Hareh Daryanani	978-395-1402	hdaryanani@yahoo.com
District 3 Administrator	Brenda Davis	508-498-7280	davisbc@comcast.net
District 4 Administrator	Emily Capone	508-397-7788	ecap1103@gmail.com
District 5 Administrator	Steven Russo	978-500-6810	Stevenrusso1@yahoo.com
District 6 Administrator	Mark McGowan	978-206-1002	d6coach@charter.net
District 7 Administrator	Brent Dillard	413-246-1367	bdillard@goldstarsoccer.com

FEE STRUCTURE

1. Tryout Fee: \$0- player must be registered in US Soccer Connect system and tryout with their age group. Every team will hold a minimum of 2 announced tryouts, which must be completed on or before mid-June. Additional unannounced tryouts or player evaluations may be conducted as may be as required to fill a team. Attending tryouts does not guarantee a spot on a team.
 - a. All selected players will receive an email notifying them of their placement on the team roster. (Please check Spam folder) The player’s parents must complete their online registration payment and must submit their uniform order on or before June 20, 2021. Failure to do so may result in late fees and the necessity to pay expedited shipping for their uniform. All accepted players will receive specific uniform ordering instructions directly from soccer.com.
 - b. Players who know at Tryouts that they will miss more than a week and/or the DSP Tournament may be placed on a waitlist and ultimate selection is at the discretion of the DSP Administrator.
2. Registration Fee: \$160 per player. Any cancellations of games will not be made up. In the event we must cancel the season, a full refund less credit card and processing fees (approximately \$5) will be refunded.
3. Financial aid is available for those who demonstrate a genuine need for it. If a player is requesting aid they must complete and submit the financial aid form on or before June 15, 2021. The financial aid link will be provided by their specific District Administrator. The form must be completed and approved prior to the player being placed on a roster.

PLAYER AGE GROUPS (BOYS & GIRLS)

All players must try out and play for their Age Group. Below you can find the US Soccer/USYS Age Groups. The age group “label” will be determined by subtracting the year in which the players participating in the competition were born from the year in which competition ends.

11U	2010
12U	2009
13U	2008

14U	2007
15/16U	2005, 2006
17/18/19/20U	2004, 2003, 2002, 2001

**20U (2001) birth year for 2021 season only.*

Note: 10U players (Born in 2011) will be permitted to tryout and play with 11U only if there are not enough 11U players to complete a team. These players will be waitlisted pending notification from the coach. 10U players who are placed on a team will be required to tryout for the 11U team the following year if they plan to play again.

GAME DAYS

1. 2021 season will consist of 4 weekends of games, with a season ending tournament. July 10th and 11th, July 17th and 18th, July 24th and 25th, July 31st and August 1st. Tournament: August 7th and 8th. **Schedule will be released 1 week prior to the season starting.**
2. The games are as follows: game times subject to change.
3. **Boys and Girls 11U through 14U will play on Saturday.** The games will begin at 8:00 AM and teams will play a single game OR back to back games. 11U & 12U Game Length: 25 min halves. 13U & 14U Game Lengths: 30 min halves
 - a. 11U and 12U will play 9v9. The field of play and rules will be in accordance with the recommendations of US Youth Soccer.
4. **Boys and Girls 16U and 20U will play on Sundays.** The games will begin at 8:00 AM and teams in these age groups will play a single game. 16U Game Length: 40 min halves. 19U Game Length: 45 min halves.
5. All DSP games will be played in accordance with FIFA rules with the exception of: Substitutions will be unlimited by both teams and are permitted at any stoppage prior to a restart only with the permission of the Referee. Substitution protocol should follow FIFA guidelines with the exception that there will not be a limit on player substitution. A player who has been cautioned may be substituted (substitution is not mandatory). If a substitution is made for a cautioned player, the opposing team may make the same number of substitutions at that time. All substitute players **MUST** be ready at midfield, and substitutions are made only with the referee's consent and at his or her direction. If a game is stopped to allow for substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis.
6. All players **MUST** wear the proper DSP uniform.

GAME DAY DISCIPLINE

1. Red card - automatic one game suspension.
2. Two yellow cards in 1 game shall be considered the equivalent of 1 red card and shall result in a one game suspension.
3. A second red card or a single red card issued for an offense considered to be serious may result in suspension or expulsion of the offending player or coach for the season or from the program entirely. Whether such suspension or expulsion shall be enforced shall be in the discretion of the District Administrator of the offending player and/or the DSP Director.

**Massachusetts DSP
Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Hazing Policies**

Anti-Harassment Policy

Massachusetts DSP is committed to providing an environment that respects diversity and is free from discrimination and harassment based upon any legally protected status including race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status. All decisions affecting employment and participation at DSP shall be made without discrimination against any person on the basis of any such legally protected status. The program believes all individuals must be treated with dignity and respect. Consistent with this commitment and consistent with federal and MA law, DSP does not condone discriminatory or harassing conduct of any individual. In particular, coaches and staff are prohibited from engaging in harassing or discriminatory conduct based on gender or race directed against any other person engaged to provide services to or perform work for DSP. In addition, coaches and staff are advised that physically, emotionally or sexually abusive conduct by coaches or staff directed toward players under the age of 18 must be reported to the Massachusetts Technical Director and DSP Director and in certain instances, to law enforcement agencies and may result in criminal sanctions.

Behaviors that Violate this Policy

Discrimination against or harassment of an individual when based upon a legally protected status (see above) violates this policy when such conduct is pervasive or severe. Discrimination and harassment can take many forms. The following are examples of conduct that could violate this policy:

1. limiting opportunities on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status;
2. slurs, jokes, statements, remarks, questions, gestures, pictures or cartoons regarding race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability veteran status, or any other legally protected status that are derogatory or demeaning to an individual's or group's characteristics or that promote stereotypes;
3. demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment or continued employment;
4. offensive or unwelcome sexual flirtation, advances or touching;
5. obscene, demeaning or abusive commentary about an individual's body;
6. responding to refusals to provide sexual favors with verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

This policy applies to discrimination and harassment occurring in Mass Youth Soccer and in other settings where DSP personnel may be exposed to discrimination or harassment, including but not limited to activities away from Progin Park locations, such as co-sponsored activities that are off-site. This policy protects and applies to all DSP coaches, staff and players.

It is not the intent of this policy to prohibit consensual relationships between adults employed by the program. However, romantic and sexual relationships between DSP players and DSP coaches and staff are prohibited and will lead to immediate termination and dismissal. In addition, coaches and staff are advised that engaging in sexual relations with a player under the age of 16 constitutes statutory rape and is a criminal offense, while abuse of a child under the age of 18, including sexual abuse or physical or emotional abuse involving sexual relations or sexual overtones, are offenses which must be reported to the appropriate authorities. Coach and staff behavior with respect to players must be above suspicion. Coach and staff should avoid even the appearance of an improper relationship with players.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace and social media: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between the seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion.

At DSP bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. We work together as a team to ensure that players gain self-confidence, make new friends, improve their skills and knowledge and go home with great memories.

Unfortunately, persons who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their experience. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their players so both staff and players will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their DSP experience and between DSP seasons. Every

person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at DSP, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all players and staff have a great time.

Anti-Hazing Policy

DSP is proud to uphold a distinctive set of values and qualities in support of our player's growth and development. We understand that players in attendance come from different team environments and have valuable traditions, rituals, and rites of passage designed to create strong team connections to each other. DSP team initiations or traditions, however, which attempt to build these bonds between members, must do so in an affirming way without coercion of any kind. In a community such as ours, we value lasting relationships grounded in mutual respect, not artificial connections created through shared humiliation.

DSP Policy and MA Law

Hazing is strictly prohibited by DSP policy and by MA law. Violation of the hazing policy may subject an individual or team to disciplinary action, by DSP Technical Director, DSP Director and DSP Coaches with penalties up to and including dismissal for individuals and suspension or termination in the team's future privilege of attending DSP. In addition to incurring serious DSP-imposed consequences for violations of the policy, players may be subject to criminal prosecution by legal authorities for violation of the MA law. "The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person." (Hazing Law, 269:17)

DSP has adopted a broader definition similar to many MA based schools and colleges defining hazing as: Any activity that is part of an initiation, participation, or affiliation in a group that 1) physically or psychologically humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers--regardless of a person's willingness to participate; 2) results in the disruption of the educational process or the impairment of academic performance; or 3) violates DSP policy or state law. This applies to behavior on or off the field.. Examples of hazing include but are not limited to the following: physical threats or abuse of any kind; encouraging or requiring a person to consume alcohol, drugs, or foreign or unusual substances; forcing a player into a violation of the law or DSP policy such as indecent exposure, theft, or trespassing; confining a person or taking a person to an outlying area and dropping him/her off; servitude such as encouraging or requiring a person to run personal errands; requiring a shaved head or the wearing of conspicuous apparel in public; and depriving a person of sleep.

Hazing has dangerous potential to harm individuals, to damage organizations and teams, and to undermine the mission of DSP and the fundamental values of our community. As such, no player, DSP employee, DSP volunteer, or other DSP-recognized individuals or groups shall conduct or condone hazing activities, consensual or not.

Taking Action

When in doubt about an activity, ask the Massachusetts Technical Director and DSP Director. They can provide additional examples of behaviors that might constitute hazing, examples of positive group bonding activities and rites of passage for new members, assistance with organizing legitimate events to foster teamwork and cohesiveness, and other relevant information and support.

At DSP, where members of our community look out and care for one another, players and employees are expected to intervene personally or by contacting Massachusetts Technical Director and DSP Director if they encounter activities that put others in physical or psychological harm or discomfort as long as they can do so without jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others. By stepping up and taking action, bystanders are frequently able to put an end to inappropriate behavior before things get out of hand. DSP players and employees should notify appropriate DSP personnel of any perceived instance of hazing as defined by DSP policy and/or law and do so as soon as possible so the activity can be stopped or the allegations can be investigated. Reports may be made directly or anonymously by submitting an anonymous letter to an appropriate Camp officials or asking a Camp official that the report remain anonymous. You have the option to submit a report anonymously. Please note that although Mass Youth Soccer endeavors to investigate all reports, including anonymous reports, the nature of anonymous reports makes investigation, determination, and remediation more difficult and, at times, impossible. As a result, you are encouraged to provide your name and contact information.

Parent's Zero Tolerance Policy

As some of you may know, inappropriate conduct by parents and other spectators has become an increasing problem for youth sports organizations. To deal with this problem in an effective manner, Massachusetts Youth Soccer has adopted the Parents' Code of Conduct which is detailed below. This Code of Conduct goes beyond our existing Zero Tolerance Policy to protect Officials. We have also adopted the Zero Tolerance Policy for violators of the Code of Conduct. The Board of Mass Youth Soccer urges all of you to take these policies to heart so that we will all have a safe, enjoyable and successful season.

Parent Code of Conduct

1. Applaud good plays; don't dwell on bad plays.
2. Kids imitate their parents. If you are disruptive or act like a jerk, your kid, and possibly others, will act in a similar fashion.
3. The stands are not a place to shout personal instructions.
4. There is more to life than soccer. Encourage your child to participate in other activities.
5. Respect the coach's decision and abilities. Don't force your kids to decide whether to listen to you or to the coach.
6. Stress fair and sensible play. Nobody needs to get hurt because someone is not playing by the rules.
7. Stress the long-term importance of practice over the short-term excitement of games.
8. Stress the importance of teamwork.
9. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model.
10. Don't yell if your kid makes a mistake. Point out what they do well. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.
11. Take time to learn the rules of the game.
12. Remember that coaches and administrators are usually volunteers. A "thank you" every once in a while is often a nice reward.

All parents and guardians of Massachusetts Youth Soccer, District Select players are subject to the Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy:

1. Any parent/guardian that attempts to cause physical injury or makes the threat thereof to any individual associated with Mass Youth Soccer shall be subject and his/her children shall be subject to immediate suspension from District Select play and/or other league involvement, for up to one year at the sole discretion of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Board.
2. A second instance of an attempt to threaten or cause physical injury shall result in up to a three year suspension for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement with District Select.

All individuals associated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer District Select Program are expected to uphold the values of honesty, good sportsmanship, and respect for the integrity of team participation and team play within Massachusetts Youth Soccer District Select Program and other related sports organizations.

The game will be stopped by referees or Massachusetts Youth Soccer administration if and when parents, guardians, or spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with coaches, players, or other spectators during the game. Referees or Massachusetts Youth Soccer officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents or spectators from the spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by Massachusetts Youth Soccer or local civil and criminal statutes. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior listed below shall include, but not be limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence, or actual violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' area, or playing fields, or parking areas, directed in any manner in order to intimidate or harm another person, or create a safety hazard.