



Mass Youth Soccer's MA Safe Soccer Platform & US Soccer Connect Update August 7, 2019

Dear Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Towns, Clubs & Leagues,

First and foremost, we extend our utmost appreciation for your patience as we work on the transition to our new platform for managing member safety. The adaptation of the US Soccer Connect system from Stack Sports has proven to be a greater challenge than expected due to one primary hurdle: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandatory CORI background check.

We experienced similar challenges when we moved onto our previous system 4 years ago. This time around the task has been amplified due to the need to also conduct National Background Checks, which includes, State and National Sex Offender registry checks and Social Security Traces as well as the requirement for Abuse Prevention Training.

By now most of our member organizations have been faced with the concerns of being able to have our Adults take to the fields with our children while being in compliance with the safety requirements. The following information should help you understand where we are as of today, what we will permit for the next few months, and where we plan to be by mid-fall season.

Massachusetts CORI and RSI Background Checks

Due to the restrictions of the older technology used by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and our need to provide various classifications of clearance statuses, the programmers at Stack Sports have been faced with a connectivity challenge. We have been trying our best to use the legacy data for all Adults who have more than a year left on their CORI clearance so as not to run unneeded CORI checks. Due to the challenges, as of late Mary Relic has been manually managing the process of clearing Adults and update their records. We hope to have this automated as soon as the system permits.

Also, as of last month, we have started running the National Background Checks performed by RSI. There are some small nuances in this process that have delayed things, but we are conducting these checks with ease.

The above activities are things you do not see take place, yet play a large role into what you see on your administrative screens as well as what can be printed out.

CORI Acknowledgement Form

Tied in with the CORI work being performed is the ability to create the CORI Acknowledgement form. While not printing at the moment, Stack Sports is working on this and we are also working on finding a more expeditious method of handling this task. More to come.

Mass Youth Soccer Adult Credential

Just like the Acknowledgement Form is being worked on, so is the Credential. Both of these documents pull data from each Adult's record to create the pdf document needed to print. Since this all starts with the overall CORI processing work, it is still tied up in programming production

work. Yes, it all appears to be so simple, but ask anybody who writes computer code, it just ain't that easy.

SafeSport and CDC Concussion Training

As many of your adults have experienced both of these platforms are under extreme pressure from national demand for their courses. Both providers have acknowledged they have long delays in access due to this demand. Whether or not an adult attempts to access via the US Soccer Connect link from their profile or directly into the provider's site, the delay is common to both. Based on this status we will be providing some leniency as outlined below.

WHAT DO I (Town/Club/League Admins) DO NOW?

Although we were able to open the US Soccer Connect system for Adult registrations mid-July, the above noted challenges have not made the system totally functional (inability to print needed documents).

The following temporary approved procedures are now permissible for the near term in order to get our coaches out on the fields this fall season.

Adult Registrations

Continue to have your Adults register on US Soccer Connect using your organization's unique URL as provided on the Mass Youth Soccer Website ([CLICK HERE FOR LIST OF URLS](#))

If your organization does not have a "Register Now" button this may mean you have not yet completed the required agreement with Stack Sports to activate your version. Contact Mary Relic at mrelic@mayouthsoccer.org for assistance.

CORI Acknowledgement Letter and Adult Credential

Adults with clearance from last soccer year: Starting immediately all Adults who were properly credentialed for the previous soccer year (Fall 2018/Spring 2019) may continue to participate this month and into September using a credential with 2018-2019 on the top. If the adult no longer has their credential with them your organization's leaders who had access into Affinity last year still have the same access. They can select last year's season (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019) and print credentials as they did last soccer year. If the credential has a Compliance Expiration date prior to 12/31/19 the Adult is still permitted to participate as we built in a buffer to maintain compliance with Massachusetts CORI laws.

New Adults or those who did not participate last soccer year: Any Adult who is not in possession of a credential from last soccer year may participate as long as they have:

- Completed their Adult Registration as noted above
- Have an uploaded photo that meets specifications
- Have their Background Check status show a green dot

The above will be all that is necessary for now to get these Adults started. In the meantime they will need to complete the Concussion and Abuse Prevention Training so that they can have an official Credential printed when this function is live. As noted above we understand both of the platforms are choking on the excessive traffic. We will not require the new credentials until we feel comfortable all of our Adults have had the chance to take these courses and update their records.

It is every member organizations responsibility to exclude from participation/rostering any Adult who is new or has not participated in over a year until they have completed the above three bullet requirements.

MTOC Leagues and Referees - we understand this will require some additional training on our MTOC leagues as they have trained referees to look for the credentials. Please make sure all of your Referee Assignors understand the current situation. As each league has it's own practice regarding credential checking by referees, please make sure you work with the Assignors to formulate your communications during this transition phase.

Training on how use US Soccer Connect

Training for league/town/club administrators who will have access to the administrative side of US Soccer Connect will include phone consultations during onboarding, webinars (live and recorded), job aids, videos and workshops. The administrators whom we will provide initial access to are Registrars, Risk Managers (formerly CORI Submitters) or Presidents. Once one of these individuals have been set up as the primary user, they will be able to provide access to the others.

We have developed a series of job aids to help you perform the core functions or your role in making sure our Adults have been properly educated and background checked leading to the issuance of their Adult Credential. These can be found on the right side column on the Mass Youth Soccer Risk Manager Information web page: <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/programs/risk-manager-information/>

We will be adding to this library over time to help you with your role.

Player Registration Data Uploads

Initially we intended for these uploads to take place directly into the US Soccer Connect system similar to how the process was handled with Affinity. In order to provide a simple and secure method during this transitional period we are having all data files uploaded to a secure FilesAnywhere dropbox. All of the details and instructions will be available by end of day Monday, August 12th on the Mass Youth Soccer Registration web page:

<http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/about/registration-fall2019/>

Deadlines have been extended providing you time to adapt to the new procedures.

Commitment

We thank you for your patience as we move into a whole new chapter in youth sports. Massachusetts Youth Soccer is committed to being a leader in player, coach, referee and participant safety. This includes taking all of the necessary steps before we step foot on the fields to ensure the safety of all participants.