



## Mass Youth Soccer's Adult Registration/Player Upload US Soccer Connect Update October 30, 2019

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### **Dear Mass Youth Soccer Member Towns/Clubs/Leagues,**

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water" a classic line from the movie Jaws doesn't only apply to our friends living along the bay and ocean. It also applies to this crazy world of Sports Membership Management and Registration Systems. Just when we thought we were about to clear our last hurdles with the transition to US Soccer Connect from Stack Sports a big move was made.

Recently [Stack Sports announced its acquisition of Affinity Sports and Blue Sombrero from DICK's Sporting Goods.](#) This will impact how we manage Adult Registrations, Adult Credentials and Player Data Uploads.

Instead of having you read the whole script, I will provide you the shorter "trailer" version.

### **Fall-2015 to Spring-2019 - Affinity Sports was used by Mass Youth Soccer and member organizations for Adult Registration and player data uploads.**

- Platform manages all CORI processing.
- Player Registration Data was uploaded directly into Affinity via their ticketing system.
- Fall of 2016 Adult Credentials introduced and required starting in Fall of 2017.

### **F-2019 - Mass Youth Soccer moved from Affinity Sports to the Stack Sport's U.S. Soccer Connect platform.**

- "Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act" is passed which is aimed at protecting amateur athletes from sexual abuse; thus, US Soccer had to require Abuse Prevention training for all Adults in youth soccer.
- Stack Sports, along with all other major sports membership management systems were caught off guard with this short time frame notice from US Soccer and have had difficulties updating/programming their systems.
- Summer of 2019 Mass Youth Soccer starting having our Adults register in US Soccer Connect for the 2019/2020 soccer year. This process is geared towards having the adult credential printable after the adult has completed and been marked as approved/cleared for the SafeSport Abuse Prevention and CDC Heads Up Concussion training courses and passing their Department of Criminal Justice Information Services CORI check in addition to a new National background check that includes both the State and National Sex Offender Record searches..

- The Fall 2019 season started with our member organizations (towns, clubs and leagues) using stop-gap procedures as the ability to print credentials has been delayed due to programming challenges at Stack Sports.

### **Today - Stack Sports + Newly acquired Affinity Sports**

- ***CRITICAL DECISION MADE:*** Stack Sports made the decision that the best chassis for their next generation version of US Soccer Connect is the Affinity Sports database management system. Yes, the one we just left earlier this year.
    - *Good News:* The vast majority of our member organization's Registrars, Risk Managers (formerly CORI Submitters) and other high level administrative users are familiar with the system. Also, many of our active Adults are familiar with the Adult Registration Process.
    - *More Good News:* The move will be effective for the Fall of 2020 season. We plan to open the annual required Adult Registrations in May, 2020.
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### **What do you need to know?**

The easiest way to provide an answer is by using the following time frames of importance. The three key areas of focus are Adult Registrations, Adult Credentials and Player Data Uploads.

#### ***Remainder of Fall 2019 season***

- Continue with the stop gap procedures put in place before the season started.
- Make sure all Adults complete their Adult Registrations on the current US Soccer from last year and others will have all checks completed now. Make sure the adult is approved/cleared for both the CORI and National background check.
- Make sure all Adults have an uploaded photo and have completed the SafeSport Abuse Prevention and CDC Heads Up Concussion training courses and are marked as approved for all three.
- Registrars continue to provide uploads of their Player Registration data to our temporary FilesAnywhere portal using instructions as provided on our website.
- Continue to update your organization's Mass Youth Soccer Annual Leadership report via the link provided on our website as this is the only way we can ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information for your organization.

#### ***Winter 2019-2020***

- Have all adults who have not completed their 2019/2020 soccer year Adult Registration do so as well as complete the necessary Abuse Prevention and Concussion courses.
- The ability to print Adult Credentials should be ready late Winter. Once we have completed testing and the printing of Credentials is working as smoothly as possible, you will be informed and the, "how to print" help guide will be posted on the Mass Youth Soccer Adult Credential web page.

- Behind the scenes, Mass Youth Soccer, along with the other 24+ State Associations using their platform will be helping to create the new US Soccer Connect version. This will include all aspects of user experiences (adults, parents and administrators) and training support for all user groups.
- Registrars continue to provide uploads of their Player Registration data to our temporary FilesAnywhere portal using instructions as provided on our website.

### ***Spring 2020 season***

- Similar to the fall and winter, have new adult members completed their 2019/2020 soccer year Adult Registration as well as complete the necessary Abuse Prevention and Concussion training courses so you can mark them as approved and provide them with their adult credential.
- Adult Credentials should be available for printing. As with our past 3 soccer years, without the Credential, adults will not be permitted to participate in any soccer activities.
- Registrars continue to provide uploads of their Player Registration data to our temporary FilesAnywhere portal using instructions as provided on our website.
- If everything goes according to plan (hoping it's safe to go back in the water) and the new version of US Soccer Connect is operating as needed, then Adult Registrations for Fall 2020 - Spring 2021 soccer year will open on this new registration platform.

### **The following are some very important pieces of the puzzle that we are working on with Stack Sports to help with the transition:**

- Migration of data from the current US Soccer Connect system to the new version. This is a priority for all State Associations and Stack Sports.
- Discontinue the need for the Master Sales Agreement that every individual member organization had to sign when we switched to Stack Sports. Mass Youth Soccer will hold the single Master Sales Agreement as we did in the past with Affinity, and all Adult Registrations will be conducted under the state level umbrella. The only time a member organization will need to sign an agreement is if they decide to use the Blue Sombrero (soon to be renamed) system for their club and league management.
- Training, training and more training will be created, delivered and supported by Stack Sports and Mass Youth Soccer.

### ***Summer 2020***

- As stated in the Spring, continue to have all adults complete their required annual Adult Registration. Adults who have taken their initial Abuse Prevention course will now only need to take the much shorter Refresher Course. Since the CDC Concussion course is good for two years, many Adults will not need to take it again until the next year. The system will reflect each Adults status regarding their required training/education and background check requirements. When all requirements have been met, Administrators will have the ability to print their adult members Adult Credential. Without the Credential the adult will not be permitted to participate in any soccer activities.
- Registrars will start the process of uploading Player Registration Data into the new version of US Soccer Connect using instructions as provided on our web site. This

will be similar to how we previously uploaded the data when we were on the Affinity system.

***Fall 2020***

- Transition to NEW version of the US Soccer Connect platform. This process will actually take place during the Spring 2020 time frame so that we can introduce the new version, train, and start registering adults for the Fall 2020 season and beyond.
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We hope this information helps you understand what is taking place on the Adult Registration, Adult Credential and Player Registration Data Upload front. We fully understand the past six months of adopting the current version of US Soccer Connect has been challenging for many. Moving forward we will do everything possible to help you manage this change with phone support, training opportunities and individual consultations as needed.

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**Note:** Help guides, along with all memos that are sent from the Mass Youth Soccer State Office regarding Adult Registrations and Risk Management will be/are posted on the right-hand side of the Mass Youth Soccer Risk Manager Information web page located on the Mass Youth Soccer website under the ADMINISTRATION tab.

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**Commitment**

We thank you for your patience as we navigate these turbulent waters. Massachusetts Youth Soccer is committed to being a leader in player, coach, referee and participant safety.