



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

**TOWN SELECT LEAGUE
INFORMATION**

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors has approved a program to form a Mass Youth administered league, to be known as the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Town Select League (TSL).

The purpose of the TSL is for Mass Youth to partner with its town-based member organizations, in coordination with existing, recognized town travel (MTOC) leagues, to provide opportunities for town registered players to experience a higher level of training, development and competition. We hope to establish a bridge path to higher level state and club programs. The TSL is intended to be an extension of and enhancement to town programs, not competition for them.

Our mission is to provide player development, quality coaching and select competition

OVERVIEW:

Scope:

- For the Fall 2018 season, the TSL will feature 6 matches in total, 4 stand alone games (2 in September, 2 in October) with a 2 game season ending Jamboree in November.
- Participation in the TSL is open to Mass Youth town organizations that are within the existing Essex, Middlesex , BAYS , Nashoba Valley, and MAYS league .
- For 2019-2020 the TSL will offer divisions for both boys and girls, in the 10U through 15U age groups birth years 2005-2011.
- Teams will practice once per week to minimize disruption of town team practices.
- Players will have the option to participate in our indoor training program with other TSL players and will be led by Mass Youth Soccer approved clinicians. The winter component will be offered if sufficient demand exists and will entail a separate registration and nominal additional fee.

Town Select Team Makeup

- Teams are formed using geographic regions will be comprised of Town Sectional Groups (TSGs) representing partnerships of 4-8 contiguous towns.
- The target for 2019-2020 is to establish 6 to 8 Town Sectional Groups fielding one Sectional Town Select team per gender/age group
- Towns may opt-in as administrative partners, and self-select other town organizations to partner with to form a Town Sectional Group. An agreement to participate and support the TSL for a minimum of 12 months is required. Towns that do not opt-in will not have partner rights and responsibilities but their players will be eligible to participate in an incorporated/adjoining TSG.
- Each TSG Administrative Partner will be required to coordinate access to fields/ facilities for their TSG, assisting in coach identification and targeted number of total players in coordination with other members of their TSG. They will be the primary point of contact for TSL administration.

Player Eligibility/Select Team Formation

- Players may tryout and be selected for a Town Select Team if they are currently registered and participating in their town program.
- The TSL is designed for players who seek a higher level of training and competition but have decided not to make the commitment to higher level programs at this point.
- All players meeting age and participation criteria are invited to tryout, regardless of level of current town team assignment
- The TSL will use USSF calendar year age group designations. For the 2019-2020 soccer year players born in 2011 & 2010 will be 10U eligible, 2009 U11, 2008 12U, 2007 U13, 2006 U14 & 2005 U15. Teams are formed by birth year, however if there is not enough in one particular age group to form in a team, we may combine age groups to form one team in that geographic area. (Ex: 2009 & 2008 may combine for a U12 team).
- Players must commit to playing on both their town team and a Town Select team. Players may not play on both a non-town club team and a Town Select team.
- Limits may be placed on roster percentage from a single town on a single team. Initial target 25% maximum subject to adjustment based on tryout participation.
- Roster size of 14 for 10U, 17 for 12U teams, 18-20 for 14U & 18-20 for 15U. If necessary, due to initial low numbers, 11U and 12U players may be combined into a single 12U team; 13U and 14U may be combined into a 14U team, etc.
- Tryouts will take place in June 2019 for the 2019-2020 soccer year and will be under the direction and oversight of the Mass Youth Soccer's Technical Staff.
- Team selection will be based on tryout results as assessed by the Technical Staff, DOC and Mass Youth Soccer appointed evaluators.

Coaching

- Final selection of coaches will be by Mass Youth Soccer Association and the DOC. Coaches will be Independent Contractors and will be required to complete a 1099.
- Recommendation/endorsement by Town Sectional Groups will be highly encouraged and sought
- Initial Target Coaching Requirements
 - Experience – Minimum of 3 years coaching town soccer D1 or D2 teams at U12 or older

- Licenses/Diplomas – Minimum of Grassroots 7 v 7, 9 v 9 or 11 v 11 OR the achievement of the “D” license.
- Mass Youth Soccer Requirements – Accomplishing and maintaining all Mass Youth Soccer coaching educational and training requirements on an annual basis.
- Professionalism – Must be in good standing with all Mass Youth Soccer affiliated organizations (towns, clubs, leagues). This includes no sanctions based on disciplinary actions or persistent history of complaints.
- Individuals not yet meeting the requirements may be considered, and may be offered positions as Assistant Coaches
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches (1 per team) will receive compensation from Mass Youth Soccer derived through player registration fees.

Town Select League Administration

- Overall League governance will be under the direction of the Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors , and President and Executive Committee.
- Ongoing league administration will be under direction of the Mass Youth Soccer office staff, reporting to the Executive Director.
- There will be a Program Manager, Scheduler, Referee Assignor(s), Registrar, and Technical Director who will be employees/contractors of Mass Youth Soccer to administer, implement and execute decisions of the Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

Player Benefits

- Distributed schedule for match play and one-per-week practice schedule limits the required time commitment
- Continued participation with friends and peers on their town travel team.
- Match play occurs in a confined geographic area within regional area and accessible via major highways in the area, setting reasonable limits on time and travel requirements.
- Players receive advanced training and experience a higher level of competition with other players of like skills at minimized cost
- Players train under the guidance of qualified, committed coaches.
- Consistent teams and philosophy through fall, spring and optional winter seasons following the US Soccer Federation Player Development Initiatives.

Town Organization Benefits

- Offer advanced training and playing opportunities without compromise to existing town teams and leagues
- Share and implement best practices in collaboration with TSG partners and Mass Youth
- Creates a new level of player and coach development opportunity
- Does not require excessive additional volunteer staff burden
- Administrative duties (registration, referee assigning, scheduling) handled by TSL staff
- No cost to become a TSG Administrative Partner or Participating Member

Fees

- All Town Select League expenses will be covered by player fees including administrative expenses and referee fees
- The total per player fee for fall/spring will be \$700 for the year.
- Program fees will include up to 7 weeks of coaching each season (fall/spring), one practice per week; 6 matches per season; player uniforms.
- Financial Aid is available and families requesting this must complete the FA application within the due date prior to the fall season. Our appointed Executive TSL Financial Aid Committee reviews the applications and decisions the distributions.
- Winter Training fees are not covered within the \$700.00 yearly fee, but is a reasonable amount to help players continue to train and develop over the Winter.
- Roster acceptance for each player is for both fall and spring. Players who play in the fall and do not play in the spring will not be eligible for a refund. Upon accepting a roster spot, the player agrees to commit to their team for the entire playing year.

For more information, please contact:

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