

# MASSACHUSETTS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (MTOC)

## LEAGUES AGREEMENTS

11/7/21

### 1. Definitions:

- **Clubs** - Independent clubs approved to affiliate with MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues
- **MTOC Leagues Committee** - The MTOC Leagues Committee is comprised of a named representative from each MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues.
- **MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues** - Residency based leagues comprising Town Programs and approved Clubs.
- **Town Programs** - Residency based soccer programs.
- **Town Teams** - Teams belonging to Town Programs and approved Clubs

### 2. MTOC Eligibility:

- a. The Mass Tournament of Champions (MTOC) is a TOWN TEAM Tournament. Town Teams qualifying for the MTOC must be members of one of the MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues, meet that league's requirements to be eligible for the MTOC and be a Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association member organization in good standing.
- b. Eligibility is based on the teams being from Massachusetts Youth Soccer properly registered and affiliated Town Programs where the players are residents of that Program. Some Town Programs encompass multiple towns. Leagues can have residency waivers, but the teams must meet the Roster Composition noted in this document.

### 3. MTOC Authority

- a. Only MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues shall have a vote (one vote per league) on issues affecting MTOC. A quorum consists of at least 50% of eligible leagues in attendance. MTOC MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues are responsible for the organization and operations of MTOC, and in that regard shall:
  - i. Determine play dates and location(s);
  - ii. Determine the schedules;
  - iii. Establish team eligibility; and
  - iv. Run MTOC and act as an appeals committee for any appeals arising from the play at MTOC.

### 4. Interleague Town Program Movement

- a. Town Programs may move between MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues subject to the following conditions: as a condition precedent to changing leagues, a Town Program must have been a member of its current MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues for at least three seasonal\* years;
- b. the decision to accept a Town Program rests solely with the league to which the Town Program has applied for membership;

- c. the entire program of the Town Program must be moved;
  - d. written notification must be given to the current league prior to the start of a seasonal year (defined as September 1) for changes to take effect at the start of the subsequent seasonal year, but a shorter notice period may be acceptable if agreed to by both the transferor and transferee leagues;
  - e. the transferring Town Program must be in good financial standing (no outstanding debt) with the MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues which they are leaving, with the MTOC Leagues Committee being the arbiter in instances of dispute; and,
  - f. the Town Program must maintain membership within the receiving league for a minimum of three complete seasonal years.
- (\* ) = a “seasonal year” is defined as September 1 through August 31, annually.

## 5. Player Movement

- a. Intra-League:
  - 1. Intra-league player transfers are governed by the bylaws and playing rules of each respective league.
- b. Inter-League:
  - 1. Any player who wishes to transfer from one MTOC Eligible Affiliated League to another MTOC Eligible Affiliated League must have a written or emailed agreement from both Town Program organizations and both league presidents for the transfer to be valid for MTOC eligible teams. (see inter-league player transfer process below);
  - 2. If a team decides to accept a player in spite of the current Town Program not approving the move, that team will not be eligible for MTOC play.
  - 3. There are Clubs that overlap with town programs. These have been long-standing organizations previously recognized by a league. These clubs are considered grandfathered and can continue to operate within this league as they have in the past and still be MTOC eligible.
  - 4. Inter-league player transfers from an MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues to another MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues roster are not permitted (are ‘frozen’) after April 30th of each seasonal soccer year.

## 6. Inter-League Transfer Procedure:

- 1. A request for an inter-league transfer may only be initiated by an official of the requesting Town Program (‘requesting organization’). Requests initiated by parents, coaches or players will not be considered.
- 2. Players are free to play on any team, subject to the approval of whatever local entity has governance authority for that team. Any team with a player who has not secured a needed inter-league transfer approval may not represent their league in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions competition.
- 3. The inter-league transfer process involves a sequential series of steps. A ‘no’ at any step in the process terminates the approval request process.
- 4. Any request for an inter-league transfer must include the following information:
  - The name and date of birth of the player;

- The current town (club) and league affiliation of the player in question;
- The league affiliation, town, team, and coach's name of the requesting organization; and;
- The reason(s) the inter-league transfer is being requested.

Step 1: The requesting Town Program must first check with their home league (the receiving league') to assure that the receiving league would ultimately approve any such requested player transfer.

Step 2: The requesting Town Program Contacts the Town Program that would be losing the player (the 'ceding Town Program') to have it sign off on releasing the player from their Town Program.

Step 3: The requesting Town Program Contacts the league that would be losing the player (the 'ceding league') to have it sign off on releasing the player from their league.

Step 4: The requesting Town Program Contacts the receiving league to receive final approval to have the inter-league transfer completed.

5. The sequential steps of the inter-league transfer process should be completed electronically if possible. However, before any approved transfer will be considered complete, each of the four parties should have the document showing all 4 presidents have approved the transfer.

## 7. Roster Composition:

In affirming the importance of providing community-based soccer opportunities for youth players, roster composition of MTOC Eligible Affiliated League teams from member leagues will conform to the following standards:

For Grades 7/8 and younger: To be eligible for MTOC play, at least 75% of the players on a town's/club's submitted roster must be from that same league's recognized Town Program organization. The MTOC Leagues Committee must approve any exceptions to this requirement.

For Grades 9 and older (groupings to be based on the most current MTOC Eligible Affiliated League tournament rules): recognizing that the difficulty in forming teams increases as the player becomes older, town organizations/clubs may collaborate to create appropriately competitive soccer opportunities where they might not otherwise exist.

In every instance, these collaborative teams must:

1. be registered with a member Town Program of the league they are representing;
2. must completely adhere to the Leagues Committee intra-league and inter-league player movement agreements;
3. must play a regular league schedule within a MTOC Eligible Affiliated League;
4. 75% of rostered players must come from within the sponsoring league; and,
5. all players must be properly affiliated with the state association.

Players may **not** be rostered to two MTOC Eligible Affiliated League teams concurrently.

The Leagues Committee must approve any exceptions/waivers to any of these requirements.

## 8. Roster Submission and "Freeze Dates":

The Roster Freeze date is May 15<sup>th</sup> for all Rosters of MTOC Teams.

1. For Grades 5/6: Rosters may include up to 16 players for all teams playing in MTOC Eligible Affiliated League divisions.
2. For Grades 7/8 and older teams: Rosters may include up to 22 players for all teams playing in MTOC Eligible Affiliated League divisions.
3. Each MTOC Eligible Affiliated League registrar will provide a certified roster copy of all teams qualifying to represent their league at MTOC. It is the responsibility of each league president to have these rosters delivered to the MTOC registration staff prior to the start of play of the tournament.

## 9. MTOC Draw and League Responsibilities

1. Initial MTOC draw by the MTOC Eligible Affiliated League representatives is done at the March Leagues Committee meeting unless postponed, and then at the discretion of the Leagues Committee Chair.
2. Teams must play a minimum of three games in an MTOC Eligible Affiliated League. Inter-league matches count.
3. In order for a league to be eligible for a wild card slot for a specific Gender/Grade/Division, that league must have a minimum of 4 teams competing in league play for that current season. Exceptions may be granted by the Leagues Committee for the PG groups.
4. Each MTOC Eligible Affiliated League is required to fill assigned slots for the MTOC and is responsible for paying for those slots assigned to them as of June 1. The cost per slot is annually approved by the Leagues Committee. This amount is recorded in Leagues Committee minutes and communicated to all MTOC Eligible Affiliated Leagues. . Failure to fill the slot or complete the assigned schedule at MTOC will result in a fine to the league up to \$1,000 per slot.

## 9. Referee Payment

Any MTOC Eligible Affiliated League wishing to change its referee payment amount must notify the Leagues Committee. The Leagues Committee will review current levels of referee payments annually with the intent of maintaining relative parity among leagues.

## 10. Revision Log

REVISION LOG		
3/4/2018	Cleaned the flow. Updated changes that were voted in during LC meetings over the past 3 years, but did not get reflected in this document.	RE
11/3/2019	2.B.2 clarification that the penalty applies to the team, not the town. 6. added language about completing the assigned schedule.	RE
2/23/2021	Update with Mass Youth Bylaw 5.04 Leagues Committee changed at 01/19/2021 SGM	RP
2/28/2021	Committee review and updated. Items requiring a vote. 1, 2, 4.b.1.1., 7.1, 8.2	RE
5/16/21	Added Definitions; LC approved up to 22 on a roster Grade 8 and up able to play in each game; 3 game minimum and annual approval of cost of a slot added.	RE/RP/ MB

11/17/21	Draft for Cleaned the flow. Updated changes that were voted in during LC meetings over the past year.	DS
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