



# MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION



## **IMPORTANT Memo: New SafeSport and U.S. Soccer Adult Athlete Requirements Mandatory starting January 1, 2022**

Member Organization Administrators,

Due to changes in U.S. Center for SafeSport and U.S. Soccer Federation policy, athletes 18 or over who may interact with Minor Athletes, have more responsibilities to your Organization/Mass Youth Soccer, under state and federal law than they had as a minor.

### **What does this mean?**

1. Athletes that are 18 or will turn 18 during a current playing season and play on a team with minor athletes are required to take the SafeSport Core Abuse Prevention training in order to participate. Players who are currently 17 years old may get a head start on this requirement and take the training *with parental consent* prior to their 18th birthday.
2. To follow U.S. Soccer policy, these athletes must be crosschecked against the Commonwealth of Mass SORI database, the U.S. Soccer, and SafeSport Disqualification list once they turn 18. Mass Youth Soccer will conduct this activity.

### **How to manage these requirements:**

1. Advise all athletes and their parents in this age range of the new requirement, and provide them with the link to SafeSport Adult Athlete Abuse Prevention Training Help Guide .
2. The member organization (town program, club) will be responsible for ensuring athletes that are 18 or will turn 18 during a current playing season take the SafeSport Core Abuse Prevention training.
  - Players will take the SafeSport Core training and upon successful completion will be issued a certificate.
  - This certificate must be presented to the organization's Registrar or other person designated by the organization. This can be sent directly or through their coach via hard copy paper or electronic (pdf) versions
  - The organization's Registrar or designate must maintain these certificates in a file subject to review by Massachusetts Youth Soccer.

- Any player who is 18 or older must take the SafeSport Abuse Prevention training and provide their certificate of completion to the teams designated person prior to being rostered to a team; those that are 17, with parental consent should also take the training prior to the start of the season to ensure they can maintain continuous play.

3. All organizations when completing their required annual Mass Youth Soccer Leadership Report will be required to acknowledge and attest to compliance with this requirement.

**[SafeSport Adult Athlete Abuse Prevention Training Help Guide](#)** - Detailed instructions on how to complete the required SafeSport Abuse Prevention Training. For the U.S. Soccer access code needed to take the training for free, contact your organization's Risk Manager.

Mass Youth Soccer will crosscheck the appropriate risk management lists and notify the organization if any issues arise.

All Adult Participants with Mass Youth Soccer must follow the SafeSport Required Prevention Policies that are noted in the **[MA Safe Soccer policies](#)**.

Questions regarding this process may be directed to Mary Relic, Mass Youth Soccer's Risk Manager, at **[mrelic@mayouthsoccer.org](mailto:mrelic@mayouthsoccer.org)**.

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