



MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER

TOWN SELECT PROGRAM

Player / Parent Handbook

2023-2024 TSL Season



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For any questions throughout the season, please contact **TSL Program Manager, Maureen T.LaRoche** at the Massachusetts Youth Soccer office via email mlaroche@mayouthsoccer.org

Welcome to the Town Select League

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Town Select League is a developmental program whose focus is on player development, select competition, joy of the game, playing with character, and learning the value of being a great teammate. Massachusetts Youth Soccer conducts the TSL with support from the town soccer programs and provides an opportunity for those players to participate in a ‘club like’ experience while offering less travel, lower cost, and opportunity for valuable playing time. The purpose of the TSL is to identify players at our open tryouts who exhibit the 6 Key Qualities of a Soccer Player and who demonstrate the US Soccer Grassroots attacking and defending player actions for their appropriate age group.

The TSL Player

TSL is for the soccer player looking to supplement their town experience. Through quality coaching and challenging practice sessions and games, players commit to the process of developing their soccer skill and character while learning and understanding the value of being a great teammate. In the TSL, coaches ‘normalize’ errors and mistakes and encourage players to improve by taking risks in bringing what they learn in practice to game situations. Coaches expect players to be positive, coachable, and in attendance at practice sessions and games throughout the playing year.

Our coaches are ‘engineers of belief’ as they support their players along the journey to improvement while focusing on player development in place of standings, statistics, and game day results.

Purpose

To provide opportunities for Mass Youth Soccer town registered players to experience a higher level of training, development, and competition. The TSL is intended to be an extension, but an enhancement of the town programs, and not competition for them.

Mass Youth Soccer Mission Statement

Massachusetts Youth Soccer, a nonprofit educational and service organization, is dedicated to the ongoing development of youth soccer players, coaches, referees, clubs and leagues in an inclusive, safe, affordable and fun environment. Massachusetts Youth Soccer is dedicated to providing all participants with a welcoming and safe environment in which we value and respect each other’s unique qualities and contributions. We are committed to embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion as organizational values to intentionally create a nurturing and learning environment focused on individuality, celebrating each other’s differences and joining together as a community.

TSL Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide player development, quality coaching, and select competition, in an environment that is welcoming, fun, affordable, inclusive, and challenging and that reinforces **the importance of playing with character** and the value of being a good teammate.

TSL Overview

Massachusetts Youth Soccer, a member of the US Youth Soccer Association offers youth soccer programs in a geographical area of the state, stretching from Boston to the Berkshires. Currently, there are over 135,000 players registered through Massachusetts Youth Soccer with the TSL offering eligibility to players living in and around the towns of Essex, BAYS, Middlesex, Nashoba Valley and MAYS and slowly branching out to others. Our goal is to continue to offer controlled growth within our program so that in time, the TSL will be offered to every area in the state.

Benefits of TSL

- Match play and one-per-week practice schedule limits the required time commitment.
- Develop new relationships with players from neighboring towns while meeting new teammates.
- Match play occurs in areas within different regions of our state and accessible via major highways in the area, setting reasonable limits on time and travel requirements. **Travel on game day expected.**
- 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, and nationally licensed coaches.
- Consistent teams and philosophy through fall, spring and optional winter seasons following the US Soccer Federation Player Development Initiatives.
- The reinforcement that the value of hard work, discipline, loyalty, and being a great teammate is just as important as how well a player plays.

Teams for 2023-24- TSL rosters are not by grade age but by birth year. Every player plays 50% of the game at least.

10U: 2014 & 2015 7 v 7

11U: 2013 9 v 9, **12U:** 2012 9 v 9

13U: 2011 11 v 11, **U14:** 2010 (Players born in 2010 must still be in 8th grade to play TSL)

TSL Game schedule/Rules/Forms -On MA Youth Soccer Website Town Select League

www.mayouthsoccer.org **Please check periodically for updates.**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

	<u>10U</u>	<u>12U</u>	<u>13U+</u>	
Tryout Fee	\$0	\$0	\$0	Registration Begins April 17 th 2022
TSL Yearly Fee	\$800	\$800	\$800	**DOES NOT INCLUDE UNIFORM**
If paying in full	\$800	\$800	\$800	Due by June 19th
Uniforms –Adidas 2022-2023				IF YOUR CHILD MAKES A TEAM -Parents will need to order their child’s uniform via link provided in roster offer letter –will be shipped direct to residence.
OR Payment Plan				Maximum 2 payments of \$400 and \$400
1st Payment	\$400	\$400	\$400	Due by June 19th
2nd Payment	\$400	\$400	\$400	Due by July 19th
Winter Indoor Training	TBA	TBA	TBA	Due upon registration (Oct.-Dec.)

** Winter Indoor training is an optional 6 week program – sites Arlington, Leominster, Danvers

Player Eligibility and Team Formation

- **Players are eligible for a Town Select Team if they :** 1.) Attend a tryout, 2.) Are currently registered and participating with their town program, and 3.) are not on a club team roster that participates in an official independent league.
- All players meeting age and participation criteria are invited to tryout, regardless of level of current town team assignment. Players may attend any of the tryouts and if they make a team will be rostered closest to their residence and not where they tried out.
- The TSL will use USSF calendar year age group designations. For the **2023/24** soccer year players born in 2014 & 2015 will be **10U** eligible; players born in 2013 will be **11U**, players born in 2012 will be **U12** eligible; players born in 2011 will be **13U** eligible; players born in 2010 will be **14U** eligible. Players matriculate from our program once they enter high school.
- Tryouts take place starting in June at locations designated by the state office and will be conducted by the Mass Youth Soccer's Technical Staff, Administration, and TSL Coaching Staff. Locations are in central locations within the current towns we service.

TSL Eligibility Locations

Participation in the 2023/24 TSL Program will be open to Mass Youth town organizations that are currently within the existing **Essex, Middlesex, BAYS , Nashoba Valley ,and MAYS**. Our expansion will be gradual and in an effort to connect existing territories with new ones.

TSL Season-Practice-Games

- The fall and spring season schedule will consist of 4 stand-alone Sunday matches in addition to a Jamboree in the Fall and Spring which offer 2 abbreviated running time games that equal one full length game.
- Teams will practice **once per week** per season to minimize disruption of town practices. TSL practices are typically on Friday evenings.
- Practice locations are *usually* no more than a 30 mile radius from a player's residence. If a child makes a team and there is not an age appropriate team in their area, they will be offered a roster spot on the next closest team to their residence.
- **Everyone travels on game day** but we try to limit the game day distance to an hour give or take.
- Practices that are cancelled due to weather will not be made up. If weather is inclement on game day make up's are not guaranteed but families may need to be prepared to travel to a different field venue and or play a make-up game based on field availability. **IF** a make-up is scheduled, teams will play with the players that are available on that day/time.
- Players will have the option to participate in our TSL Winter indoor training program with other TSL players under the guidance Mass Youth Soccer. The winter indoor training is a 6-8 week program -Cost TBA

TSL Coaches

- Experience – Minimum of 3 years coaching town soccer D1 or D2 teams at U12 or older.
- Licenses/Diplomas – **Minimum requirement** is the completion of the US Soccer Federation Grassroots 7 v 7, 9 v 9 and/or 11 v 11 and/OR a National D License and or higher.
- 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.

Referees

The TSL uses highly qualified assignors who hire certified, qualified, and professional referees for Sunday match play. These young men and women are kind, respectful, and aspire to be positive role models to our youth athletes in addition to teaching them the game.

Refunds

Roster acceptance is for both fall and spring. Players who play in the fall and who decide not to return 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.** In the event a season must be cancelled after it starts, due to unforeseen circumstances, refunds will be pro-rated based on the date of cancellation and unrecoverable expenses incurred. Refunds for Winter Indoor Training must be requested prior to the start of the first scheduled training session.

Uniform-ADIDAS 2023-2024

Adidas is the official uniform provider for the Town Select League. If your child makes a team, you will receive a link within your roster offer letter that will allow you to order your child's uniform directly. You will need to pay for the uniform at time of order & it will be shipped to your home. Each uniform kit includes a home and away shirt, 1 pair of shorts, and 1 pairs of socks. You will also have the opportunity to purchase additional items such as extra shorts, socks, a back pack warm up tops, etc all with the TSL Logo on them.

Administration

The Town Select League is a Mass Youth Soccer Association state run program and is responsible for program details such as the coordination of tryouts, roster selection, practice and game day locations, practice and game schedules, uniforms, and coaching designation. The operation of the TSL is overseen and guided by the state office and the Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

TSL Practice Dates Fall 2023

Sept. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Oct. 13th, 20th, 27th

TSL Fall 2023 Game Dates

Sept. 10th & Sept. 24th
Oct. 15th & Oct. 29th

Fall Jamboree : Friday August 25th 4pm-8pm Mass Youth Soccer Complex-Lancaster

TSL Practice Dates Spring 2024

April 12th, 19th, 26th,
May 3rd, 10th & 17th

TSL Spring 2024 Game Dates

April 14th & April 28th
May 5th & 12th
May 19th Spring Jamboree Location TBA



TSL Player Expectations

- 1.** Attend all scheduled training sessions and games. Excused absences due to illness, family functions, or school activities shall be communicated to the team coach ahead of time.
- 2.** Arrive to games 30 minutes prior to the official game start properly prepared with BOTH game jerseys, shin guards, water, and everything necessary to play.
- 3.** Arrive to practice sessions on time, dressed in appropriately with shin guards, water, soccer shoes, and a properly inflated ball.
- 4.** Be attentive, respectful, and cooperative to coaches, officials, teammates, and parents. Players will exercise maximum effort during the training sessions and games.
- 5.** Not use alcohol, tobacco, vaping materials, or drugs.
- 6.** Abstain from the use of profanity.
- 7.** Strive to conduct themselves in a manner so as to avoid yellow and red cards.
- 8.** Players will recognize that they are responsible for the success of their own development.
- 9.** Players will display an inclusive attitude with their teammates.
- 10.** Communicate with their coach about questions or concerns relative to their participation within the team.
- 11.** Always promote the TSL in a responsible manner.
- 12.** Properly dispose of individual and team trash before and after practices and games.
- 13.** Remember to say 'Thank-you' to anyone who has helped you during the day to succeed.
- 14.** Understand that the journey to being good takes time, effort, patience, and commitment. There may be some challenging days however with hard work and discipline players can achieve their goals.



TSL Role of a Parent

1. Support their child in a positive manner throughout their developmental journey.
2. Assist in the development of players' decision-making abilities by not offering instructions from the sidelines during training and games.
3. Entrust soccer decisions to the player, and support the coach's implementation of our methodology.
4. Assist players' timely arrival and pick up to and from training sessions, games, and events.
5. Be a supportive and respectful spectator of all teams, players, officials, coaches, and family members.
6. Allow the coach, referee assignor, or TSL Program Manager to handle all communications with the referees during and after all matches. The TSL observes a **Zero Tolerance** policy regarding disrespectful interactions of any kind on our fields between referees, parents, players, and coaches.
7. Observe the game from the designated spectator sideline area. Spectators are not allowed behind the goals or on the end lines during match play.
8. Not use alcohol, other intoxicants, vaping materials, or tobacco products during training sessions or games.
9. Abide by our 'No Pet' policy during training sessions and games.
10. Communicate directly with the coach regarding questions or concerns as they relate to your child.
11. Pay all fees for services in the specified timeframes designated by Mass Youth Soccer and the TSL Program.
12. Continue to be a positive role model for your child, our program, and the soccer landscape.
13. **At no time during a game should a parent move to the player/parent sideline to address a coach about an issue regarding their child unless the child is injured and the coach and referee have requested the assistance of the parents/guardians.**



TSL Parent Advisory Council

The Town Select League will be forming a **Parent Advisory Council** for the 2023-24 season. The council is being formed to allow parents to suggest and offer new ideas to both help improve our program and to serve our players and parents more effectively. The Parent Advisory Council will meet regionally twice a season and as a whole once a season. (a season is fall and spring).

Each region committee will have a lead facilitator who will coordinate the meeting with interested parents to discuss idea topics. Regional idea topics will then be discussed on a larger scale at the all region comprehensive meeting where the results and ideas will brought to the Mass Youth Soccer TSL Administration for further discussion.

The council is a volunteer effort and if you are interested in becoming a lead regional meeting facilitator, please contact TSL Program Manager, Maureen T. LaRoche at mlaroch@mayouthsoccer.org .