

**Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association
Player Fee Proposal – 2016 AGM**

Beginning in April 2015, a series of meetings with all member Leagues and presentation at a League Committee meeting were conducted regarding the state of Mass Youth Soccer's finances generally, and its risk management responsibilities and practices in particular. The focus of the meetings and presentation was on the risk and challenges of providing youth soccer benefits in a responsible manner and the cost of providing these services.

Topics and issues addressed include:

Players:

- Health and Wellness
- Fitness protocols
- Injuries
- Concussions
- Baseline Testing
- Return to Play Protocols
- Nutrition
- Equipment

Risk Management Landscape:

- Constantly Changing and becoming more Demanding
- Coaches
- CORI, SORI, Background Checks
- Education/Development
- Licenses/Diplomas
- Accreditations

Insurance:

- Member Benefits
- Excess Medical
- General Liability
- Directors and Officers
- Crime
- Cyber
- Accident, Death and Dismemberment

An historical review of the Mass Youth Soccer risk management programs and related finances and budgets was conducted, resulting in a conclusion that the adequacy of our current fee structure is inadequate, within this changing environment. To summarize: Player membership fees have not increased in 15 years, while the cost of providing services during that same period has increased some 3.5% - a greater rate than that of the CPI/COLA average (2.18%) for the same period.

The cost of maintaining salaries, insurance, technology, complimentary programming, buildings and facilities have increased at higher rates. Using a conservative 3% costs increase rate and the "net" \$6 player membership fee (i.e., \$11, less the \$3 field fund, and less \$1 each to USSF and USYS), today's actual player total membership fee should be \$14 (or more).

As a result, the Board of Directors recently approved a \$5 risk management assessment per registered adult. This assessment is paying for the new ShareView database system, some of the increases in insurance costs, increased costs in managing the CORI process, and other programs in development that will strengthen our risk management initiatives.

An increase in player membership fees will have a substantial and positive impact on the Mass Youth Soccer finances, in a number of ways. It will allow us to continue to further strengthen our insurance program. With the coming changes resulting from the new concussion mandates and protocols, we have already learned that our insurance premiums will increase to meet and prepare for an expected increase in associated claims. In addition, the increased player membership fees will improve our overall financial strength as we continue to manage our debt and deal with increasing expenses.

Overall, the need to raise both our adult and player membership fees above the levels set 15 years ago is long overdue.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors and Leagues Committee have largely adopted support of a fee increase. The following proposal will be put to the membership:

Proposal to increase the annual player membership fee, pursuant to Bylaw 7.02.2, to be voted on by the Mass Youth Soccer membership at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. A "Yes" vote will authorize an increase in the annual player membership fee by \$3, such increase to become effective with the 2017/2018 seasonal (soccer) year.

A "Yes" vote cast by a majority of the members present and voting at the AGM is needed for this proposal to pass.

For clarity: If the prior proposal for an amendment to Bylaw sections 7.02.2 and 7.03 does not pass, then the above proposal on a change to the annual player membership fee will be entertained as a proposed amendment to Bylaw section 7.02.2., to be properly worded based on the method voted in, if so voted by a majority vote