



***Middlesex Youth Soccer***

***Spring 2022***

***Coaches Handbook***

***(includes MYSL constitution and rules of the game)***

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## MIDDLESEX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>BOARD POSITION</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
*President	Caryn Goulet	<a href="mailto:President@middlesexsoccer.org">President@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*VP Development/ Competition	Ken Antonucci	<a href="mailto:VPDevelopment@middlesexsoccer.org">VPDevelopment@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*VP Administration	Joe Boucher	<a href="mailto:VPAdministration@middlesexsoccer.org">VPAdministration@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Secretary	Shaun Driscoll	<a href="mailto:Secretary@middlesexsoccer.org">Secretary@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Treasurer	(open)	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@middlesexsoccer.org">Treasurer@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Registrar	Mary Rogers	<a href="mailto:Registrar@middlesexsoccer.org">Registrar@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Boys Commissioner	Mary Packard	<a href="mailto:BoysCommissioner@middlesexsoccer.org">BoysCommissioner@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Girls Commissioner	Tim Delaney	<a href="mailto:GirlsCommissioner@middlesexsoccer.org">GirlsCommissioner@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
*Referee Coordinator	Ray Halleran Sr.	<a href="mailto:RefereeCoordinator@middlesexsoccer.org">RefereeCoordinator@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Protest Officer	William Rowe	<a href="mailto:ProtestOfficer@middlesexsoccer.org">ProtestOfficer@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Statistician	Rich Buck	<a href="mailto:Statistician@middlesexsoccer.org">Statistician@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Parliamentarian	Jim Seavey	<a href="mailto:Parliamentarian@middlesexsoccer.org">Parliamentarian@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Webmaster	Nelson Amaya	<a href="mailto:Webmaster@middlesexsoccer.org">Webmaster@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Past President	Shawn McCarthy	<a href="mailto:PastPresident@middlesexsoccer.org">PastPresident@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Sportsmanship	William Rowe	<a href="mailto:Sportsmanship@middlesexsoccer.org">Sportsmanship@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Sportsmanship	(open)	<a href="mailto:Sportsmanship@middlesexsoccer.org">Sportsmanship@middlesexsoccer.org</a>

\* - Denotes members of the executive committee

**Note:** Please check <http://www.middlesexsoccer.org/> for a current listing.

## MIDDLESEX AGE DIRECTORS

<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
Boys Grade 3/4 - Div 1,2	John Sanders	<a href="mailto:B34.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">B34.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 3/4 - Div 3	Maurizio Pasquale	<a href="mailto:B34.D3@middlesexsoccer.org">B34.D3@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 3/4 - Div 4,5	<i>(open)</i>	<a href="mailto:B34.D4@middlesexsoccer.org">B34.D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 5/6 - Div 1,2	John Sanders	<a href="mailto:B56.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">B56.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 5/6 - Div 3,4,5	Brian Mahnken	<a href="mailto:B56.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org">B56.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 7/8 - Div 1,2	Stephen Jones	<a href="mailto:B78.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">B78.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys Grade 7/8 - Div 3,4,5	Brian Mahnken	<a href="mailto:B78.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org">B78.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 3/4 - Div 1,2	Jeanne Buck	<a href="mailto:G34.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">G34.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 3/4 - Div 3	Rich Buck	<a href="mailto:G34.D3@middlesexsoccer.org">G34.D3@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 3/4 - Div 4,5	Helen Webb	<a href="mailto:G34.D4@middlesexsoccer.org">G34.D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 5/6 - Div 1,2	Nick Howie	<a href="mailto:G56.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">G56.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 5/6 - Div 3,4,5	Shawn McCarthy	<a href="mailto:G56.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org">G56.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 7/8 - Div 1,2	Tim Delaney	<a href="mailto:G78.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org">G78.D1-D2@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Girls Grade 7/8 - Div 3,4,5	<i>(open)</i>	<a href="mailto:G78.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org">G78.D3-D4@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys & Girls Grade 9-11	Bill Childs	<a href="mailto:BG910@middlesexsoccer.org">BG910@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Boys & Girls Grade 12+	Jim Sherry	<a href="mailto:BG1112@middlesexsoccer.org">BG1112@middlesexsoccer.org</a>

**Note:** Please check <http://www.middlesexsoccer.org/> for a current listing.

## MIDDLESEX TOWN COORDINATORS

<b>MEMBER TOWN</b>	<b>COORDINATOR</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
Billerica	Mary Rogers	<a href="mailto:Billerica.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Billerica.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Burlington	Bill Rowe	<a href="mailto:Burlington.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Burlington.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Charlestown	Allen Reitz	<a href="mailto:Charlestown.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Charlestown.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Chelmsford	Hani AlDayaa	<a href="mailto:Chelmsford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Chelmsford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Everett	Oz Constanza	<a href="mailto:Everett.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Everett.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Lowell	Lori Hicks, Al Marquis	<a href="mailto:Lowell.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Lowell.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Malden	Ken Antonucci	<a href="mailto:Malden.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Malden.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Medford	Dan Magee	<a href="mailto:Medford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Medford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Melrose	Jason Buggy, Jeff Whelpley	<a href="mailto:Melrose.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Melrose.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Reading	John Parks	<a href="mailto:Reading.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Reading.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Soccer Without Borders	Bruno Contreras	<a href="mailto:SWOB.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">SWOB.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Somerville	Jim Seavy	<a href="mailto:Somerville.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Somerville.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Stoneham	Tobin Shulman	<a href="mailto:Stoneham.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Stoneham.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Tewksbury	Keith Menslage, Jeff Ruscio	<a href="mailto:Tewksbury.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Tewksbury.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Waltham	Matt Staub	<a href="mailto:Waltham.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Waltham.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Westford	Mark Ottesen	<a href="mailto:Westford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Westford.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>
Wilmington	Nate Tarin	<a href="mailto:Wilmington.TC@middlesexsoccer.org">Wilmington.TC@middlesexsoccer.org</a>

**Note:** Please check <http://www.middlesexsoccer.org/> for a current listing.

## COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2022

In addition to the administrative rules and Laws Of The Game defined in this document, all members must adhere to all Mass Youth Soccer COVID-19 mandated requirements as detailed on the web site <https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/covid-hub/>.

Note that these recommendations may change throughout the season, and league activities will need to incorporate those changes as they occur.



# MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

## **1. NAME**

Middlesex Youth Soccer League, which is affiliated with the Mass Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) (also referred to as Massachusetts Youth Soccer) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA).

## **2. OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY**

The objective of the League is to provide the operational framework for the playing of youth soccer games between the teams of the member organizations. The philosophy of the League is to provide the opportunity and the training of the boys and girls to learn the game of soccer through the development of the individual skills, fitness, teamwork, and fair play. In organizations, teams, coaches, managers, and players shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and shall cooperate fully with the letter and the spirit of this Constitution and the Rules of the League.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP**

The League shall be an association of those youth soccer organizations, which represent the member towns and clubs (hereinafter identified as “Member Organizations” and, collectively, as “the Membership”).

The member organizations are responsible for organizing and entering teams, providing fields and otherwise conducting the soccer program in accordance with this Constitution and other applicable rules.

New member organizations shall be admitted only after approval by the Board at one of its meetings. Temporary memberships for one playing season may be granted in special cases by the Board (e.g., to fill out incomplete divisions.)

Membership shall become effective when proper team payment is accepted.

A new member organization is an organization never having played in the MYSL or any returning club having been absent for two (2) or more seasons (a season is the fall or spring schedule).



The Board will not accept as members:

- a) out of State Clubs
- b) out of League Clubs that field "select" teams
- c) Clubs that field less than three (3) teams
- d) Multiple clubs from one town. (Any multiple town club member prior to November 2002 is grandfathered)

#### **4. GOVERNING BODY**

The governing body of the MYSL will be the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as "the Board", which shall consist of the following, each being a "Term Director":

One year terms, elected annually:

Referee Coordinator, Parliamentarian, Protest Officer, Statistician, Age Directors, and Webmaster

Two Year terms, elected in odd-numbered years:

President, Vice-President (Development/Competition), Treasurer, Girl's Commissioner,

Two Year terms, elected in even-numbered years:

Vice-President (administration), Secretary, Registrar, Boy's Commissioner, Immediate Past President

Two Year terms, elected every other year:

Sportsmanship Committee, two members, one member elected in even numbered years and one member elected in odd numbered years

The election of Directors according to the preceding schedule shall occur at the Annual General Meeting by means of a ballot. The unfilled tenure of any vacated position(s) shall be filled at the next General Meeting by means of a ballot. Each member organization shall designate one individual to vote for Directors on its behalf at any General Meeting. Each designated individual shall have a number of votes equal to the number of votes allocated to his or her member organization per Article 7 of this Constitution.

The Officers of the Board shall include the President, Vice President of Development/Competition, Vice President of Administration, Treasurer and Secretary.

Term Directors are expected to attend General and Board meetings. The Board or the membership may remove any Term Director for cause by a 2/3rds vote of the Term Directors present and voting at any monthly or special Board Meeting or by a 2/3rds vote of the membership present and voting at any General Meeting. In either case, no action shall be taken unless

and until the Term Director has received reasonable notice of the impending action and opportunity to be heard by the member organizations prior to action thereon.

In the event of any vacancy on the Board of Directors or in any office, the remaining Term Directors, Age Directors and Town Coordinators may appoint someone by means of a majority vote at a monthly or special meeting of the Board of Directors to serve until the next General Meeting.

The Board shall establish an Executive Committee which will be responsible for addressing confidential and private matters, held in Executive Sessions. The Executive Committee shall be made up of the Officers, Registrar, Boys' and Girls' Commissioners and the Referee Coordinator.

## TERM DIRECTOR DUTIES

### A. PRESIDENT

- 1) Convenes and chairs all meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee and the membership.
- 2) Establishes and serves as an ex officio member of all committees.
- 3) Represents and acts for the League on all external matters.
- 4) Convenes meetings of the Executive Committee, which makes decisions on the Board's behalf for all urgent matters
- 5) In non-urgent instances where disciplinary measures appear appropriate or are recommended, the President will convene a meeting of the Board.
- 6) Sets the agendas for all meetings of the Board and distributes said agendas at least one week prior to meeting date.

### B. VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION)

- 1) In the absence of the President, shall be the acting President.
- 2) Is in charge of the preparation of the League Directory including advertising.
- 3) Responsible for creating and chairing a Nomination Committee for the purpose of identifying and presenting potential future Board Members to the Board and the membership.
- 4) Responsible for maintaining and updating the Organizations Rules and working with the membership and Term Directors to ensure Rules are properly followed.

### C. VICE-PRESIDENT (DEVELOPMENT/COMPETITION)

- 1) Is in charge of personnel development and in such capacity, shall arrange clinics for players, coaches and/or administrative personnel as determined by the Board.
- 2) Is in charge of raising funds to pay for the aforementioned clinics, as approved by the Board.
- 3) Recognizing that the league must be in a constant state of revitalization and growth, the Vice-President (Development/Competition) shall ensure a constant flow of information to membership prospects for the League and shall identify and address weak areas in the Leagues' operations.
- 4) Shall procure appropriate trophies and awards for the League.
- 5) Is in charge of intra-league and inter-league post-season tournament play and the National Regional Cup.
- 6) Shall chair the Competition Committee.

### D. SECRETARY

- 1) Assists the Vice-President (Administration) with the publication of the League Directory and Rules.
- 2) Notifies Term Directors and Town Coordinators of Board meetings and the membership of General and Special Meetings.
- 3) Records minutes of all meetings and posts approved minutes on League's Website.
- 4) Executes all League correspondence within and outside of the League.
- 5) Notifies the membership of Rule and Constitution changes in a timely manner.

### E. REGISTRAR

- 1) Review and distribute registration materials to appropriate league officials and town/club representatives in time for season start.
- 2) Review and validate all initial roster submissions.
- 3) In the absence of a Commissioner shall be acting Commissioner.
- 4) Verify MYSAs affiliations.
- 5) Confirms that registration fees and fines have been collected prior to distributing materials.
- 6) Provide appropriate Age Directors with placement material at least two weeks prior to placement meetings.

#### F. TREASURER

- 1) Provide treasurer's report at ALL meetings.
- 2) Collect and disburse funds as operational necessity dictates.
- 3) Manage the League bank account(s).
- 4) Responsible for filing all appropriate Tax filings.
- 5) Serves as Procurement Officer of the League.
- 6) Prepares a budget for review at a monthly Board meeting prior to the AGM.

#### G. PROTEST OFFICER

- 1) Adjudicates official match-related protests through impartial fact-finding and arbitration
- 2) Works directly with the Sportsmanship Committee in matters concerning disposition of team/club discipline issues to determine suspensions/corrective actions for coach or fan infractions of Middlesex Soccer League Rules.

#### H. STATISTICIAN

- 1) Reviews weekly game results (filed electronically) and discusses issues with Commissioners.
- 2) Prepares statistical information as required.
- 3) Assigns teams to the scheduling matrix after the Division placements have been determined.

#### I. COMMISSIONER(S)

- 1) Ensures that players and teams register in a timely manner.
- 2) Ensures that registration requirements are fulfilled before players and teams are allowed to participate in League games, including additions to or subtractions from rosters during the season.
- 3) Makes final decision on all matters pertaining to player and team eligibility.
- 4) Works closely with the Protest Officer in disputes over player eligibility
- 5) Receives and records player/coach ejections (red cards) and notifies appropriate league officials
- 6) Provides Age Directors with consistent policy for post season play qualifications.

#### J. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

- 1) Serves as advisor to the President.
- 2) Assists with liaison efforts vertically between the League and the State organization and horizontally with other Massachusetts affiliated leagues.

#### K. REFEREE COORDINATOR

- 1) Recommends specific employment of referee assignors to the Board.
- 2) Negotiates appropriate referee fees with the referee assignor. These agreed upon fees will be paid at seasons end by the treasurer.
- 3) Primary mission is to ensure game coverage by qualified officials for sanctioned League contests.
- 4) Is in charge of referee development

#### L. PARLIAMENTARIAN

- 1) Shall serve as Parliamentarian for all League meetings.
- 2) Shall ascertain that the Leagues' Constitution and Rules are functioning properly.
- 3) The Middlesex Youth Soccer League follows the parliamentary system in Roberts Rules of Order

#### M. AGE DIRECTORS

- 1) Shall coordinate and direct all activities in the assigned divisions, pertaining to but not limited to:
  - a) Determining champions
  - b) Arranging for tie-breakers, etc.
  - c) Passing on information on cancellations
  - d) Ensuring timely make-up of postponed games
- 2) Shall collect all scores and other information that may be required and pass it on to the Statistician.
- 3) Serves as first instance of appeal in disputes between team representatives and settles disputes, if necessary, by declaring a forfeit.
- 4) Shall, if requested by the Commissioner, assist in certifying player eligibility for his division.

## **5. STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **1. SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE**

- a) Consist of 2 elected members working in conjunction with the Protest Officer, a certified grade-8 referee and one individual recommended by the President and approved by the Board.
- b) Reactive committee that will hear a request brought before the committee by any participant of the league.
- c) Determine the appropriate action required for each request, including holding a hearing to adjudicate the matter.
- d) Follow USSF guidelines for all hearings

### **2. COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

- a) The chair of the committee will be the Vice President (Development/Competition)
- b) The committee will consist of a minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 members (3 of whom must be current Age Directors) who will be appointed by the Chair and President, and approved by the Board of Directors
- c) The committee will:
  - i) Review, and recommend changes to rules, policies and guidelines that impact the competitive balance and playing experience for players and teams
  - ii) Assist Age Directors on the placement of teams
  - iii) Monitor the league's competitive position relative to other leagues within Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association

## **6. BOARD MEETINGS**

Each Director shall have one (1) vote on the Board, but no one individual shall have more than one (1) vote.

Each member town shall assign an individual as the Town Coordinator and such Town Coordinator shall have one (1) vote at the regularly scheduled monthly Board Meeting. No one town shall have more than one (1) vote at Board Meetings. No voting member shall cast more than one (1) vote.

One third (1/3) of the Board shall constitute a quorum for a Board meeting. Setting of fees and appropriations of funds as specified in Article 7 of this Constitution. Recommendations for fee increases, referee payment rates, and assistant referee payment rates shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and Town Coordinators at a Board meeting. Final approval of

said increases shall be made by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.

All other matters shall be decided by a simple majority of those Directors and Town Coordinators present and voting.

Regular monthly meetings shall be scheduled by the President and the Secretary shall notify all Board members and Town Coordinators by mail or email at least two (2) weeks before the scheduled date. An agenda must be distributed at least 7 days prior to these regularly scheduled monthly meetings

A "SPECIAL BOARD MEETING" may be requested in writing by three (3) or more Directors if they deem it necessary.

## **7. GENERAL MEETINGS**

General meetings shall be held at least annually, with two (2) weeks' notice, and "SPECIAL" General meetings may be called by the Board as deemed necessary and require that one third (1/3) of the directors approve of the "special General meeting." The Annual General Meeting shall be held between March 1<sup>st</sup> and the third Wednesday of May and shall be the election meeting.

A quorum shall consist of fifty (50%) percent of the Membership. Board members shall not have a vote unless they are an authorized Town/Club Representative.

Amendments to this Constitution per Article 12 require the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting and all other decisions require a simple majority of those members present and voting.

In the event of a tie vote, the vote shall be taken to the Board. If the vote is still equal, the President shall cast the tie-breaker.

At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, each member organization will receive votes based on the number of teams on record at the end of the previous spring season, as certified by the Registrar. Towns would receive one (1) vote per representative attending the meeting. Town Presidents will designate individuals responsible for casting Towns votes. (NO PROXY VOTES)

3 teams	1 vote
4 – 9 teams	2 votes
10 – 19 teams	3 votes
20 – 29 teams	4 votes
More than 30 teams	5 votes

## **8. FINANCIAL POLICIES**

Members shall pay a registration fee for each playing season to the League for each of their teams to cover referee fees and other League expenses. Recommendations for fee increases, referee payment rates, and assistant referee payment rates shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and Town Coordinators at a Board meeting. Final approval of said increases shall be made by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Expenditure categories that exceed their budget by more than \$1000.00 shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and Town Coordinators at a Board meeting

All moneys shall be promptly deposited in either a savings or checking account maintained in the Leagues' name.

Bills for authorized purchases shall be paid when due. Bills shall be approved by two (2) of the authorized signers.

With the exception of fees paid for refereeing sanctioned contests, no Board member shall gain any profit from money appropriated by the League or from any transaction there with. The Board shall procure a bond for all authorized check signers.

## **9. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the League the funds remaining shall be divided among all of the town organizations that are currently members of the League then in good standing with regard to the payment of fees to the League. Each organization would receive an equal amount.



## **10. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

Any person, team or member organization may be suspended or expelled from the League by a resolution passed by the Board. The person(s) involved shall be notified of the intended action and may make a statement to the Board before the resolution is put to a vote. The resolution is passed if approved by 2/3 (two thirds) of the Board present and voting

## **11. LEAGUE RULES**

In addition to this Constitution there shall be a set of League Rules which, providing they do not contravene this Constitution, shall be binding upon all members.

Changes and additions to the Rules may be made at General Meetings and at all Board Meetings and, in the event urgent action is required, by the Executive Committee. All changes made by the Executive Committee shall be presented at next Board meeting for ratification. If such ratification is not received, said change will no longer be in effect from the date it was originally approved by the Executive Committee. All significant changes made by the Board shall be presented to the next Annual General Meeting.

The League Rules shall be published annually. Any changes approved by the Board between the annual publishing shall be mailed or emailed to all member organizations within two (2) weeks.

## **12. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

No variation of the Constitution by addition, omission or amendment shall be adopted without the approval of a General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Notice of such meeting and the details of the proposed amendment shall be mailed or emailed to all member organizations at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.

Any amendment must be carried by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting.

### **13. MTOC ELIGIBLE LEAGUES AGREEMENTS**

The MTOC Leagues Agreements, that shall be published and updated from time to time by the MTOC member leagues, shall be binding upon all members.

The Leagues Agreement may be found on the Mass Youth Soccer website.



# **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF THE MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **1. General**

- a) There will be two playing seasons: FALL and SPRING
  - i) The Fall Season will be developmental; without formal championships, playoffs, etc.
  - ii) The Spring Season will be competitive as teams in each division will be trying to make it to championship playoffs (for MTOC) or for a spot in Commissioners' Cup
- b) To minimize confusion between the seasons, the same rules will generally apply with the exception of the competitive aspects of the rules for the Fall Season.
- c) These Rules are divided into the following groups:
  - ADMINISTRATION RULES 1 - 10
  - RESCHEDULING GAMES RULES 11 - 14
  - PRE-GAME RULES 15 - 18
  - GAME RULES 19 - 23
  - POST GAME AND REFEREES RULES 24 - 32
  - CHAMPIONS AND TOURNAMENTS RULES 33 - 39

## **2. Admittance**

- a) To participate in the League, a team must belong to a member organization defined in the Middlesex Youth Soccer League (MYSL) Constitution.
- b) Each member organization shall designate the geographic area served by the organization. This area shall consist of the cities or towns or portions thereof that will identify the organization's residential player pool.
- c) Member organizations are referred to as Clubs or Town Organizations in these Rules.
- d) The Board will specify registration deadlines.
- e) Teams that have submitted a completed entry form, a roster, and a full non-refundable payment in accordance with Rule 9, before the set deadline, will be guaranteed a proper berth.
- f) Clubs/Towns that submit a team roster after the registration closing date will go on a waiting list. If accepted at the placement meeting, the registration fee plus a \$25 late fee will be required. Late registering teams will be accepted to fill open slots in the schedule. For teams registering after placement, see rule 10.f.

- g) Clubs/Towns submitting late registrations will be placed on probation. A \$1,000 bond shall be posted prior to the start of the current season by each club/town that has submitted their registrations after the registration deadline. If the Club/Town submits its registrations for the next season on time, the bond will be returned. If the Club/Town submits its registrations for the next season late, this bond will be forfeited and MYSL may elect to not allow the club to participate in the league. A club will be considered to be in compliance if it submits all required paperwork (or updates SportsManager) by the stated deadline (including but not limited to full payment of registration fees, field availability information, complete coaches list for all teams, division placement forms, rosters and, player/coach pass cards (as needed)).

### **3. Affiliation**

- a) All teams, players and coaches must be affiliated with the Mass Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). It is the responsibility of Club/Town to make certain that all participants in MYSL activities are properly affiliated. MYSL may, at its own discretion, check on such affiliations and take corrective measures when required.

### **4. Appearance Bond/Forfeit/Fines**

- a) New Clubs/Towns must post an appearance bond of \$1,000 per Club/Town that will be held in escrow by the MYSL for three (3) continuous seasons.
- b) A Club/Town will be assessed a fine of \$100 per game forfeited by one of its teams as determined by the appropriate Age Director. This fine must be paid along with the following season's registration fee.
- c) A Club/Town will be assessed an additional fine of \$100 for each team that has forfeited two (2) or more games in the prior season in which that Club/Town participated. This fine must be paid along with the following season's registration fee.
- d) A Club/Town will be fined \$25 for each incomplete rosters after the agreed upon date. Said fees will be payable before the end of the season.

## **5. Rosters and Transfers**

- a) For each team, an update-to-date roster shall be maintained in SportsManager.
- b) In MYSL games, players may play for one (1) team only.
- c) For a Grade 7/8 and younger roster to be approved by the league, at least 75% of that team's roster must be comprised of resident players. All rosters must have a minimum of 50% of the players be from the sponsoring city or town. A resident player is a child who lives or attends school in the club's designated service area. If a child's legal guardians reside in more than one community, then that child can play in either of those communities. Players from a town that does not have a Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned youth program do not count against the 75%.
  - i) A player who has played as a resident player for a MYSL club may continue to play for that club if they no longer qualify as a resident, as long as they have not played for any other club in the interim.
  - ii) A player who lives in a town that has no team or no opening on a team at the player's age level may play on an appropriate team in an adjacent town provided that the player has made a timely, good faith effort to try out for such an opening on his own town's team. These non-resident players must seek and obtain a residency waiver before being eligible to play. A residency waiver granted for the Fall season shall also be valid for the next Spring season provided that the conditions justifying the waiver have not changed. All waivers expire at the end of each spring season.
  - iii) Adjacent towns which have an insufficient number of players to form two full teams at an age level may combine players to form a team, which would be placed in an appropriately competitive division.
  - iv) For MTOC eligible teams, additional waivers may be required.
  - v) Any town organization that falsifies roster information with regard to this rule will be sanctioned by the league (see Rule 7)
- d) For the Fall and Spring Seasons, the following applies to transfers and changes:
  - i) A team is permitted to add players to its roster any time prior to the roster freeze date in order to get to the maximum roster size.
  - ii) Once at the maximum, a team is permitted to have a maximum of three player "drops" and three player "adds" per season prior to the roster freeze date in accordance with US Youth Soccer and MYSA rules. Coach and Player adds will cost the town \$10 per add, after the agreed upon date. Said fees will be payable before the end of the season.

- iii) In order for a Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6 or Grade 7/8 player to be removed from the roster, the town must provide the Commissioner a letter / email from the player's parent/guardian stating the reason for the player leaving the team.
- iv) Note that the 75% rules above still apply when adding and dropping players and a player add that would alter a team's division placement may be denied by the Commissioner.
- e) Players who move to a team in a lower division (regardless of age group) after May 10th may not play for their new team in any MYSL games. The only exception would be to replace an injured player. Such a move is subject to the approval of the Age Director and Commissioner involved.
- f) Rosters are frozen on the end of day on the first Tuesday in October for the Fall Season and on the first Tuesday in May for the Spring Season.

## **6. Player and Coach Registration**

- a) A player is considered registered if he/she is:
  - i) Properly affiliated with the MYSA,
  - ii) Listed on the approved roster of the team he/she is playing for, and
  - iii) Has a current player pass card (Grade 5/6 and above for the Spring Season only) approved by the appropriate Commissioner and Registrar.
- b) All adult coach(es) of each team are considered registered if they are properly affiliated with MYSA and:
  - i) Listed on the approved roster of the team they are coaching,
  - ii) Have a current coach pass card (both Fall and Spring seasons) approved by the Commissioner & Registrar and
  - iii) Have an approved MYSA credential (both Fall and Spring seasons).All 3 requirements must be fulfilled for a coach to be present on a team sideline during a game.
- c) Any coach younger than 18 years of age is considered registered if:
  - i) Listed on the approved roster of the team he/she is coaching
  - ii) Has a coach's passcard (both Fall and Spring seasons) that has been approved by the appropriate Commissioner and Registrar.
- d) It is each Club's/Town's CORI Submitter's responsibility to ensure that each adult in its organization:
  - i) Has completed the Mass Youth Soccer Adult Registration
  - ii) Has passed the CORI background check and
  - iii) Has received the MYSA Credential and lanyard.The MYSA Credential signifies the Coaches have completed a CORI background check and are registered with Mass Youth Soccer.  
Note: An ADULT is anyone 18 years of age or older.

## **7. Compliance and Sanctions**

- a) Any game played by a team that does not have an approved roster in SportsManager shall be considered an automatic forfeit.
- b) Each coach is responsible for verifying all the players' registration information. Any request for age verification by the Commissioner and/or Protest Officer shall be complied with within five (5) days of the request or the player involved will be considered unregistered and ineligible.
- c) If it is determined that a team has used a non-rostered, suspended, ineligible or overage player in a game, that game shall be considered a forfeit. In addition, by a majority vote, the Board of Directors may suspend that team, without refund, for a certain number of games if the offense is considered to be of a serious nature.
- d) Any player found to be misrepresenting his/her age will be suspended for the remainder of the season. A coach knowingly using a non-rostered, suspended, ineligible or overage player in a game will be immediately suspended by the President, and only re-admitted to the MYSL after applying in writing and showing cause for re-admittance. Any Club in which one or more teams have been found of using a non-rostered, suspended, ineligible or overage player shall be required, by a majority vote of the Board, to provide to the Commissioner proof of age for all players for all teams in that Club. This requirement may be rescinded only by a majority vote of the Board.

## **8. Age Groups**

- a) All players under the age of 21 that meet the requirements below of the current playing year will be eligible to play for a team. Current playing year is fall/spring seasons.
- b) Age groups for the 2021/2022 season:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Grade Requirements</b>	<b>AND</b>	<b>Date of Birth Requirements Born On or After</b>
Grade 3/4	4th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2011
Grade 5/6	6th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2009
Grade 7/8	8th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2007
Grade 9-11	11th Grade or Lower	AND	1/1/2004
Grade 12+	12th Grade + 1 year or Lower	AND	1/1/2002

- c) Each club should go to [www.middlesexsoccer.org](http://www.middlesexsoccer.org) to confirm the dates for each age group.

- d) Players who are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade may play up based on the current Grade 1/2 playing policy of Mass Youth Soccer. Players who are eligible to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of MYSL's Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 age groups can play in the next higher age group. That is, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Grade 3/4 player may "play up" in Grade 5/6, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Grade 5/6 player may "play up" in Grade 7/8. If such a player chooses to play in the next higher age group in the Fall Season, that player must play in the same age group in the following Spring season.
- e) Players who are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility for the Grade 7/8 age group and who are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or lower (not attending high school) can play in the Grade 9-11 age group.
- f) Players who are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of eligibility for the Grade 7/8 age group and who are in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or higher (attending high school) can play in any of the high school age groups (Grade 9-11, Grade 12+) at the discretion of the Club/Town and the MYSL Commissioner and Registrar.

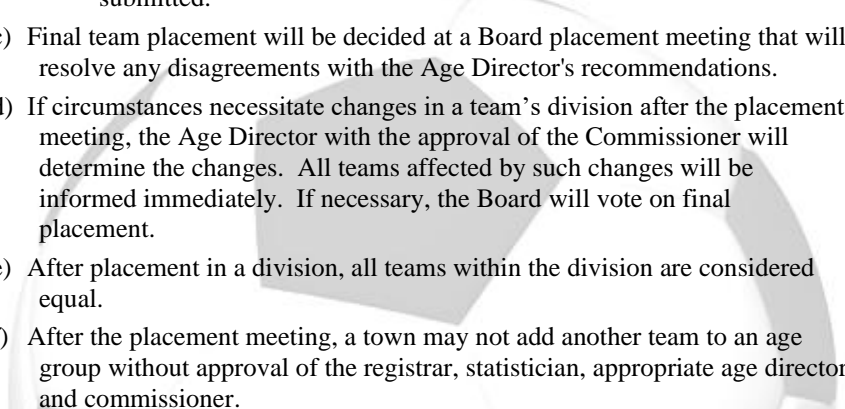
## **9. Team Costs**

- a) The cost per team will be set by a majority vote of the Board, in accordance with the MYSL Constitution, and will be communicated to the Clubs/Towns at least one (1) month prior to the MYSL registration deadline.

## **10. Team Placement**

- a) In each age group, there may be up to five (5) division levels. Each level may be further divided into sections.
  - 1) For age groups Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8, there will be 5 divisions.
    - i) The top 2 divisions will be Division 1 and Division 2. The Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8 teams in these divisions will be competing to represent MYSL at the MTOC Tournament at the end of the spring season
    - ii) Teams that populate the divisions 1 and 2 in the spring will be culled from the Fall Division 1, Division 2 and select Division 3 teams
    - iii) Divisions 3, 4 and 5 teams will be playing to compete in the Commissioners' Cup Tournament at the end of the spring season
- b) The Age Director will recommend placement in specific divisions taking into consideration the following guidelines:
  - i) Fall Season: Any Club with 3 or more teams in an Age Group or any large Club should place one team in the Division 1. A large club is defined as having 500 or more registered players U6 and up in their entire town program.



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- ii) Spring Season: Any Club with 3 or more teams in an Age Group should place at least one team in either the First Division or Second Division, based on their record from the previous Fall Season.
  - iii) Division 1 and 2 teams during the spring season will represent, in the opinion of the Age Director, the highest and next highest level teams in the age group.
  - iv) The desire of the team and any other consideration submitted with the team's entry form.
  - v) Statistical data from the previous season and other relevant information submitted.
- c) Final team placement will be decided at a Board placement meeting that will resolve any disagreements with the Age Director's recommendations.
  - d) If circumstances necessitate changes in a team's division after the placement meeting, the Age Director with the approval of the Commissioner will determine the changes. All teams affected by such changes will be informed immediately. If necessary, the Board will vote on final placement.
  - e) After placement in a division, all teams within the division are considered equal.
  - f) After the placement meeting, a town may not add another team to an age group without approval of the registrar, statistician, appropriate age director and commissioner.

## **11. Rescheduling Games**

- a) When a team cannot play a scheduled league game for legitimate reasons, the coach shall prove in writing, with significant documentation to the satisfaction of the Age Director, that fewer than eleven (11) players (Nine (9) players for Grade 5/6 or seven (7) players for Grade 3/4) will be available.
  - i) A coach should know his/her players' availability for the whole season; ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse. Legitimate reasons may include, but not be limited to:
    - graduation,
    - sanctioned invitational tournament,
    - school trip, or
    - religious activity.
  - ii) Lack of players due to a vacation is not a legitimate reason to reschedule a game.
- b) Notification of the need to reschedule must be given to the Age Director and the opposing coach at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled game date or within two (2) days after the reason for rescheduling appears or is known.

- c) For Spring Season games, the league referee assignor must be notified by the Age Director at least 48 hours in advance of a rescheduled game's date. (Exemption: Memorial Day weekend games **MUST** be rescheduled and played prior to Memorial Day.)
  - i) Rescheduled games must be made up in advance of the scheduled date except with the permission of the Age Director.
  - ii) If the reason for rescheduling appears within the two weeks prior to the game date, the Age Director will set a reasonable deadline.
  - iii) If the HOME coach reschedules the game, he/she must give three (3) reasonable dates on which the game may be made up.
  - iv) If the AWAY coach reschedules the game, the HOME coach will set the make-up date.
  - v) The Age Director will arbitrate and decide on any disagreements.
- d) If the coach who wants to reschedule violates any part of this Rule, the opposing coach may claim a forfeit. The final decision will rest with the Age Director.

## **12. Postponing Games**

- a) Games may be postponed if: 1) the fields are unplayable or 2) the safety of the participants is at risk, over and above the normal risks involved in playing a soccer game
  - i) Initial responsibility for determining the above lies with the home team's administration (not the coach). A town organization (club or park's department) can close a field or all of its fields for the full day up to when the referee starts the match or determines that the field is unplayable.
  - ii) After this, it is each game's assigned referee's responsibility to determine if a game can be played or continued
  - iii) Once a field is declared unplayable, it is closed for the day.
  - iv) The league will only cancel all games league-wide on a given day with the unanimous consent of the Executive Committee. The intent is that only under extraordinary circumstances would the league cancel all league-wide games.
  - v) In situations where a significant number of a day's games are not completed, it is the league's responsibility to determine if that day's games will be cancelled or if those un-played games must be rescheduled.
- b) If the field is unplayable or in the case of another legitimate last day justification, the HOME coach shall inform the Age Director and the opposing coach before 8:00 a.m. (7:30a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. game). An authorized town representative shall be responsible for contacting the Referee Assignor and Referee Coordinator immediately to inform him/her of all cancellations at that town's fields

- c) If the authorized town representative is not available, the HOME coach is responsible for contacting the Referee Assignor and Referee Coordinator. If the HOME coach does not properly inform the Age Director, Referee Assignor or Referee Coordinator, and the referee appears for the game, the HOME team will be liable for the referee fee. Failure to notify the opposing coach may result in a forfeiture of the game as determined by the Age Director.
- d) If all home games of a Club are canceled, the authorized town representative shall be responsible for notifying the Referee Assignor and/or Referee Coordinator as soon as possible.

### **13. Make-up Schedule for Postponed Games**

- a) The home team coach must give the opposing coach three (3) reasonable dates, within seven (7) days of the original game date, on which the game may be made up. The make-up scheduling process in SportsManager is preferred or the home team coach will confirm the date, time and place for the make-up game by calling both the Age Director and the opposing coach at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled make-up date.
- b) In cases where both coaches cannot agree on a make-up date, the Age Director will have the authority to set the date, time and place of the make-up game.
- c) Games played without the prior knowledge and consent of the Age Director could result in a forfeit to both teams. Games not made up before the last weekend of the season will be ruled a forfeit for one or both teams as determined by the Age Director.

### **14. Holiday Weekend Games**

- a) If the MYSL schedules games on a holiday weekend, they shall be played as scheduled with the exception of Memorial Day weekend games which shall be treated as rescheduled games according to Rule 11 (Rescheduling Games). All of these games **MUST** be rescheduled to be played prior to Memorial Day weekend.
- b) If teams want to play on Memorial Day weekend, they must inform the appropriate Age Director no later than the second weekend of the season, otherwise the game **MUST** be rescheduled. The Age Director will only allow the game to be played on Memorial Day weekend if the league Referee Assignor determines that it is possible to schedule a USSF certified referee.
- c) Teams attending or wait-listed for a Memorial Day weekend tournament **MUST** reschedule their games

## **15. Number of Players on a roster**

- a) Team roster sizes for the fall or spring seasons must adhere to the following for the team to be sanctioned by MYSL:
- Grade 3/4:                    8 minimum            15 maximum
  - Grade 5/6:                    11 minimum           16 maximum
  - Grade 7/8:                    14 minimum           22 maximum
- b) Team roster sizes for the Grade 7/8+ age groups for the spring season must adhere to the following for the team to be sanctioned by MYSL:
- Team Roster- 14 minimum, 22 maximum
  - i) Game roster sizes for MTOC-eligible teams in the Grade 7/8+ age groups for the spring season must adhere to the following to be acceptable to play in a league sanctioned game:
    - Game Roster- 7 minimum, 18 maximum
- c) Teams may be coed but, if coed, the team must be placed in a boy's division.

## **16. Coaches/Supervision**

- a) Each team must have a designated head coach and may have up to two (2) assistant coaches.
- b) For each team, a registered coach or assistant coach must be present during the entire game.
- i) If no such coach is present, or if the coach is ejected or leaves the game for other reasons, the referee shall abandon the match. OR
  - ii) If a rostered coach is not available, a non-rostered coach may step in as long as they have their Town affiliated MYSA credential. (no coach's passcard needed for a substitute coach.) The referee will note in the game report the name(s) of the substitute coach(es). If a substitute coach is a minor (under the age of 18), a coach's passcard shall be provided to the referee.
  - iii) If the referee abandons the game, a forfeit will be assessed at the discretion of the Age Director.

## **17. Certified Rosters and Identification Cards**

- a) A certified roster shall be that roster approved by the appropriate Commissioner's, have "APPROVED" in the title and a watermark diagonally across the page or clearly marked with an alternative method which has been approved by the Board and communicated to league prior to the beginning of the season.

Before the match, each coach will hand to the referee two copies of the team's certified roster. The referee shall write his name on and pass one copy of the team's certified roster to the opposing coach.

- i) No handwritten player or coach information (except uniform numbers) is permitted on the certified roster.
  - ii) Player's names, uniform numbers and birthdates must appear on the game roster.
- b) If either team fails to submit copies of the certified roster before the match, the referee will accept 2 copies of a "Game Roster" from the coach. Game rosters may be handwritten and must contain the following information:
- i) The Team Name, number and MYSL division
  - ii) The names and phone numbers for the coaches
  - iii) The name, birth date and uniform number for each player

Note: Coaches may use smart phone technology to pull up their approved roster for the referee and opposing coach but a handwritten roster must also be prepared as stated above.

If the referee accepts a non-certified game roster from a coach, the game will be played and the results counted in the standings pending a review of the game roster by the appropriate commissioner. The referee must note in their game report that a non-certified game roster was used and must also send a copy of the game roster to the appropriate commissioner. The commissioner, in conjunction with the Age Director, will review the validity of the game roster and validate the game results or issue a forfeit as appropriate if an ineligible player was used.

- c) For both the Fall and Spring Seasons, all adult coaches, assistant coaches, town/league Board members that will be on the team's sideline MUST display a valid Mass Youth identification on a lanyard. See Administrative Rule 6c. The match referee shall remove all other observers to the parents sideline or bleachers. Initially when arriving at the field the adult should have their credential worn around their neck. Then, in order not to hamper their activities (coaching, lining fields, running, etc.) they **may, if necessary**, store the credential with their personal belongings during that activity. **Note:** MYSL expect all coaches to make every reasonable effort to wear the credentials at all times while working with the children.
- d) During the Spring Season, each coach and assistant coach(s) will have in their possession a town passcard for themselves and each player (Grade 5/6 and above players only) approved by the appropriate Commissioner. Passcards shall be made available to the referee.
- e) During the Spring Season, an individual player without a valid passcard shall not be permitted to play until a valid passcard can be given to the referee, unless prior approval to play has been given by the appropriate Commissioner to the referee. If for some reason a coach fails to provide all passcards, the referee shall allow the game to proceed and must note in their game report that the game was played without coach/player passcards. The

commissioner, in conjunction with the Age Director will review and validate the game results or issue a forfeit as appropriate.

- f) In Grade 3/4 passcards are required only for the coaches of each team, not for the players. Note that all players must appear on the certified roster.

## **18. Game Times**

- a) No change in game times is allowed after the coaches meeting has been held without appropriate notice (one-week notice when possible) to the VISITING COACH and with the approval of the AGE DIRECTOR.
- b) Failure to comply with the provisions of the game time rules above shall result in a loss by forfeit for the home team.
- c) Grade 9 and above teams (Spring Season only) shall play their games in venues with the game times and locations determined by the League.
- d) Teams shall be present at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time to allow the referee sufficient time to check the player passcards, etc. Referees will be allowed to leave the field fifteen minutes after game time if one team cannot field the minimum number of players (i.e. Grade 7/8 and above - seven (7) players). In this case, the Age Director shall assess a forfeit.
- e) Starting times for all games is determined by the home team's organization prior to the coaches meeting and communicated to the League's Statistician and Referee Assigner. Enough time should be set aside for the completion of the match including halftime, plus a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the following match
- f) In order to facilitate efficient use of referees, the league may request that age groups and times be consolidated during game day.

## **19. Duration of the Match**

- a) The length of the match shall be determined by the age group:
- Grade 3/4 – divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each
  - Grade 5/6 – divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.
  - Grade 7/8 – divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each.
  - Grade 9-11 – divided into two (2) equal halves of forty (40) minutes each.
  - Grade 12+ – divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- b) The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.
- c) The allowance for time lost in either period is at the discretion of the referee.

d) There will be no overtime in regular season matches.

## **20. Game Rules**

a) The IFAB Laws of the Game shall govern all games except as noted in the Middlesex modifications in Sub-sections 11v11, 9v9 & 7v7, of these rules.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- The Field of Play (Law 1)
- The Ball (Law 2)
- The Players (Law 3)
- The Player's Equipment (Law 4)
- The Referee (Law 5)
- The Other Match Officials (Law 6)
- The Duration of the Match (Law 7)
- The Start and Restart of Play (Law 8)
- The ball in and out of play (Law 9),
- Determining the Outcome of the Match (Law 10),
- Offside (Law 11),
- Fouls and Misconduct (Law 12)
- Free Kicks (Law 13),
- The Penalty Kick (Law 14),
- The Throw-in (Law 15),
- The Goal Kick (Law 16), and
- The Corner Kick (Law 17).

b) Middlesex Youth Soccer further restricts non-team/club spectators (such as parents, siblings, etc.) from being on the team sideline and behind either goal area/end line. The team sideline should only have the (current team playing) players and coaching staff plus any affiliated town/league board member with the proper credentials or match official (see Administrative Rule 17c). All others should be on the opposite side of the field. Exceptions: 1) A field with stands/bleachers behind the team bench or goal/end line. 2) A field that does not have room for a spectator sideline. In this case, a town should establish a technical area per LOTG - Law 1 and set a 6' outer boundary for spectator viewing area. At all times, the referee has the authority to move spectators and establish a boundary for spectators per LOTG - Law 5.

## **21. Coach and Fan Conduct (Zero Tolerance Policy)**

a) It is the responsibility of **ALL** coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players and spectators (supporters) in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, harassment, intimidation and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. A coach's responsibility for referee support and

spectator control includes the times prior to, during and after the game at the field and surrounding areas. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all other participants and spectators.

b) The MYSL Zero Tolerance Policy regarding Misconduct towards Referees requires that persons responsible for a team and spectators **will not address the referee at all during the play of the game.**

i) Exceptions for persons responsible for a team (Coaches and Assistant Coaches)

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication
- Making Substitutions
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

At half-time or at the end of the match:

- A coach/manager can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive manner.
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee.
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation.

ii) Penalties for coaches:

Referees may use their best judgement on how to discipline a coach who is violating this policy in the course of a league match. This includes following the “Ask, Tell, Dismiss” protocol as defined in USSF policy, abiding with IFAB Law 5 of the Game, and issuing the appropriate cards (i.e. Yellow and/or Red). It is hoped that these actions will be documented and provided to the appropriate MYSL authorities.

iii) Exceptions for Spectators:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

iv) Penalties for Spectators:

Referees may use their best judgement on how to discipline a spectator who is violating this policy in the course of a league match. This **may** include the following:

**1st Infraction:** Referee shall stop the game and ask the coach(es) to quiet the offending spectator.

**2nd Infraction:** A verbal warning. The referee shall stop the match and ask the coach(es) to warn the spectator that the next infraction will be an ejection or the referee will abandon the match.

**3rd Infraction:** The referee shall instruct the coach(es) to direct the spectator to leave the area. The referee shall abandon the match if the spectator does not comply.



- c) Coaches are highly encouraged to submit referee evaluations (good and bad) with-in 48 hours of the completion of the match – see MYSL rule 31.
- d) MYSL recommends that the referee deal with coach(es) and spectator(s) infractions in accordance with IFAB Law 5 of the Game.
- e) If the referee abandons the match, directs a person to leave the area, or issues a caution, the referee shall send a misconduct report for review – see MYSL Rule 29. MYSL asks that the information provided by the referee in the misconduct report be sufficient and detailed to determine follow-up actions required by the MYSL Commissioners, Age Directors, and/or Sportsmanship Committee. A review of the reported incident may result in a penalty up to and including suspension, and/or forfeit of the match. Additionally, unsporting behavior from coaches, players, referees, or spectators towards others will also not be tolerated and shall be reported to the MYSL Commissioners, Age Directors, and/or Sportsmanship Committee for review. This review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension and/or forfeit of the match.

If it is found that multiple incidents involving coaches, spectators, players, teams from the same organization have violated this policy, additional penalties, including monetary fines, may be assessed toward the organization.

- f) Referee abuse and assault (USSF Policy 531-9—Misconduct Toward Game Officials)
  - i) Referee assault is defined by USSF as:
    - 1. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
    - 2. For purposes of this policy, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
    - 3. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
  - ii) Referee abuse is defined by USSF as:
    - 1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment.
    - 2. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee’s personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

- iii) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately with Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association.
- iv) When an allegation of assault is verified by Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.

## **22. Ejections**

- a) In the case of a player or coach ejection, the referee shall send the passcard (Spring Season only) to the respective Commissioner immediately following the game. At the same time, the referee shall also submit a USSF misconduct report to the Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials.
  - i) An ejection not covered by Rule 23 will carry an automatic one (1) game suspension, unless the Commissioner imposes additional suspensions.
  - ii) The suspension will start with the first game following the ejection.
  - iii) The Commissioner will hold the passcard and the player (or parent) shall make arrangements to pick-up his/her passcard.
  - iv) If the Commissioner considers the offense to be of a more serious nature, he/she shall refer the matter to the Sportsmanship Committee who will hear the case of all parties concerned and decide upon appropriate action.
- b) Coaches or assistant coaches who are ejected from a game/dismissed from the match must leave the playing complex and may not in any way continue to coach. Failure to comply could result in permanent suspension from the MYSL.
- c) A coach, assistant coach or player who has been ejected or suspended may not return to any team in any capacity until such time as the suspension has been lifted. Failure to abide by this could result in permanent suspension from the MYSL.

## **23. Player/Coach Infractions**

- a) Yellow Cards
  - i) In the case of a player, coach, or team official receiving a yellow card, the referee shall submit a misconduct report to the respective Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials immediately following the game.

- ii) The accumulation of yellow cards by any player, coach, or team official in a specific season shall be subject to an additional suspension per the schedule below:

<u>Total Yellow Cards</u>	<u>Additional Suspension</u>
4	one (1) game
5	two (2) games
6	one (1) year from date of last infraction

b) Red Cards

- i) Any player receiving a red card will be immediately suspended for the remainder of that game and for one (1) additional game.
- ii) Any coach or team official receiving a red card will be immediately suspended for two (2) games.
- iii) Any coach or team official receiving a second suspension during the season will be suspended indefinitely. Said coach must appeal to the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee for reinstatement.
- iv) The Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee will suspend any player receiving a second red card during a season indefinitely pending a hearing.

c) Fighting

- i) In cases of fighting, a player shall be suspended for three (3) or more games and the coach may be suspended pending a review of the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.
- ii) In the event of players leaving the bench area to enter the field to participate in a fight, the coach and assistant coach must appear before the Board of Directors for a hearing to determine whether or not the team should be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- iii) If a player leaves the bench area to participate in a fight on the field and is ejected by the referee, he/she shall be suspended for three (3) or more games pending a review of the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee.
- iv) If a coach leaves the bench area to take part in a fight, the Commissioner and the Sportsmanship Committee may suspend him/her indefinitely pending a hearing. A decision must be rendered prior to the next scheduled game.

d) Referee Assault

- i) Any player, coach or team official physically or verbally assaulting a referee will be suspended a minimum of one (1) year. If the incident is considered serious, the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee may impose an indefinite suspension.

## **24. Protests**

- a) Protests relating to a specific game may only be made by a coach of a team playing in the game and only within the 48 hours following the game by notifying the Protest Officer by any modern means of communication including but not limited to the telephone, e-mail, text message, etc. Any protest of a championship or playoff match must be initiated by notifying the referee or MYSL official at the field at the end of the match.
- b) Per the Laws of the Game (Law 5) Referee decisions concerning the facts of play are final and cannot be protested.
- c) Protests relating to goals, crossbars, or other field related issues will not be considered unless the objection has been lodged with the referee prior to the start of the match. The referee will require the responsible team to remove the cause of the objection, if this is possible, without unduly delaying the match.
- d) Protest Procedure
  - i) A protest shall be in writing and must be received by the Protest Officer, with a non-refundable fee of \$25, within three (3) business days after the above stated notification to the Protest Officer. The Protest Officer will render a decision and inform all parties involved within seven (7) days of receiving the protest.

## **25. Appeals Procedure**

- a) Any party affected by a decision may appeal that decision to the President via the Secretary. To be valid, the appeal shall be in writing and must be received by the Secretary, with a fee of \$200, within three (3) days of receiving the decision that is being appealed. The President will appoint an Appeals Board within three days of receiving the appeal. The Appeals Board will consist of at least 5 members, at least 2 of whom must be standing Board members. The Appeals Board will render a decision on the appeal within one (1) week of being appointed, if possible. However, if the Appeals Board deems it necessary to call a Special Board of Directors meeting regarding the appeal, the decision will be rendered within 24 hours following the specially called Board of Directors meeting. If the appeal is successful, the \$200 will be refunded.
- b) If any party affected by the decision of the Appeals Board or Board of Directors Meeting is not satisfied, an appeal may be made to MYSA in accordance with the MYSA rules then in effect.
- c) The time limits specified above do not apply if time is of the essence (e.g., at the end of the season). In these cases, only such time limits are allowed that will guarantee timely completion of the appeal and of the competition.

**26. Reporting Game Results**

- a) The home or visiting team coach and the match referee shall enter the results of each game in SportsManager (or call the Age Director if necessary within two (2) days of the completion of the match) to report the game results.
- b) The Age Director shall review the results posted on the websites and resolve any discrepancies.

**27. Referee Administration**

- a) All assignors and adult referees that are assigned to MYSL matches must be CORI'd and registered with Mass Youth Soccer (MYSA) and have a valid Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC) or MYSA Approved credential on their person to be displayed upon request. (Note: An adult is anyone 18 years of age or older)
- b) Referees shall be assigned to MYSL matches consistent with Rule 28a & 28b
- c) Referees and assistant referees for regular season matches and the Commissioner's Cup matches shall be paid the rates as described in Rule 27e.
- d) Assistant referees shall be assigned to matches as stipulated in Rule 28 and/or Rule 30.
- e) The rates of pay for MYSL referees and assistant referees shall be:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Referee</u>	<u>Asst Referee</u>
Grade 3/4	\$35.00/game	\$17.50/game
Grade 5/6	\$45.00/game	\$22.50/game
Grade 7/8	\$60.00/game	\$30.00/game
Grade 9 & up	\$75.00/game	\$40.00/game

- f) During post-season playoff matches, referees and assistant referees shall be compensated according to the following schedule:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Referee</u>	<u>Asst Referee</u>
Grade 3/4	\$40.00/game	\$20.00/game
Grade 5/6	\$50.00/game	\$30.00/game
Grade 7/8	\$65.00/game	\$30.00/game
Grade 9 & up	\$80.00/game	\$40.00/game

- g) If a match requires an assistant referee, as stipulated in Rule 30, and only one referee is assigned or appears for the match, the referee working the match shall receive one and one-half times the normal game fee. To receive the fee, the referee must have the home and visiting coach sign the back of the roster stating that there was only one referee prior to the start of the match. The rosters must then be mailed to the referee coordinator for verification. The normal game fee shall be paid if the referee has at least one assigned assistant referee in a match or does not have the “single referee verification” signed and submitted to the referee coordinator. Referees who fall under the provisions of Rule 28f shall also be eligible for this compensation.
- h) Referees for Grade 5/6 and older matches who do not report their matches within 1 week of the match date will forfeit ½ of their fee for the match per rule 29.
- i) Referee assignors hired by the MYSL shall be compensated at the rate of \$4.00 per Grade 3/4 to Grade 7/8 assigned match and \$6.00 per assigned Grade 9+ match.
- j) Referee Developmental Advisor: A budget not to exceed \$5,000.00 per soccer year (Fall and Spring seasons) to establish and implement a referee training and mentoring program for MYSL.

## **28. Referee Assignments**

- a) A currently registered USSF referee shall be used for all matches. Adult referees must be approved MSRC/MYSA registered and CORI'd to be assigned any match. (Note: An adult is anyone 18 years of age or older)
- b) For Division 1-5 Grade 3/4 and above matches, only referees that are currently registered as USSF Grade 8 or higher may be used.
- c) All clubs, and the league, must use a USSF certified referee assignor and approved MSRC/MYSA registered and CORI'd adult to assign matches at any level. During the Spring Season, referees for Grade 5/6 and above matches shall be assigned by the league central assignor. Matches at the Grade 3/4 level and below shall be assigned by the HOME club's referee assignor. During the Fall Season, all games shall be assigned by the HOME club's referee assignor. Any club found in violation of this requirement shall be assessed a fine of \$100 per week until a certified assignor is utilized by said club. During either season, the total fine shall not exceed \$1,000.
- d) If the assigned referee has not appeared for the game within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time or if the referee or acting referee of a match with only one game official becomes injured and is forced to withdraw from the match, the game may be played, as scheduled, with a referee agreed upon by the two coaches involved. The substitute referee must be a MYSA Credentialed adult. For the younger age groups, an experienced youth (under the age of 18) substitute referee may be used. Such substitute referee shall be paid the fee in accordance with Rule 27, provided that he/she

submits a Referee Report. In the event the two coaches cannot agree on a properly credentialed adult or an experienced youth to referee the match, the game shall be postponed and rescheduled in accordance with Rule 13.

- e) The league referee assignor is required to use the league mandated assignment software. Games assigned by the home referee assignor for grade 3/4 and fall season games may use the software they chose but those assignments must be entered into the league mandated program prior to the game being played. Any club found in violation of this requirement shall be assessed a fine of \$100 per week. Fines must be paid for the prior fall and spring season by the Monday following the last regular scheduled game of the spring season. If the club does not pay the fine their teams will be ineligible for the Commissioner's Cup and MTOC playoffs.

## **29. Referee Responsibilities**

- a) The Referee will arrive at the field with sufficient time prior to the match to inspect the field and goals, check in the teams and perform any other duties necessary to start the games on time. After checking in the teams, the referee should legibly write their name on one copy of each roster and give it to the opposing coach. Adult referees shall also display their approved MSRC or MYSA credential when arriving at the field/complex. (Note: An adult is anyone 18 years of age or older)
- b) The Referee will submit an on-line game report with the final score. The Referee Report will be the official record of the game and, at the same time, the referee's pay voucher. Referees must submit the game report within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. For Grade 5/6-Post H.S. games, if the referee does not submit the game report within 1 week (7 days) of the match, they will forfeit ½ of their pay for that match. The referee coordinator may, at his discretion, waive this forfeiture if the referee provides an adequate reason for the late submittal.
- c) In the event of misconduct (cautions, ejections, red/yellow cards) or serious injuries; the referee shall also submit an official USSF misconduct report to the respective Commissioner and other appropriate League Officials reporting the event(s). This must be done immediately after the game.
- d) In the Spring Season, the referee will send the appropriate Commissioner the passcard(s) for any coaches or players sent off or dismissed (Red Card, ejection). This must be done immediately after the game.

### **30. Assistant Referees**

(Towns are highly encouraged to use linesmen in all matches)

- a) During the Spring Season, linesmen (assistant referees) will be assigned by the MYSL referee assignor for the following matches:
  - i) All regular season Grade 9 and above matches; and
  - ii) All post season matches, Grade 5/6 and above, that will determine the League Champion or teams advancing to MTOC
- b) All other matches, either in the Spring or Fall seasons, may use linesman (assistant referees) assigned by either the home team's referee assignor or the league at the discretion of the center referee.

### **31. Referee Evaluations**

- a) Each coach is urged to complete a referee evaluation after each match. Referee quality is an important factor in the success of the program. It is only through the regular receipt of evaluations that the Referee Committee and the Board can actively monitor the referees.
- b) Referee ratings and no-show complaints should be submitted online to the Referee Coordinator using the proper procedure.

### **32. Changes to the Rules of the MYSL**

- a) The rules of the league may be altered or changed by a majority vote of the MYSL Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting, provided that:
  - i) The content of the new rule and the old rule is presented to the board at least one week prior to the meeting at which it will be discussed.



## CHAMPIONS AND TOURNAMENTS RULES

### 33. Division Champions (Spring Season only)

- a) A section champion will be the team that has the most points in the standings, at the end of the season, as determined by the Age Director. Points will be awarded as follows:
- Win (or forfeit by an opponent) 3 points
  - Tie 1 point
  - Loss (or forfeit) 0 points
- b) Note: After a team has accumulated four (4) or more red cards for serious offenses (serious foul play, violent conduct, spitting at an opponent or any other person and using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.) will result in elimination from post season play. For other offenses to be considered serious, the Commissioner must obtain the concurrence of at least three (3) impartial members of the MYSL Executive Committee.
- c) If two teams are tied in points, the following tie-breaker rules will be used, in order:
- head to head competition by points
  - least goals allowed head to head
  - goal differential head to head - maximum differential of 3 goals per game
  - least goals allowed – all regular season games
  - goal differential, - all regular season games – maximum differential of 3 goals per game
  - tie-breaker game.
- d) If more than two teams are tied, the tie breaker rules will be used to determine a clear winner or eliminate one or more teams. If more than one team remains, the tie breaker rules will be applied again, starting from the top with the remaining teams to determine the clear winner.
- e) The Age Director will organize all tiebreaker and playoff games in order to determine a division champion. Tiebreaker and playoff games shall be played on neutral fields (whenever possible).
- f) The Age Director has complete authority in these matters and shall use his/her best judgment in complicated matters taking into account that tournament bound teams shall be determined at least three (3) days before the tournament starts.
- g) The MYSL will give an award to each player and coach of the *Champion team* of each Grade 5/6 and above division. The MYSL will award a ribbon to each player and coach of *the section* winner of each Grade 3/4 division.
- h) After determining the order of finish for the section, if a team with an additional game in the original season schedule secures a playoff or play-in

spot, a playoff game will be held with the highest non-qualifying team in the standings if there are three or fewer points separating the teams. This playoff will not occur if the Board shortens the season and eliminates the additional game.

- i) When teams play opponents from other age groups, only the games against opponents from their own age group and division will count in determining the champion. If this results in some teams playing an additional game from their age group, rule 33h will be used to determine the post season eligible teams.

### **Scenarios:**

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition (a division with two sections).

Team A – 22 points (9 games)

Team B – 20 points (10 games)

Team C – 16 points (9 games)

Teams A and B qualify for post-season competition (more than 3 points separate teams B and C).

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition.

Team A – 22 points (10 games)

Team B – 20 points (9 games)

Team C – 18 points (9 games)

Teams A and B qualify for post-season competition (more than 3 points separate teams A and C).

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition.

Team A – 22 points (9 games)

Team B – 20 points (10 games)

Team C – 17 points (9 games)

Team A qualifies for post-season competition. Teams B and C will have a play-in game for the second place qualifying position (3 points separate teams B and C).

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition.

Team A – 22 points (10 games)

Team B – 21 points (9 games)

Team C – 19 points (9 games)

Team B qualifies for post-season competition. Teams A and C will have a play-in game (3 points separate teams A and C). If team A wins the play-in game, they will retain the first place qualifying position. If team C wins the play-in game, they will take the second place qualifying position.

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition.

- Team A – 21 points (9 games)
- Team B – 21 points (10 games)
- Team C – 19 points (9 games)

Team A is determined to be the first place team based upon the tie-breaker rules and qualifies for the first place qualifying position. Teams B and C will have a play-in game for the second place qualifying position (less than 3 points separate teams B and C).

In a 9-team section, two teams from the section qualify for post-season competition.

- Team A – 22 points (9 games)
- Team B – 20 points (10 games)
- Team C – 17 points (9 games)
- Team D – 17 points (9 games)

Team C is determined to be the third place team based upon the tie-breaker rules. Team A qualifies for the first place qualifying position. Teams B and C will have a play-in game for the second place qualifying position (3 points separate teams B and C).

In determining the first post season (first place) team and the play-in team (second place) for a 9-team section in a division with three sections.

- Team A – 22 points (9 games)
- Team B – 20 points (10 games)
- Team C – 16 points (9 games)

Team A qualifies for post-season competition as the section winner and team B qualifies as the play-in team for the section (more than 3 points separate teams B and C).

In determining the first post season (first place) team and the play-in team (second place) for a 9-team section in a division with three sections.

- Team A – 22 points (10 games)
- Team B – 20 points (9 games)
- Team C – 18 points (9 games)

Team A qualifies for post-season competition as the section winner and team B qualifies as the play-in team for the section (more than 3 points separate teams A and C).

In determining the first post season (first place) team and the play-in team (second place) for a 9-team section in a division with three sections.

- Team A – 22 points (9 games)
- Team B – 20 points (10 games)
- Team C – 17 points (9 games)

Team A qualifies for post-season competition as the section winner. Teams B and C will have a play-in game for the second place play-in team position (3 points separate teams B and C).

In determining the first post season (first place) team and the play-in team (second place) for a 9-team section in a division with three sections.

Team A – 22 points (10 games)

Team B – 21 points (9 games)

Team C – 19 points (9 games)

Team B qualifies for post-season competition. Teams A and C will have a play-in game (3 points separate teams A and C). If team A wins the play-in game, they will retain the first place qualifying position as the section winner with team B as the second place play-in team. If team C wins the play-in game, they will take the second place play-in team position and team B will become the section winner qualifier.

### **34. Massachusetts Tournament of Champions**

Participants in the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions will follow the rules set by MYSA. Since this tournament may change from year to year, interested coaches may obtain the appropriate information from the MYSA office.

### **35. Post Season Eligibility**

- a) Four teams in each Division will be eligible for post season play in either the Championship Playoffs or the Commissioners' Cup at the conclusion of the Spring Season, based on the final standings.
- b) Eligibility
  - i) A Division with a single section: top 4 finishers make the postseason
  - ii) A Division with 2 sections: top 2 finishers in each bracket
  - iii) A Division with 3 sections: winner of each section qualify for the postseason. The 4<sup>th</sup> playoff spot will be determined by a playoff of the three 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams.
    - Rankings for play in games to determine who plays in which games follow the standard tie breaking procedures (see rule 33c.). Once determined, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team with the most points will have a bye. The other two 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams will play on the Monday following the last game of the season, weather permitting. The winner of that game will play the team with the bye on Wednesday of that week, weather permitting. Both of these dates are subject to change; your team must be available every day of the week following the end of the season.
  - iv) A Division with 4 sections: winner of each section qualifies for postseason

- c) Any variations of eligibility must be agreed upon by the Age Director, Vice President of Development/Competition and MYSL President, and clearly communicated to all the teams in that division at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the tournament.

### **36. Championship Playoffs for Divisions 1 and 2 (Grade 5/6 and older)**

- a) The MYSL will hold playoffs among the top finishers in each division for Grade 5/6 through Post Grad in Divisions 1 and 2. The winners of these playoffs will represent the MYSL in their respective age groups at *MTOC*.
- b) Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- c) Town Player Pass is not allowed for Championship Playoff games

### **37. Play-in/off Proceedings**

- a) Grade 3/4's - play 25 minute ½'s – normal time  
Overtime: [2] equal 5 minute ½'s with coin flip  
[if still tied] play additional 5 minute periods until there is a winner.  
Extra periods shall be played in full.
- b) Grade 5/6's - play 30 minute ½'s -normal time  
Overtime: [2] equal 10 minute ½'s - with coin flip  
[if still tied] then kicks from the penalty mark - [5] vs [5] best of [5] wins if still tied then [1] vs [1] sudden death
- c) Grade 7/8's - play 35 minute ½'s -normal time  
Overtime: [2] equal 10 minute ½'s with coin flip  
[if still tied] then kicks from the penalty mark - [5] vs [5] best of [5] wins if still tied then [1] vs [1] sudden death
- d) Grade 9-11's - play 40 minutes ½'s - normal time  
Grade 12+'s - play 45 minute ½'s - normal time  
If match tied at end of regulation: [2] equal 15 minute ½'s with coin flip.  
If still tied (with only the players on the field) at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime - kicks from the penalty mark – [5] vs [5] best of [5] wins if still tied then [1] vs [1] sudden death

**38. Commissioner’s Cup Tournament for Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8 Divisions 3, 4 and 5**

- a) The MYSL will hold a Commissioner’s Cup Tournament among the top finishers in each division in Divisions 3, 4 and 5.
- b) Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- c) In determining final standings of Commissioner’s Cup when teams are tied in points following conclusion of their games, the following tie breaker rules will be used to determine the champion, in the following order:
  - i) Head to head competition
  - ii) Least goals allowed in all tournament games
  - iii) Goal differential, maximum of 3 goals per game
  - iv) If more than two teams are tied, the tie breaker rules will be used to determine a clear winner or eliminate one or more teams. If more than one team remains, the tie breaker rules will be applied again, starting from the top with the remaining teams to determine the clear winner.
  - v) If teams are tied at the end of all the tie breaker rules, they will be declared tied for that position in the standings.
- d) Town Player Pass is not allowed for Commissioners’ Cup games.

**39. Commissioner’s Cup Tournament for Grade 3/4, all divisions**

- a) The MYSL will hold a Commissioner’s Cup Tournament among the top finishers in each division
- b) Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- c) The Grade 3/4 tournament will be for enjoyment and fun – no champion will be crowned
- d) Town Player Pass is not allowed for Commissioners’ Cup games.

## **Middlesex Youth Soccer League Rules for 7 v 7 Soccer (Grade 3/4)**

During a match, conformance will be with all IFAB Laws of the Game except as otherwise noted.

**Law 1 – The Field of Play** - Conform to IFAB except:

### **Field Markings:**

Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

### **Dimensions:**

The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 45 yards / maximum 65 yards – MYSL recommendation: 50 yards

Width: minimum 35 yards / maximum 45 yards – MYSL recommendation: 40 yards

### **The Goal Area:**

A goal area is defined at each end of the field by two lines drawn at right angles to the goal line, six (6) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for six (6) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

### **The Penalty Area:**

A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area.

**Flag Posts:** Conform to IFAB.

### **The Corner Area:**

A quarter circle with a radius of eighteen (18) inches from each corner flag will mark the corner arc.

### **Goals:**

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the

ground is six (6) feet - US Soccer Federation standard.  
goals are also acceptable.

12' x 6'

**Safety:**

Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**Law 2. The Ball** - Conform to IFAB except:

**Size.**

A size four (4) ball will be used for all Grade 3/4 matches.

**Law 3. The Players** - Conform to IFAB except:

**Number of Players:**

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than seven (7) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start, or continue, if either team consists of fewer than five (5) players who are able to play.)

Playing Time. Each player should play a minimum of 40% (20 minutes) of the total playing time.

**Substitution Procedure:**

All substitutes should enter the field at the halfway line. A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the halfway line on the team side unless otherwise instructed by the referee. Players on the field may be replaced by a substitute at any stoppage of play at the referee's discretion.

Substitutions may only be made with the referee's consent and only if the substitutes are ready to enter the game.

An injured player must be replaced if the referee stops the play for the injury. In such a case, the opposing team may have an equal substitution.



**Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conform to IFAB except:

**Safety**

A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player, including all jewelry, all casts (even if padded) or any other equipment that the referee determines is dangerous.

**Basic Equipment:**

Jersey or Shirt with a unique visible number, Shorts, Stockings, Shinguards (covered by stockings), Shoes - the footwear shall be soft soccer cleats or sneakers.

**Colors:**

The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and also the referee.

Each goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other player, the referee.

If both teams are wearing the same or similar (in the referee’s opinion) color shirts, the HOME team must change shirts, or wear pennies

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5 - The Referee** - Conform to IFAB except:

A currently registered USSF referee shall be used for all matches (grade 8 and higher).

Referees shall be assigned per MYSL administrative rules 27, 28, 29 30 and 31.

Referees are encouraged to explain all infractions of the Laws of the Game to the offending player(s) as the progress of the match permits. Due to the age of the players, such explanations are viewed as a method to educate the younger player.

Referees will be allowed to leave the field fifteen minutes after game time if one team cannot field **five (5)** players.

**Law 6 – The Other Match Officials** - Conform to IFAB except:

Club Linesmen may be used at the discretion of the referee, if necessary. The linesmen’s only responsibility shall be to indicate, to the referee, whether the ball is out of play.

**Law 7 - Duration of the Match** Conform to IFAB except

### **Periods of Play.**

The match shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each.

### **Half-Time Interval.**

The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.

### **Extra Time**

There will be no overtime in regular season matches.

### **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play** - Conform to IFAB except:

The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play** – Conform to IFAB

### **Law 10** - Determining the Outcome of the Match - Conform to IFAB

### **Law 11 - Offside** – Conform to IFAB

The Offside rule will apply in a Grade 3/4 match starting Fall Season 2016.

### **Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct** - Conform to IFAB except:

There are no penalty kicks. (See Law 14)

Keeper distributions (punts, drop kicks and throws) may not travel in the air over the halfway line. An Indirect free kick from midfield is awarded to the other team if this happens.

When a player deliberately heads the ball **or attempts to head the ball** in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header or **attempt** occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

### **Law 13 - Free Kicks** - Conform to IFAB except:

All free kicks will conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game with the exception that an opponent must be eight (8) yards from the ball before the kick is allowed.

### **Law 14 – The Penalty Kick**

No penalty kicks shall be awarded to or taken by either team. All fouls committed inside the penalty area that would normally result in a penalty kick will be moved outside the penalty area to the point parallel to the goal line closest to where the foul was committed and a direct free kick awarded.

**Law 15 – The Throw-In** - Conform to IFAB

**Law 16 – The Goal Kick** - Conform to IFAB except:

Opposition players to retreat into their own half of the playing field on goal kicks.

US Youth Soccer recommends that opponents should remain in their own half until the ball is in play. The team taking the goal kick does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game beforehand should they so choose. **The ball is in play immediately after it is kicked.**

**Law 17 - The Corner Kick** – Conform to IFAB except:

All corner kicks will conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game with the exception that an opponent must be eight (8) yards from the ball before the kick is allowed.

## **Middlesex Youth Soccer League Rules for 9 v 9 Soccer (Grade 5/6)**

During a match, conformance will be with all IFAB Laws of the Game except as otherwise noted:

### **Law 1 – The Field of Play**

#### **Field Markings:**

Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

#### **Dimensions:**

The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 70 yards/maximum 80 yards – MYSL recommendation: 70 yards

Width: minimum 45 yards/maximum 55 yards – MYSL recommendation: 50 yards

#### **The Goal Area:**

A goal area is defined at each end of the field by two lines drawn at right angles to the goal line, six (6) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for six (6) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

#### **The Penalty Area:**

A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

(Penalty area regardless of Goal Size: 34 yards wide x 14 yards deep).

**Flag Posts:** Conform to IFAB.

**The Corner Area:** Conform to IFAB.

#### **Goals:**

Minimum: 6 foot tall x 18 feet wide – Recommended

>Maximum: 7 foot tall x 21 feet wide acceptable

**Safety:**

Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**Law 2 – The Ball:**

Size four (4) will be used for all Grade 5/6 matches.

**Law 3 – The Players:**

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than nine (9) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players.

**Substitution Procedure:**

All substitutes should enter the field at the halfway line. A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the halfway line on the team side unless otherwise instructed by the referee. Players on the field may be replaced by a substitute at any stoppage of play at the referee's discretion.

Substitutions may only be made with the referee's consent and only if the substitutes are ready to enter the game.

An injured player must be replaced if the referee stops the play for the injury. In such a case, the opposing team may have an equal substitution.

**Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conform to IFAB except:**Safety**

A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player, including all jewelry, all casts (even if padded) or any other equipment that the referee determines is dangerous.

**Basic Equipment:**

Jersey or shirt with a visible number, Shorts, Stockings, Shin guards (covered by stockings), Shoes - The footwear shall be soft soccer cleats or sneakers.

**Colors:**

The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and also the referee and assistant referees

Each goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other player, the referee and assistant referees.

If both teams are wearing the same or similar (in the referee's opinion) color shirts, the HOME team must change shirts, or wear pennies.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5 – The Referee:**

Assigned per MYSL administrative rules 27-31

Referees will be allowed to leave the field fifteen minutes after game time if one team cannot field seven (7) players

**Law 6 – The Other Match Officials:**

U.S.S.F. registered referees (Grade 8 or higher) or club linesmen assigned per MYSL Administrative rule 30.

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:**

**Periods of Play.**

The match shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.

**Half-Time Interval.**

The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.

**Extra Time**

There will be no overtime in regular season matches.

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:**

Conform to IFAB with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:**

Conform to IFAB.

**Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of the Match :**

Conform to IFAB.

**Law 11 – Offside:**

Conform to IFAB.

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:**

Conform to IFAB with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area.

**MYSL / Mass Youth Heading Rule:**

If in the opinion of the referee, a player **deliberately heads or attempts to head** the ball, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team. If the deliberate header or attempt to head occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infraction occurred.

**Law 13 – Free Kicks:**

Conform to IFAB with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:**

Conform to IFAB with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

**Law 15 – The Throw-In:**

Conform to IFAB.

**Law 16 – The Goal Kick:**

Conform to IFAB.

**Law 17 – The Corner Kick:**

Conform to IFAB with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

## Middlesex Youth Soccer League Rules for 11 v 11 Soccer

*During a match, conformance will be with all IFAB Laws of the Game except as otherwise noted:*

**Law 1 - The Field of Play:** Conform to IFAB

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 100 yards maximum 130 yards

Width: minimum 50 yards maximum 100 yards

**Flag-Posts:** Conform to IFAB

**Goals:** Conform to IFAB

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line and must have Nets attached. All goals must be secured to the ground.

*Proper field markings, regulation corner flags and nets are mandatory and are the responsibility of the HOME team. If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the referee has the power to declare the field unplayable. If a postponement results, the Age Director shall be notified and shall make a decision regarding forfeit or replay.*

**Law 2 - The Ball:** Conform to IFAB

A size five (5) ball will be used for all Grade 7/8 and above matches.

**Law 3 - The Players:** Conform to IFAB

A match is played by two teams each consisting of not more than eleven (11) players one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start, or continue, if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players, including a goalkeeper, who are able to play.

Substitutions: Conform to IFAB except:

a) In all age groups, an unlimited number of players may be substituted. Any substituted player may re-enter the match during subsequent substitutions.

b) All substitutes should enter the field at the halfway line. A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the halfway line on the team side unless otherwise instructed by the referee. Players on the field may be replaced by a substitute at any stoppage of play at the referee's discretion.



c) Substitutions may only be made with the referee's consent and only if the substitute players are ready to enter the game.

d) An injured player must be replaced if the referee stops the play or calls the coach out for treatment. In such a case, the opposing team may have an equal substitution.

**Law 4 - The Player's Equipment:** Conform to IFAB except:

*Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.*

The required equipment of a player is:

- a) a jersey or shirt with a unique visible number
- b) shorts
- c) stockings
- d) shin guards
- e) footwear

a) The HOME team must change shirts, or wear pennies, if both teams are wearing the same or similar (in referee's opinion) color shirts.

b) Shin guards are to be made of a suitable material in order to provide a reasonable degree of protection and must be covered entirely by the stockings during the match.

c) The footwear shall be soft soccer cleats or sneakers.

d) Each goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other players and from the referee.

e) The following articles are not to be worn or allowed during a match: jewelry of any type, all casts (even if padded), or any other equipment the referee determines is dangerous to the player or another player.

**Law 5 - Referees – Conform to IFAB**

Assigned per MYSL administrative rules 27-31

*Referees will be allowed to leave the field fifteen minutes after game time if one team cannot field seven (7) players*

**Law 6 - Other Match Officials (Linesmen) Conform to IFAB**

Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen/women assigned per MYSL Administrative rule 30.

**Law 7 - Duration of the Match**

- a) The length of the match shall be determined by the age group:  
Grade 7/8 -divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each.  
Grade 9-11 -divided into two (2) equal halves of forty (40) minutes each.  
Grade 12+ -divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- b) The half-time interval shall be five (5) minutes.
- c) The allowance for time lost in either period is at the discretion of the referee.
- d) There will be no overtime in regular season matches.

**Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to IFAB

**Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to IFAB.

**Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of the Match:** Conform to IFAB.

**Law 11 – Offside:** Conform to IFAB.

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to IFAB

**Law 13 – Free Kicks:** Conform to IFAB

**Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:** Conform to IFAB

**Law 15 – The Throw-In:** Conform to IFAB.

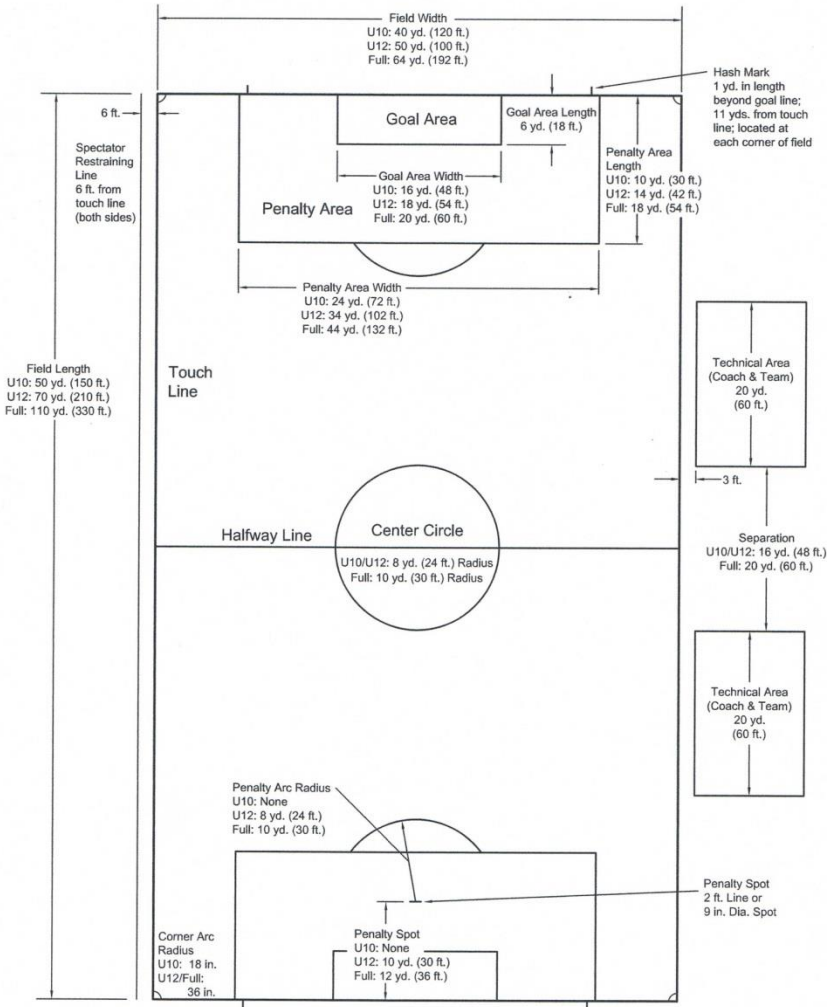
**Law 16 – The Goal Kick:** Conform to IFAB.

**Law 17 – The Corner Kick:** Conform to IFAB.

## Field Dimension Information

	Grade 3/4	Grade 5/6	Full Size
<b>Field Length</b>			
<b>Minimum</b>	45 Yards	70 Yards	100 Yards
<b>Maximum</b>	65 Yards	80 Yards	130 Yards
<b>Recommended</b>	50 Yards	70 Yards	110 Yards
<b>Field Width</b>			
<b>Minimum</b>	35 Yards	45 Yards	50 Yards
<b>Maximum</b>	45 Yards	55 Yards	100 Yards
<b>Recommended</b>	40 Yards	50 Yards	64 Yards
<b>Goal Area</b>	6 x 18 Yards	6 x 18 Yards	6 x 20 Yards
<b>Penalty Area</b>	10 x 26 Yards	14 x 34 Yards	18 x 44 Yards
<b>Penalty Spot</b>	None	10 Yards from Goal Line	12 Yards from Goal Line
<b>Penalty Arc</b>	None	8 Yard radius Outside Penalty Area	10 Yard radius Outside Penalty Area
<b>Center Circle</b>	8 Yard Radius	8 Yard Radius	10 Yard Radius
<b>Goal Size</b>	6 x 18 Feet *	6 x 18 Feet	8 x 24 Feet
<b>Corner Arcs</b>	18 Inch Radius	1-yard Radius	1 Yard Radius
<b>Corner Flags</b>	Minimum 5 feet tall for all age groups		
<b>Field Layout Notes</b>	Fields must be rectangular and Longer than they are wide		
	Fields should be laid out so that spectators and other obstructions are at least 2 yards from the touchlines		

**\* Note: 6 x 12 Ft Goals are allowable for Grade 3/4 play. If 12 Ft Goals are used; Goal and Penalty Area Widths will be 16 and 24 yards respectively.**



Sketch shows recommended field dimensions.

## MYSL “Town’ Player Pass”

The ‘Town’ Player Pass” pass concept is when a ‘Town’ uses a player from within their own ‘Town’ to play for another team in their town for a regular season league match. It is not the same as secondary rostering. Players are put on a roster, but the ‘Town’ is allowed to use other players from other teams within their own ‘Town’ for a league match. Using a ‘Town’ Player Pass enables a team to temporarily add player(s) to an existing roster. It is for all age groups Grade 3/4 – Post Grad.

Note that the League permits the use of the ‘Town’ Player Pass, but individual Town organizations determine if they want to take advantage of it or not.

Town Player Pass will not be allowed in Championship Playoffs, Post Season Play or the Commissioner’s Cup Tournament.

### **The ‘Town’ Player Pass allows towns and coaches:**

1. The flexibility to reward players who are doing very well on a lower level team the opportunity to come up to the higher team and show how they fit in at that level
2. To give more players additional playing time - because we now have the flexibility to bring players up instead of being forced to maximize our rosters as a way to plan for those situations where players are off at other events (baseball, dance, etc.)
3. To reduce the number of players on the bench - this means players get more time on the field doing what they want to do, play the game.
4. Have more teams in the league - now I can have more evenly matched teams instead of trying to place a lesser skilled player on a higher roster to fill a spot.

This can only make our players better because they will get more opportunities to play.

### **Purpose:**

- Allow coaches more freedom to move players within their own ‘Town’.
- Eliminate administrative paperwork for member Towns who wish to move players internally.
- To give all Towns the ability to move players from within their own ‘Town’ so that they can reinforce squads by moving players from a younger age group or an equal or lower team.
- To create a ‘Town’ mentality over a “team”.
- To provide development opportunities for players by being allowed to experience “playing up”.

### **i. Logistics:**

- ‘Towns’ will still roster teams with MYSL.
- All players rostered to teams within the same ‘Town’ are “Town’ pass” eligible.
- There will be no secondary rostering (i.e. players appearing on 2 team rosters for a town simultaneously)

- When a team needs player(s) for a match, they use a player(s) within their own 'Town'.
- A team having a league match may select up to 4 players from within their own 'Town' to play for that team.
- The number of players on the sideline, however, may not exceed the maximum "game roster" roster size.

#### ii. Game Day Procedure for 'Town' Pass:

- Each coach will provide a roster to the opposing coach that indicates if using a 'Town' pass player from within their 'Town' and who the "'Town' Player Pass" players are.
- The team official (coach/manager) must communicate their use of 'Town' pass players before the game or as soon as practicable following the game, to the:
  - League Registrar
  - Age Director
  - Coach/Manager
- If a player's passcard is not on-site, he/she is not permitted to play in the game. (Applies only to the Spring Season and Grade 5/6 players and above)
- The coach shall give the referee two copies of the player's original team roster in addition to the 2 copies of his/her team's game day roster - indicating on the player pass player's roster which player is playing up on the Player Pass. (Do not write anything on the roster of the team that the player is playing up on).
- Referees will follow the MYSL rules regarding rosters.

#### iii. Process For Adding 'Town' Pass Players to Your Roster:

- The players "Playing Up" will be added to the "Game Day" team Roster.
- Each 'Town' may set up their own process by which teams request 'Town' Pass Players be added for specific games (i.e. the deadline when a team must report to the appointed 'Town' pass administrator for your 'Town').
- The person from the town does not have to be the Registrar, just someone with the authority, the understanding of the 'Town' pass system rules, and the access to the 'Town' account.

#### iv. Rules:

- A player may play up for one team no more than 3 times in one season.  
Example: A player on team #3 can only play on team #2 a maximum of 3 games in one season. However, that same player could play an additional 3 games on team #1.
- A player using the 'Town' pass may only play two games in a day.
- A player may not play down in age group per US Youth Soccer and MYSL Rules
- A player is permitted to use the 'Town' Player Pass to play for any of a town's teams placed within the same division
- Having a player drop from a "higher division" team to a "lower division" team will NOT be allowed.

#### v. Playing Up

- MYSL eligibility Rules for "playing up" in age groups must be adhered to
- Any player utilizing the Player Pass Card who is playing up an age group may not play more than one division lower than that division they are permanently rostered in at the lower age group

(i.e. a Grade 5/6 division 2 player can play Grade 7/8 divisions 1,2 and 3—but not in Grade 7/8 Divisions 4 or 5) (A Grade 3/4 Player playing-up to a Grade 5/6 Team will require a passcard.)

**vi. Consequences for Abuse:**

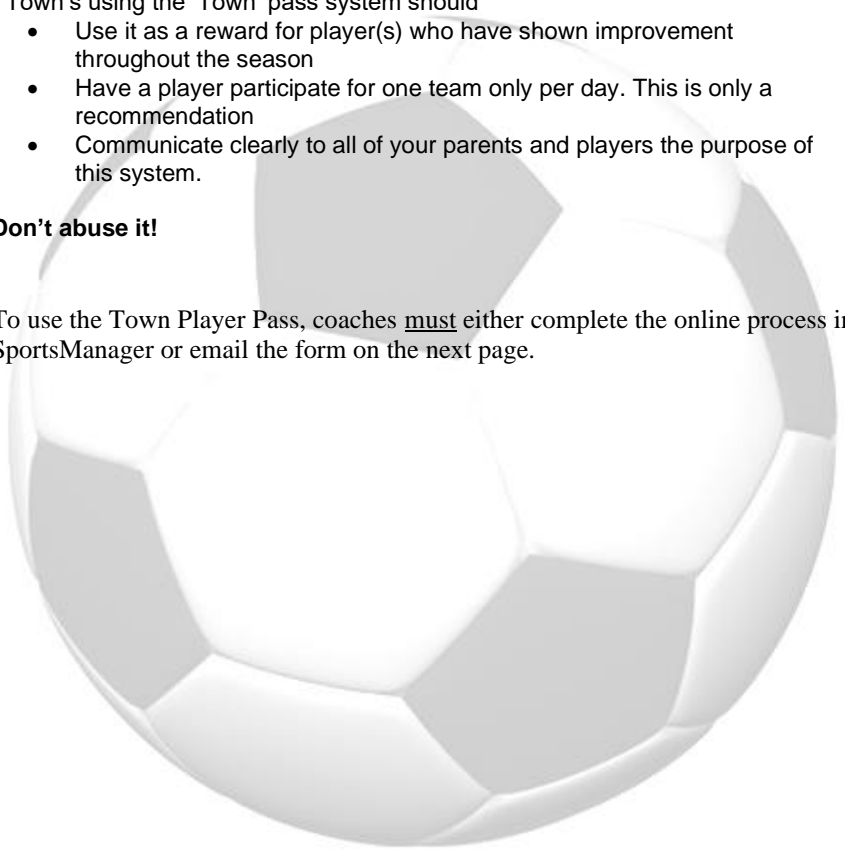
- A coach and 'Town' guilty of abusing the 'Town' Pass will be disciplined by MYSL Soccer and member leagues.

**vii. Recommendations**

- Town's using the 'Town' pass system should
  - Use it as a reward for player(s) who have shown improvement throughout the season
  - Have a player participate for one team only per day. This is only a recommendation
  - Communicate clearly to all of your parents and players the purpose of this system.

**Don't abuse it!**

To use the Town Player Pass, coaches must either complete the online process in SportsManager or email the form on the next page.



## **TOWN PLAYER PASS REPORT FORM**

The team official (coach/manager) must communicate their use of ‘Town’ pass players to the league before the game or 24 hours following the game, to the:

- League Registrar (Mary Rogers)@  
[registrar@middlesexsoccer.org](mailto:registrar@middlesexsoccer.org)
- Your Age Director

Please complete this form and email it to the league registrar and your age director:

### Game Information:

Game # \_\_\_\_\_ Game Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team using player pass \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Stoneham B56-3)

Opposing Team \_\_\_\_\_

### Pass Player Information:

1. Player’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team they rostered on: \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Stoneham B56-4)

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Player’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team they rostered on: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Player’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team they rostered on: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Player’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team they rostered on: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_





Billerica	Burlington	Charlestown
Chelmsford	Everett	Lowell
Malden	Medford	Melrose
Reading	Somerville	Stoneham
Tewksbury	Waltham	Westford
Wilmington	Soccer Without Borders	