



District Select Program 2018 GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Welcome to the District Select Program. These Guidelines and Procedures are distributed in order to insure uniformity and standards in our operation. Should you have any questions please let us know. Thank you for your commitment to the game and to our kids!

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**FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.MAYOUTHSOCCER.ORG
CLICK ON THE PROGRAMS TAB AND THEN ON DISTRICT SELECT**

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GUIDELINES

1. DSP PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

This program is designed to be a development opportunity for players affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer over the summer. The goal of the program is to provide a “pressure free” yet competitive soccer environment in which players can focus entirely on their development. This program is developmental and therefore no standings will be kept during the regular season. The program concludes with a two-day tournament in which all DSP teams will participate. Regular season play does not affect seeding for the tournament. Due to the brevity of the DSP season and the fact that it is during the month of July, players who will miss more than one week of the regular season or who will miss the DSP Tournament are discouraged from participating.

2. ADMINISTRATION

The program is administered by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer office in Lancaster. There are also DSP District Administrators in each District. Any issue beyond the scope of the DSP Guidelines will be resolved by and in the discretion of the DSP Administration who reserves the right to amend these DSP Guidelines in the interest of maintaining a fair and balanced program.

3. 2018 COST

- a. \$150 per player – DSP Registration Fee
- b. \$45 plus shipping and handling - Uniform Fee. Each player will be required to order a complete uniform kit directly from Soccer.com.
- c. Financial aid is available for those who demonstrate a genuine need for it. If a player is requesting aid they must complete and submit the financial aid form on or before June 1, 2018. The form must be completed and approved prior to the player being placed on a roster.

4. PLAYER AGE GROUPS (BOYS & GIRLS)

All players must try out and play for their Age Group. Below you can find the US Soccer/USYS Age Groups. The age group “label” will be determined by subtracting the year in which the players participating in the competition were born from the year in which competition ends.

11U	2007
12U	2006
13U	2005

14U	2004
15/16U	2003, 2002
17/18/19U	2001, 2000, 1999

5. SEASON GAME DAYS AND TIMES

- a. The 2018 season starts the weekend of July 7th and 8th and will conclude with the DSP Tournament at the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park in Lancaster, MA on August 4th and 5th.
- b. The games are as follows: game times subject to change.
 - **Boys and Girls 11U through 14U will play on Saturdays.** The games will begin at 9:00 AM and teams will play multiple games.
 - **Boys and Girls 16U and 19U will play on Sundays.** The games will begin at 9:00 AM and teams in these age groups will play a single game.
- c. The DSP Tournament will be on August 4th and 5th.
- d. Practices prior to the beginning of the season shall not conflict with MTOC or State Cup. That is, players on teams involved in any of these tournaments will not be required to participate in practices.

6. DEADLINES

- a. Player’s parents will first sign up their child using the Affinity Tryout registration process. Instructions for this process will be available on the Mass Youth Soccer web site (www.mayouthsoccer.org) under the Programs/District Select tab. No payment is made at this time. Photos must be uploaded at this step.
- b. With the exception of teams in the 19U age group, ALL tryouts must be completed on or before May 15th
- c. “Tryout Participation Forms” and Rosters must be submitted immediately to the District Administrators, no later than May 20, 2018.
- d. All selected players will receive an email notifying them of their placement on the team roster. The player’s parents must complete their online registration payment and must submit their uniform order on or before June 1, 2018. Failure to do so may result in late fees and the necessity to pay expedited shipping for their uniform. All accepted players will receive specific uniform ordering instructions directly from soccer.com.

7. ROLE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

The DSP District Administrators shall:

- a. Assign and approve coaches to the DSP team best suited to their strengths and shall forward all coaching assignments to the DSP Director and Manager.
- b. Submit all DSP Tryout dates and locations to DSP Director, DSP Manager, and Marketing and Communications Director for publication on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer website.
- c. Provide coaches with all the required forms/materials (Guidelines, Schedule etc.), and collect “Tryout Participation Forms” and Rosters.
- d. Check all DSP Rosters for compliance (team, coach and player requirements).
- e. Build all DSP Rosters online.

8. DSP COACHES

It is understood and agreed by all who wish to become DSP Coaches that they:

- a. Shall complete and submit the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Application to Coach on-line.
- b. Are contracted for the program on an annual basis and are not guaranteed to have a position coaching in DSP every year.
- c. Must be affiliated with Massachusetts Youth either thru a member organization or directly with Mass Youth Soccer.
- d. Must have completed an Adult Registration and have cleared CORI/Kid Safe status to be approved by Massachusetts Youth Soccer to coach youth soccer in the Commonwealth and must have a valid credential.
- e. Must adhere strictly to the DSP Guidelines and the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Coaches Code of Conduct.

9. DSP PLAYERS

Once chosen to play on a DSP team each player shall:

- a. Be affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer.
 - If the player is a Massachusetts resident and not affiliated, they will become affiliated at the time they register with the District Select Program and pay the registration fee.
 - If the player is a resident of any other state than Massachusetts they must have already been a registered and affiliated member with a current Massachusetts based club or town program during the 2017-2018 soccer year (fall and/or spring playing seasons). They will maintain their affiliation when they register with the District Select Program and pay the registration fee.
- b. Pay the DSP Registration.
- c. Upload a clear, color, "head shot" photo during the Tryout registration to be used for player identification.
- d. Agree to pay for their DSP uniform including shipping and handling.
- e. Have a completed Medical Authorization form (handled with online registration).
- f. Agree that after the first game of the season all registration fees paid are nonrefundable.

10. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

- a. Only coaches who have been approved by the District Administrator and/or members of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Technical Staff may conduct tryouts.
- b. Roster limitations:
 - 11U & 12U DSP Teams shall be limited to 16 players.
 - 13U, 14U & 16U DSP Teams shall be limited to 20 players.
 - 19U DSP Teams shall be limited to 22 players.
- c. Roster minimums. In order for a roster to be officially submitted for play the following minimum number of players **must** be on the coach's District Select Program Roster as submitted to their District Administrator:
 - 11U & 12U DSP Teams shall have at least 13 players.
 - 13U, 14U & 16U DSP Teams shall have at least 15 players.
 - 19U DSP Teams shall have at least 16 players
- d. Adding New Players and Replacement Players. Players can be added to incomplete rosters any time during the season up to July 16th 2018. Players added to rosters after tryouts shall pay the full DSP Registration Fee regardless of when they are added to a roster.
- e. All teams shall be comprised of players that reside in towns in their District. Players who reside in towns located in a District which does not field a team in their Age Group and/or Gender can go to any District to play DSP, but must play in an appropriate Age Group.
- f. Districts are allowed to have up to 2 teams in the same Age Group and Gender. No District shall add a third team in any Age Group and Gender (e.g. Boys 14U) without prior approval from the DSP Director.

- g. Teams shall not have more than 6 players from any one town or from the same spring roster of any one club, town or league team. The only exception is for the 19U teams, which may roster more than 6 players from one town, but such players cannot be from the same spring roster of the same club or town team. It is contrary to DSP philosophy to have a “regular team” involved.
- h. Teams found not to be in full compliance with these DSP Guidelines may, in the discretion of the DSP Director, be deemed ineligible to compete at the DSP Tournament. Ignorance of these guidelines is no defense.

11. TRYOUTS

- a. Every team shall attempt to hold a minimum of 2 announced tryouts, which must be completed on or before May 20th. Additional unannounced tryouts or player evaluations may be conducted as may be as required to fill a team. Attending tryouts does not guarantee a spot on a team.
- b. All players must tryout in their Age Group. Any exceptions must be approved by the District Administrator.
- c. Players will be notified whether or not they have made a DSP team by email.
- d. Players who know at Tryouts that they will miss more than a week and/or the DSP Tournament may be placed on a waitlist and ultimate selection is at the discretion of the DSP Administrator.

12. TEAM REGISTRATION

- a. Either the Coach or the Team Manager of each DSP Team shall:
 - I. Complete an Excel Worksheet “Tryout Participation Form”, which will include all the players who participated in the tryouts.
 - II. Complete an Excel Worksheet “District Select Program Roster”.
 - III. Email the 2 forms above to their District Administrator on or before May 15.
- b. The District Administrators will review each District Select Program Roster.
- c. The District Administrators shall review and authorize the use of the final rosters

13. GAMES

- a. All DSP games will be played in accordance with FIFA rules with the exceptions noted below.
- b. The 11U & 12U age groups will play 9 v 9 (9 players per team including the goalkeeper). The field of play and rules will be in accordance with the recommendations of US Youth Soccer.
- c. Players & Coaches without a current Mass Youth Soccer or District ID (as printed on roster) shall not be permitted to participate. All coaches and players must be registered with Mass Youth Soccer.
- d. All Adults (Coaches, Managers, Assistants) must comply with the Mass Youth Soccer Adult Credential requirements.
- e. All players **MUST** wear their proper DSP uniform.
- f. Substitutions will be unlimited by both teams and are permitted at any stoppage prior to a restart only with the permission of the Referee. Substitution protocol should follow FIFA guidelines with the exception that there will not be a limit on player substitution. A player who has been cautioned may be substituted (substitution is not mandatory). If a substitution is made for a cautioned player, the opposing team may make the same number of substitutions at that time. All substitute players **MUST** be ready at midfield, and substitutions are made only with the referee’s consent and at his or her direction. If a game is stopped to allow for substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis.
- g. Coaches will provide 2 color copies of their roster to the referee. One copy shall be for the referee and one copy shall be for the opposing coach.
- h. Games will not be made up due to inclement weather, travel constraints, scheduling errors, or scheduling miscommunications.
- i. If errors are found in the schedule they must be reported immediately to the DSP Director.

14. DURATION OF GAMES (Updated 03/15/18):

Age Group	Weekend Multi-Games	Weekend Single Games
11U & 12U	25 minute halves	N/A
13U & 14U	30 minute halves w/break midhalf	N/A
16U		40 minute halves
19U		45 minute halves

15. DISCIPLINE:

- a. Red card - automatic one game suspension.
- b. Two yellow cards in 1 game or 3 yellow cards in the season shall be considered the equivalent of 1 red card and shall result in a one game suspension.
- c. A second red card or a single red card issued for an offense considered to be serious may result in suspension or expulsion of the offending player or coach for the season or from the program entirely. Whether such suspension or expulsion shall be enforced shall be in the discretion of the District Administrator of the offending player and/or the DSP Director.

16. REFEREES:

- a. The Referee Assignor will be responsible for all referee assignment duties (of which some may be delegated to other qualified referee assignors).
- b. Referees shall obtain 2 copies of the roster from each team, 1 shall be kept for their records and 1 shall be given to the opposing coach.
- c. Referees MUST report all yellow cards and red cards they may issue and other issues or problems which may arise in a game to the Referee Assignor of the team(s) involved in the infraction(s), within 24 hours of the end of the game.
- d. At team check-in the rosters presented may only be the official roster as produced by the Affinity system which will include player and coach photos and names.
- e. There will be 1 referee for all 11U and 12U games, and every effort made to provide one referee and two assistant-referees for all 13U thru 19U games.
- f. Referee will be paid directly by US Officials. All referees must have a current W-9 form on file.

17. EXPENSES POLICY:

- a. It is expected that the Administrator and/or Coach’s stipends will cover all costs incurred in administering DSP. Game-related field costs will only be paid or reimbursed by DSP if they have received specific prior approval from the DSP Director.
- b. All expenses must be submitted in writing to the DSP Director for approval in a timely manner.
- c. All final invoices must be submitted by August 15. DSP will not be responsible for payment of any invoice that is not properly submitted in a timely manner.

18. TOURNAMENT RULES:

Rules and procedures for the DSP Tournament will be provided to each District Administrator and Coach and shall be posted on the Massachusetts Youth Soccer website no later than one week prior to the commencement of the DSP Tournament.