

Mass Youth Soccer Player Registration Fees

With the fall season just completed, leagues and organizations are busily planning and organizing for the Spring 2017 season and beyond; Mass Youth Soccer believes this is an opportune time to remind our Membership of a longer term change that will take effect starting with the Fall 2017 season. At the last Mass Youth Soccer Annual General Meeting (March 2016), the membership approved a fee increase of \$3.00 per player, raising the annual player fee from \$11.00 to \$14.00. In order to allow sufficient time for our member organizations to notify their membership and plan for the fee change, the AGM agreed to defer implementation of the change until the Fall 2017 season. The annual player fee increase will go into effect with the 2017/18 soccer year registrations. We recommend that all member organizations contact their membership once more regarding this pending fee change to ensure their membership has planned accordingly.

At the national level, Mass Youth Soccer is aware of ongoing discussions of a potential fee increase from US Youth Soccer. No specific proposals have been conveyed to state associations; however, the prospect of a fee increase proposal at the US Youth Soccer level remains a strong possibility. As additional information becomes available, we will keep the membership informed to ensure Mass Youth Soccer organizations are in the best position possible to plan and prepare for any changes.

Adult Registrations, CORI and Credentials Update

We are now just about 1.5 years into our required annual Adult Registration practice. A huge thank you to all member organizations that have taken this process to heart and understand the purpose to this practice.

We have received praise from many outside the soccer world, those involved with other youth sports and activities, for our diligence when it comes to the safety of our children. In addition, when we shared our practice with state lawmakers, they applauded us for being proactive in taking additional steps to help our parents have a greater sense of safety; knowing that the adults involved with Mass Youth Soccer and our member organizations have been properly CORI checked.

Process Improvements: Thank you very much to all of those whom have shared thoughts, concerns, and ideas for improving the process. Based on valuable feedback we will be making some changes to the process to commence in June for the 2017-2018 soccer year. The online Adult Registration and CORI Submission form will become one single step as compared to two. Starting in June there will be no need to wait for follow up emails regarding CORI submission status. Mass Youth Soccer will automatically run the CORI submission either prior to the start of the Fall 2017 season or 3 months prior to the adult's CORI expiration date. If the adult does not renew or complete a new combined Adult Registration/CORI Submission they will not be permitted to be involved with any program until they are in good standing.

We have received some other great feedback which we are looking into further and will have

this news available this coming spring season.

Credentials: This spring will commence the first season of play by which all registered, affiliated and CORI approved adults will be required to have a Mass Youth Soccer Adult Credential. The primary purpose of the Adult Credential is for all parents of children to feel comfortable that all adults involved with their training, safety, well-being, coaching, etc. have been properly CORI checked and are in good standing (registered and affiliated, thus insured) by Mass Youth Soccer. Initially we are relying on each member organization (towns, clubs, and leagues) to act as an SRO (Self-Regulatory Organization) in making sure their adults are in compliance by displaying and possessing the credential as described next.

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.

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association has no expectation that a referee will have any responsibilities for checking, managing, dealing with or handling any issues related to Adult Credentials. If a referee has any issues with any adults regarding the credential, if they wish, they can simply provide this in a report to their league assignor and let this person relay this information to the league. In turn, we expect a coach to report if a referee does not display or possess their credential. They are to only report this matter and not take any other actions.

More information on Adult Credential will be provided prior to the spring season.