



## **MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

### **TOWN SELECT LEAGUE INFORMATION**

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors has approved a program to form a Mass Youth administered league, to be known as the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Town Select League (TSL).

The purpose of the TSL is for Mass Youth to partner with its town-based member organizations, in coordination with existing, recognized town travel (MTOC) leagues, to provide opportunities for town registered players to experience a higher level of training, development and competition. We hope to establish a bridge path to higher level state and club programs. The TSL is intended to be an extension of and enhancement to town programs, not competition for them.

***Our mission is to provide quality training and quality competition for our players***

#### **OVERVIEW:**

##### ***Scope:***

- For the fall 2017 season, the TSL will feature 6 matches in total, 4 stand alone games (2 in September, 2 in October) with a 2 game season ending Jamboree in November.
- Participation in the TSL is open to Mass Youth town organizations that are within the existing Essex, Middlesex and BAYS league areas, and will be divided into the Northeast and East Region
- For 2017-2018 the TSL will offer divisions for both boys and girls, in the 11U through 14U age groups (birth years 2004-2007).
- Teams will practice once per week to minimize disruption of town team practices.
- The Spring 2018 season is anticipated to follow the Fall 2017 model, with changes incorporated as needed based on Fall season results.
- Players will have the option to participate in one or two sessions (7 to 14 weeks) futsal league competition or indoor training program with other TSL players under the guidance of TSL coaches. The winter component will be offered if sufficient demand exists and will entail a separate registration and nominal additional fee.

##### ***Town Sectional Groups and Sectional Town Select Team Makeup***

- Geographic regions will be comprised of Town Sectional Groups (TSGs) representing partnerships of 4-8 contiguous towns.
- The target for 2017-2018 is to establish 6 to 8 Town Sectional Groups fielding one Sectional Town Select team per gender/age group

- Towns may opt-in as administrative partners, and self-select other town organizations to partner with to form a Town Sectional Group. An agreement to participate and support the TSL for a minimum of 12 months is required. Towns that do not opt-in will not have partner rights and responsibilities but their players will be eligible to participate in an incorporated/adjoining TSG.
- Each TSG will have a member designated an Administrative Partner who will have a seat on the Advisory Commission. Other towns in the TSG will be designated as Participating Members.
- Each TSG Administrative Partner will be required to coordinate access to fields/ facilities for their TSG, assisting in coach identification and targeted number of total players in coordination with other members of their TSG. They will be the primary point of contact for TSL administration.
- Participating Members will give input into League matters through their designated Administrative Partner, and will have a seat and vote at any General Membership meetings at such time they scheduled.

### ***Player Eligibility/Select Team Formation***

- Players may tryout and be selected for a Town Select Team if they are currently registered and participating in their town program.
- The TSL is designed for players who seek a higher level of training and competition but have decided not to make the commitment to higher level programs at this point.
- All players meeting age and participation criteria are invited to tryout, regardless of level of current town team assignment
- The TSL will use USSF calendar year age group designations. For the 2017/18 soccer year players born in 2007 will be 11U eligible; 2006 12U; 2005 13U; 2004 14U.
- Players must commit to playing on both their town team and a Sectional Town Select team. Players may not play on both a non-town club team and a Sectional Town Select team.
- Limits may be placed on roster percentage from a single town on a single team. Initial target 25% maximum subject to adjustment based on tryout participation.
- Roster size of 16 for 11U and 12U teams, 18 for 13U and 14U. If necessary, due to initial low numbers, 11U and 12U players may be combined into a single 12U team; 13U and 14U may be combined into a 14U team.
- Tryouts will take place in June 2017 for the 2017-2018 soccer year and will be under the direction and oversight of the Mass Youth Soccer's Technical Staff.
- Team selection will be based on tryout results as assessed by the Technical Staff, DOC and TSG representatives.

### ***Coaching***

- Final selection of coaches will be by Mass Youth Soccer and coaches will be employees of Mass Youth Soccer.
- Recommendation/endorsement by Town Sectional Groups will be highly encouraged and sought
- Initial Target Coaching Requirements
  - Experience – Minimum of 3 years coaching town soccer D1 or D2 teams at U12 or older
  - Licenses/Diplomas – Minimum of USSF “E” license with the achievement of the “D” license within 18 to 24 months, OR, minimum of NSCAA Level 4 Diploma with the achievement of the Level 5 diploma within 18 to 24 months.

- Mass Youth Soccer Requirements – Accomplishing and maintaining all Mass Youth Soccer coaching educational and training requirements on an annual basis.
- Professionalism – Must be in good standing with all Mass Youth Soccer affiliated organizations (towns, clubs, leagues). This includes no sanctions based on disciplinary actions or persistent history of complaints.
- Individuals not yet meeting the requirements may be considered, and may be offered positions as Assistant Coaches
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches (1 per team) will receive compensation from Mass Youth Soccer derived through player registration fees.

### ***Town Select League Administration***

- Overall League governance will be under the direction of the Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors with a league liaison appointed by the President and Executive Committee.
- Ongoing league administration will be under direction of the Mass Youth Soccer office staff, reporting to the Executive Director.
- An Advisory Commission composed of representatives from Mass Youth Soccer and Town Sectional Groups will be established to oversee league programs, discipline and other operational matters.
- There will be a League Director, Scheduler, Referee Assignor(s), Registrar and Technical Director who will be employees/contractors of Mass Youth Soccer to administer, implement and execute decisions of the Advisory Commission and Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors.

### ***Player Benefits***

- Distributed schedule for match play and one-per-week practice schedule limits the required time commitment
- Continued participation with friends and peers on their town travel team.
- Match play occurs in a confined geographic area within regional area and accessible via major highways in the area, setting reasonable limits on time and travel requirements.
- Players receive advanced training and experience a higher level of competition with other players of like skills at minimized cost
- Players train under the guidance of qualified, committed coaches.
- Consistent teams and philosophy through fall, spring and optional winter seasons

### ***Town Organization Benefits***

- Offer advanced training and playing opportunities without compromise to existing town teams and leagues
- TSG partners have input into league operations through the Advisory Council
- Share and implement best practices in collaboration with TSG partners and Mass Youth
- Ability to manage schedule and resource conflicts
- Creates a new level of player and coach development opportunity
- Does not require excessive additional volunteer staff burden
- Administrative duties (registration, referee assigning, scheduling) handled by TSL staff
- No cost to become a TSG Administrative Partner or Participating Member

## **Fees**

- All Town Select League expenses will be covered by player fees including administrative expenses and referee fees
- The total per player fee for fall/spring play and training will be \$700 (Fall/Spring)
- Program fees will include up to 8 weeks of coaching each season (fall/spring), one practice per week; 6 matches per season; player uniforms.
- No player selected for a team will be denied due to financial considerations
- Winter Futsal/Training fees will be based on the number of sessions enrolled

**For more information, please contact:**

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