2026 MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
COMMISSIONER'S CUP & MTOC QUALIFIER

Friday, June 19th to Sunday, June 21st. 2026

Congratulations and welcome to the 2026 Middlesex Youth Soccer League Commissioner's Cup and MTOC Qualifier Weekend. This year's tournament will be held at the

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park, 512 Old Road, Lancaster MA 01523.

The Commissioner's Cup qualifying teams for Grade 34 D1-D5, Grade 56 D3-D5 and Grade 78 D3-D5 will compete in a three-game round robin format on Saturday and Sunday.

The MTOC eligible divisions Grade 56 D1 & D2, Grade 78 D1 & D2, Grade 911 D1 & D2 and Grade 11PG+ will play single elimination semi-final games on Friday and the winners will compete in the finals on Saturday or Sunday. The winning teams in the Finals will go on to represent MYSL at MTOC.

MYSL has drawn wild card slots for MTOC in Grade 56 D1 Girls, Grade 78 D1 Boys and Grade 910 D2 Girls age groups. 2nd place teams in these groups will also go on to compete in MTOC.

A new category of MTOC Wild Card Alternate assignments has been created this year. These teams *may* be eligible to represent MYSL at MTOC *if* one of the MTOC teams from another league is unable to field a team for the MTOC tournament. *MYSL has drawn Wild Card Alternate assignments for Grade 78 D1 Girls and Grade 910 D1 Boys.* Let your Age Director know if your team will be available.

Please note that all game schedules, team and game information are available on the schedule and standings tabs on the MYSL Sports Connect App for a mobile-friendly interface with the tournament. Please note that at this time some tie-breaker and play-in games remain to be played prior to the start of the Tournament. Those teams which qualify will be added to the schedule as the game results are submitted.

The Middlesex Youth Soccer League's Board of Directors request your attention and adherence to the rules of the tournament on the following pages to ensure a safe and enjoyable soccer weekend.

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June 15, 2026

Fellow MYSL members,

Congratulations on a great season and welcome to the 2026 MYSL Commissioner's Cup & MTOC Qualifier Weekend.

This weekend is the culmination of your journey which began in late August of last year, through all of the practices, the fall developmental season, winter indoor activities, individual tournaments, playing with friends and family, kicking the ball around the backyard, and sometimes inside the house. It is a great accomplishment to get to this point and you should all be very proud of yourselves, as are we.

As many of you are aware, inappropriate conduct and behavior continues to be a problem for youth sports organizations. Please be reminded that MYSL has Zero Tolerance for this type of behavior between, among, and from any combination of our players, coaches, parents, guardians and spectators involved with or in attendance at any MYSL event.

MYSL will not tolerate obscene or vulgar language; derogatory comments regarding race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation; aggressive behavior; sarcasm; harassment; taunting; or verbal or physical threats during any MYSL event, from or toward anyone within its membership.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to address and resolve any issues that may arise with their players, parents, guardians, or spectators prior to, during, or after an event. If there are any concerns, please report them to the referee at the end of the match, or to the MYSL staff at the Registration Desk

We are all here to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our children where they can develop their soccer skills; learn to be part of a team; learn the values of respect, integrity, fair play, and good sportsmanship; and hopefully develop a love for the beautiful game which they will carry with them beyond the soccer field, long after they leave MYSL.

Most importantly, we want the players to feel safe and to have fun. They will carry the memories and effects of their experiences, from the first practice to the last game, with them - good or bad - for the rest of their lives. Let the players and the team that got you here play, enjoy the game, and bring positive experiences home at the final whistle.

To help promote these goals and foster a positive experience, we will have Field Marshals on site who will monitor the behavior of the players, coaches and spectators and support the referees throughout the tournament.

Remember, it's a game! Each one of us represents not only ourselves, but our team, our town, and our league. Respect yourself, your opponents, and the officials; represent with dignity.

Again, congratulations on your season, and best of luck this weekend.

Sincerely,

Matt Staub

Matt Staub, Commissioner's Cup Director

Middlesex Youth Soccer League

Mass Youth Soccer Upper Field Layout

Team Check-In

Team registration and check-in will be at the east side of the registration pavilion, opposite the concession and turf fields.

All teams are required to check in at least one hour prior to the scheduled start of their first game of each day at the check-in pavilion. All players and team officials (coach, assistant coaches, team manager) must be present when approaching the registration pavilion to be checked in. Players or coaches not present for the team check-in will be crossed out on the roster which will be initialed by the check-in staff. Any late player or team official will need to be checked in separately prior to being allowed to enter the field, and an additional roster notated with the player's eligibility.

Coaches must present the following during team check in:

- Signed copies (10) of the approved game roster (not the game card) with all player jersey numbers clearly *printed*. Town Registrars are able to print or export these for you if necessary.
- Approved rosters must have a current legible photo for all rostered players.
- Digital or handwritten copies of rosters will ***not*** be accepted.
- Mass Youth Identification Credential for all rostered team officials to be worn on the lanyard at all times. ***Absolutely no digital copies of the coach's credential will be accepted.***
- All players who are currently 18 years of age or will turn 18 prior to 6/21/2024 must have completed Safe Sport training.

* A team official must present one copy of the roster at the registration desk and one copy of the roster for each game being played that day. So if you have two (2) games that day, bring five (5) copies in the event a late player addition (late arrival - see above) needs to be made. ***There is no possibility to print rosters on site.***The tournament officials will keep one copy of the roster at the registration desk after check in.

All rostered team officials must have their Mass Youth Identification credential in clear view at all times during the tournament. NO DIGITAL COPIES. NO EXCEPTIONS!!! You will not be allowed to coach if you do not have your printed credential displayed on your lanyard, worn on your person.

Player Uniform and Safety Check:

- Players must present themselves dressed to play in ***full matching uniforms*** (team jerseys, shorts, and socks), ***wearing shin guards and proper footwear at the time of the safety check. Shorts, socks or jerseys of different colors will not be allowed.***
- **Player jersey number must match their number on the roster. No handwritten numbers.**
- Shirts must be tucked into shorts, socks must cover shinpads.
- If cleats are worn, they should be soccer cleats with no sharp edges and no cleat on the toe.
- ***Absolutely no jewelry is allowed*** ***except for medical bracelets which must be taped down.***
- No hard or metallic hair restraints are allowed.
- Hard casts or braces with exposed metal will not be allowed.
- Non-dangerous protective equipment, for example, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.
- Final approval of any of the above will be in the opinion of the referee at the field.

Game Field Information:

- All coaches and players must remain in the marked technical area and not creep up to the midfield line. ***All substitutions must take place at the midfield line*****. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- Sun shades or canopies may be used over team bench areas on grass fields. These must be anchored or weighted and must be greater than ten (10) feet from the touch line.
- No team shades or canopies will be allowed on the turf fields.
- No food or drink is allowed on the turf fields. Water only.
- Please be sure to remove all equipment and clean up your team area immediately after your game has completed to make room for the next team.

Team and Spectator Information

Parking for all coaches, players, and spectators will be in the main parking lot as you enter the site unless Mass Youth Staff directs you elsewhere. There will be heavy traffic, with many vehicles entering and exiting the site throughout the weekend as the tournament proceeds. ***Plan to arrive early***, as the walk to the field from the furthest parking lots could take up to fifteen minutes.

- If you have elderly or handicapped spectators attending your game, please contact the Commissioner ahead of time and we will try to make parking accommodations in the lower referee lot. Mass Youth Staff will provide transportation from the upper lot to the pavilion or to a field if needed.
- Teams, families and spectators may set up tents in designated grass areas only, a minimum of ten (10) feet off the touchline, securely staked or weighted properly to prevent overturning.
- Spectators must remain in the designated spectator area opposite the team areas, must not stand at the ends of the fields or goal lines and must remain behind the spectator lines at all times.

Stay updated on the 2026 Commissioner's Cup by visiting us on Facebook @ MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, Instagram @MYSLEAGUE, Twitter @MYS_LEAGUE. Feel free to send pictures and videos to be featured on our pages. Be sure to tag #myslchamps on your posts.

Fine Designs, our 2026 MYSL Commissioners Cup commemorative apparel vendor will be on-site adjacent to the registration pavilion and concession area. Please follow the link to our 2026 Commissioners Cup Tournament Online Store to preview items that will be available on site or pre order for home delivery. See advertisement at the end of this package for more information.

- Various food trucks will be located at the front field pavilion during the event, providing snacks, sandwiches, and refreshments.
- Porta-Johns will be available on the main roadway adjacent to field 1.
- Handicap restrooms will be available at the west side of the pavilion adjacent to fields 1 & 2.
- No dogs or pets are allowed on site or on any of the fields.
- No barbecuing or tailgating allowed.

Severe Weather

During the tournament, weather conditions will be monitored by Mass Youth Facility and Tournament Staff. Warnings will be announced or signaled during the tournament as required in cases of impending severe weather or lightning. In general, upon sighting a lightning strike, all play must stop for thirty (30) minutes and not resume until 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike.
See full details by clicking on the Mass Youth Soccer Association link Safer Soccer, then click on *Resources*; in the drop-down menu, click *Safe Soccer*, and scroll down to click *Weather Policy*.

Photography & Videography Policy

Mass Youth Soccer has a strict safety policy on the use of video equipment while on their premises.
All video equipment must be: operated from the spectator side of the playing field; in the user's control at all times; not more than a foot above their head; and at a safe distance from the field of play.
A Spectator Photography and Videography Indemnification Agreement must be signed and submitted to the Commissioner in advance for the use of any videography or game recording devices (Veo, Trace, Pixellot, etc.) that will be extended more than one foot above the head of the operator using camera extension equipment above 1 foot higher than the user's natural unassisted head height.

The agreement and details of the full amateur photography & videography policy can be found at this link: https://mayouthsoccer.org/progin-park/, clicking on *SBLI Fields at Progin Park*, and scrolling down to click on *Photography and Videography Policy*.

Coach, Player, and Spectator Conduct

All coaches please click on the following links to review the Mass Youth **Codes of Conduct** and the most recent **MYSL Rules** 21, 22 & 23 covering Zero Tolerance, Codes of Conduct, Ejections and Sanctions, included at the end of this document.

The **Zero Tolerance Policy** will be strictly enforced throughout the tournament weekend.

Please be aware that if you get ejected from a game, you will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and potentially any follow-on MTOC playoff games.

Respect the Call
Effective March 1, 2025, US Soccer has introduced updates to Policy 531-9 applying to misconduct towards officials from registered participants (players, coaches, registered adults).
Minimum penalties for misconduct towards referees have been increased significantly. The minor multiplier **triples sanctions** for incidents of misconduct towards minor referees.
Policy 531-9 now includes a category of misconduct named **Gross Misconduct** which includes insulting, belittling, insinuating or taunting behavior which undermines the authority of the referee.
On March 5, 2025, the Mass Youth Soccer Board approved the **Spectator Misconduct Towards Referees Policy** to extend the same minimum penalties in US Soccer Policy 531-9 to spectators at all Mass Youth Soccer sanctioned events. Click on the following link review the Referee Abuse Prevention penalty summary.

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, sarcasm, 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 before, during, and after the game, on the field and in the 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. Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated. Let the officials do their job.

- No team official, parent, guardian or spectator shall address the Officials at any time.
- Team officials, parents, guardians and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the match.
- Parents, guardians and spectators shall not make remarks to the Official(s) or advise the Officials(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- Parents, guardians and spectators shall never yell at the Official(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the match.

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.

Exceptions for Spectators: During the game:
- Responding to a referee initiating communication.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues
- Complimenting the Official after the match.

MYSL Post-Season Qualifying Rules

Post Season Eligibility:

Four teams in each Division will be eligible for postseason play in either the MYSL Championship Playoffs (MTOC Qualifier) or the MYSL Commissioners' Cup at the conclusion of the Spring Season, based on the final standings

i) A Division with a single bracket or section: top 4 finishers make the postseason
ii) A Division with 2 brackets: top 2 finishers in each bracket qualify
iii) A Division with 3 brackets: winner of each bracket qualifies for the postseason.
The 4th playoff spot will be determined by a playoff of the three 2nd place teams.
Rankings for play in games to determine who plays in which games follow the standard tie breaking procedures – points, then head-to-head (which doesn't apply in these cases), least goals allowed, tie breaker game. Once determined, the 2nd place team with the most points will have a bye. The other two 2nd 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 brackets: winner of each bracket qualifies for postseason.

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

MTOC Qualifier & Commissioner's Cup Eligibility Tie Breaker Rules:

The following are excerpts from Rule 33 for tie breakers in determining which team goes to the MTOC Qualifier / Commissioner's Cup Tournament.

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.

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.

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 postseason eligible teams.

2026 Commissioner's Cup Rules

Commissioner's Cup Tournament for Grade 34, all divisions:

- The MYSL will hold an end of season tournament among the top finishers in Divisions 1- 5.
- Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- Each team will play three games in a Round Robin format.
- Each team will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie.
- The Grade 34 tournament will be for enjoyment and fun – no champion will be crowned.
- Participating Grade 34 team players and coaches will receive Commissioner's Cup Final Four awards.
- Town Player Pass is not allowed for Commissioners' Cup games.
- The Commissioner's Cup Director will have the final say on any and all discrepancies that may occur.
- Protests will not be entertained.

Commissioner's Cup Tournament for Grade 56 and Grade 78 Divisions 3, 4 and 5:

- The MYSL will hold an end of season tournament among the top finishers in Divisions 3, 4 & 5.
- Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- Each team will play three games in a Round Robin format.
- Each team will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie.
- Grades 56 & 78 Champion and Finalist (Runner Up) team players and coaches in the Commissioner's Cup divisions will receive awards.
- Town Player Pass is not allowed for Commissioners' Cup games.
- The Commissioner's Cup Director will have the final say on any and all discrepancies that may occur.
- Protests will not be entertained.

Commissioner's Cup Rules of Competition

Grade 78 Division 3, 4 & 5 Match Rules

- Halves are 25 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- Games need to be started on time. Teams should be warmed up ready to begin when the game ahead of them ends.
- Ties stand in all matches.
- All games are played with running time.
- An injured player must be replaced if the referee stops play due solely to the occurrence of serious injury or if the referee signals for the coach or medical personnel to enter the field to attend to the injury. The opposing team may have an equal substitution. Goalkeepers are exempt from this requirement.
- A player issued a yellow card MAY be substituted at the option of the coach.
- Sent-off players or dismissed team officials must leave the playing area and may not remain with their team.
- A player sent-off for serious foul play or violent conduct will be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament.
- Any coach who is dismissed from any match is disqualified for the remainder of the Tournament.
- FIFA Laws of the Game and MYSL 11v11 playing rules are in force for anything else not mentioned above.

Grade 56 Division 3, 4 & 5 9v9 Match Rules

- All of the above Grade 78 rules apply.
- MYSL Grade 56 Playing Rules.

Grade 34– All Divisions 7v7 Match Rules

- All of the above Grade 78 rules apply.
- Halves are 20 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- MYSL Grade 34 Playing Rules including penalty kicks for Grade 34.

Commissioner's Cup Tie Breaker Rules

In determining final standings of Commissioner's Cup when teams are tied in points following the conclusion of their games, the following tie breakers rules will be used to determine the champion, in the following order:

i. Head-to-head competition.
ii. Fewest 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.

2026 MTOC Qualifier / MYSL Championship Rules for Divisions 1 and 2 (Grade 56 and older)

- The MYSL will hold playoffs among the top finishers in each division for Grade 56, Grade 78, Grade 910 in Divisions 1 and 2 and Grade 11+ in Division 1.
- The winners of these playoffs will represent the MYSL in their respective age groups at MTOC.
- Additional teams may be included according to the eligibility rules established by the MYSL.
- All Champion and Finalist (Runner Up) team players and coaches in the MTOC divisions will receive awards.
- Town Player Pass is not allowed for Championship Playoff games.
- The Commissioner's Cup Director will have the final say on any and all discrepancies that may occur.
- **Protests will not be entertained.**

MTOC Qualifier Rules of Competition

Grade 11+ Match Rules

MYSL 11v11 Playing Rules are in effect.

- Halves are 45 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- Games need to be started on time. Teams should be warmed up ready to begin at the designated time.
- A winner must be determined. Therefore, overtime, 15 min halves, and kicks from the penalty spot, if necessary, will be used. If overtime is needed, both halves will be played to completion. If the score is still tied, then teams will proceed immediately to kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with FIFA rules. All matches unfinished due to any cause shall be replayed if neither team is at fault. However, if play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.
- Sent-off players or dismissed team officials must leave the playing area and may not remain with their team.

Grade 910 Division 1 & 2 Match Rules

- All of the above Grade 11+ rules apply.
- Halves are 40 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- Overtime of two 15 min halves followed by kick from the penalty spot if needed.

Grade 78 Division 1 & 2 Match Rules

- All of the above Grade 11+ rules apply.
- Halves are 35 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- Overtime of two 10 min halves followed by kick from the penalty spot if needed.

Grade 56 Division 1& 2 9v9 Match Rules

- All of the above Grade 11+ rules apply.
- Halves are 30 minutes long with a 5-minute rest interval between halves.
- Overtime of two 10 min halves followed by kick from the penalty spot if needed.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO STAY UPATED ON THE COMMISSIONER'S CUP!

FACEBOOK: MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

INSTAGRAM: @MYSLEAGUE

TWITTER: @MYS_LEAGUE

FEEL FREE TO SEND PICTURES AND VIDEOS TO BE FEATURED ON OUR PAGE!

MAKE SURE TO TAG #MYSLCHAMPS ON YOUR POSTS!

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MYSL Rules 21, 22 & 23

21. Zero Tolerance Policy

a) The Mass Youth Soccer Zero Tolerance Policy for behavior towards Officials shall be followed for all league activities. The latest policy can be found on this page: https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/codes-of-conduct/.

An excerpt from that policy:

The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with their team follow this Zero Tolerance Policy relating to communications with an Official. **A coach or spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction whatsoever with the officiating to any Official, directly or indirectly.** A coach or spectator may not, before, during, or after a match, discuss with, or voice within earshot of, an Official any critique of the Official's performance, other than to thank and positively compliment the Official. Any other critiques may only be voiced or communicated through the appropriate league's reporting channels.

b) If there is a conflict between consequences listed in the Mass Youth Zero Tolerance Policy and consequences listed in these MYSL rules, the stricter consequences will apply at the discretion of the league.

c) 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.

21.1. Codes of Conduct

a) The following Mass Youth Soccer Codes of Conduct shall be adhered to for all league activities. The latest Codes of Conduct can be found on this page: https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/codes-of-conduct/.

- Player's Code of Conduct
- Coach's Code of Conduct
- Parent's / Guardian's / Spectator's Code of Conduct
- Soccer Official's Code of Conduct

b) If there is a conflict between consequences listed in the Mass Youth Codes of Conduct and consequences listed in these MYSL rules, the stricter consequences will apply at the discretion of the league.

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:

Total Yellow Cards	Additional Suspension
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 for a minimum of one (1) year. If the incident is considered serious, the Commissioner and Sportsmanship Committee may impose an indefinite suspension.

Massachusetts Youth Soccer
Coach's Code of Conduct

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Inc. (Mass Youth Soccer) and its member organizations (our town programs, clubs, and leagues) are committed to promoting the highest levels of respect and consideration in the conduct of all participants (coaches, players, spectators, and referees) during matches at all levels. We want to ensure that matches are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. A soccer match should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for all.
To clarify expectations of conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct at all times.

- Before, during, and after the match, you are at all times an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit.
- Before a match, respectfully introduce yourself to the opposing coaches and to the referee/official(s).
- During the matches and practices, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible, or overly aggressive, take the player out of the match or practice until they calm down.
- At all times (matches and practices), you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players and other spectators rooting for your team. It is your responsibility to explain to them acceptable player and parent/spectator behavior in a preseason meeting. Refer to our Parents/Guardians/Spectators and Players' Codes of Conduct.

o Before the season, send out the Parents/Guardians/Spectators and Players Code of Conduct.

- At matches, encourage all parents/guardians/spectators from both teams to applaud and cheer for good plays by both teams. Discourage them from yelling at players and the referee/official - be as forceful and direct as necessary.
- During the match, do not address the referee/official at all. Do not question their calls.
- Acknowledge good sportsmanship when it's displayed as necessary.
- If you have a complaint, report your opinion to your League. Your observations will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively, factually, and formally.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco and refrain from their use at all matches, exhibitions, practices, and events.
- Never coach a match or conduct a practice under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Never use profanity or make obscene gestures, or engage in any inappropriate behavior or conduct, at any time.
- After the match, thank the referee/official(s) and ask your players to do the same.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.
In closing, Mass Youth Soccer stresses two points: Officials (Referees, Assistant Referees, 4th Officials, and Linespeople) - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the match. You can help by encouraging them to be their best and by accepting their inevitable and occasional mistakes. Your role as a coach is to concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the sport and their overall, long-term development, and to support the officials. Use self-regulation to monitor your behavior at all times! When you follow these expectations, the spirit of the sport of soccer will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coach's Responsibilities

In addition to the Coach's Code of Conduct, the following Coach Responsibilities should be followed during every youth soccer related activity:

- Understand and accept that coaching is a position of trust.
- Be a positive role model for their players and maintain their personal integrity and dignity at all times.
- Create a player centered environment where players are free to make autonomous decisions.
- Remember that players are involved for fun and enjoyment and you should strive to create a positive soccer environment that reflects why they play.
- Understand that as a youth coach, the match is for the children, not the adults.
- Consistently have a positive attitude and praise players for their efforts and playing fair regardless of the outcome of the match.
- Never criticize or yell at any player on your team for making a mistake nor address an opposing player in a derogatory manner.
- De-escalate any physical or verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Understand that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.
- Place the wellbeing and growth of every player above your personal desire to win.
- Understand that being a coach means being, first and foremost, a role model.
- Create a safe, fun and inclusive environment that provides opportunities for all of your players the capacity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
- Create co-constructed team and individual goals. Know and understand your soccer organizations playing time guidelines and give every player an opportunity to play as much as possible.
- Remind the players about the co-constructed goals and objectives for the team, as well as the rules of the match and the policies of your soccer organization, whenever requested or necessary, to the best of your ability.
- Inspect all equipment and fields on a regular basis to ensure the safety of players, paying special attention to the security of goal frames.