

- 2.09. All teams competing for MTOC, Regional, National Cups or traveling to invitational tournaments shall comply with all rules and regulations of the competition, complete and submit all appropriate documents, ensure all players and adult volunteers are properly registered, and pay all appropriate fees.
- 2.10. Under-10 and younger players will not be permitted to play on an Under-11 or older team in a results oriented format unless the organization through which the player is registered with Mass Youth Soccer determines, and certifies in writing to its parent League, that:
 - 2.10.1. it does not have enough players to field a team in the older age group without the participation of the player; or
 - 2.10.2. the player is being placed on a team with his or her classmates; or
 - 2.10.3. the player's skills justify the placement.

With respect to any exception noted above, the responsible Organization will notify its parent League of all of the relevant circumstances involving each player.

3. KIDSAFE PROGRAM – CORI REGISTRATION

- 3.01. Standard for Participation in Mass Youth Soccer and its activities and programs.
- 3.02. All adult volunteers and paid staff eighteen (18) years of age and older must complete a Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) background form. In addition, pursuant to applicable Massachusetts legal requirements, each adult volunteer and paid staff may have his/her background checked each year of participation.
- 3.03. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Board of Directors, shall prepare and implement policies and procedures so as to fully comply with the CORI requirements and with the procedures and guidelines issued by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).
- 3.04. A person will qualify for participation in Mass Youth Soccer and its activities and programs upon completion and passing of the screening process outlined below. A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of Mass Youth Soccer and its Organizations and affiliated Leagues if:
 - 3.04.1. the person has been convicted (including crimes the record of which have been expunged, pleas of “no contest” or pending cases which have been continued without a finding, or charges pending before any court) of any crime of violence against minors, or any crime which indicates the person may pose a risk to the safety and well-being of children under his/her direction and/or stewardship, including, but not limited to:

- Indecent assault and battery on a child under fourteen. C.265, sec. 13B
- Indecent assault and battery on a mentally retarded person. C.265, sec. 13F
- Indecent assault and battery on a person who has attained the age of fourteen. C.265, sec 13H
- Rape. C. 265, sec .22
- Statutory rape. C. 265, sec. 23
- Rape of a child under sixteen with force. C. 265, sec. 22A
- Assault of a child with intent to commit rape. C. 265, sec. 24B
- Assault with intent to commit rape. C. 265, sec. 24
- Kidnapping of a child. C. 265, sec. 26 and sec. 26A
- Distribution and trafficking of narcotics or other controlled substances. C. 94C, multiple sections.
- Lewd and lascivious conduct. C. 272, sec. 35
- Open and gross lewdness. C. 272, sec. 16
- Unnatural and lascivious acts with a child under sixteen. C. 272, sec. 35A
- Violation of a restraining order involving physical or sexual abuse of a child. C. 208 and 209A multiple sections
- Assault and battery of a child; liability of a person having custody. C. 265, sec. 13J
- Intent to commit any of the above crimes;

3.04.2. it is determined that: he/she has been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children, is subject to any court order involving sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, has had his/her parental rights terminated for reasons involving sexual or physical abuse of children; or

3.04.3. Mass Youth Soccer or any one of its Organizations, affiliated Leagues, or Members comes into possession of verified information that he/she has: a history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of physical or sexual abuse of minors, resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to verified complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors.

3.05. **Screening Information & Process.** The following information shall be gathered and used in the screening process of all personnel referenced in the above Applicability of Standard: (i) the CORI background information form; and (ii) Criminal Offender Record Inquiry, both a Massachusetts check done on an annual basis as well as a national background check done. Individuals for whom an unfavorable response is received as a result of a CORI type inquiry, shall not be accepted into Mass Youth Soccer or any one of its Organizations or affiliated Leagues, or shall be terminated or suspended pending appeal. The individual

does have a right to appeal to the KidSafe Appeals Committee, as follows: If, as a result of the above referenced screening process, one is denied, terminated, or suspended pending appeal, that individual, hereinafter, “the Appellant”, shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Director by submitting a written request for such appeal within ten (10) days of postmark date of notice of termination, denial, or suspension, or within ten (10) days of such notice if hand delivered to the Appellant. Failure to appeal within the allowable time period shall be considered a waiver of appeal and the decision for termination, denial, or suspension shall stand. If an appeal is timely requested, the Executive Director shall arrange for a hearing within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the appeal request or as soon as practicable thereafter, but in no event more than sixty (60) days after the request for appeal is made unless both the Appellant and the Executive Director agree in writing. Once the hearing is requested, the individual will be provided a copy of the DCJIS policy concerning correcting one’s record or a link to the web site for the policy.

3.06. Appeal Process Guidelines.

- 3.06.1. The hearings shall remain confidential; there shall be one official tape transcript of the hearing, kept and recorded by the Committee. Any exhibits submitted by the Appellant shall be returned to the Appellant with the decision. Copies of those exhibits shall be retained in the hearing file.
- 3.06.2. At the hearing the Appellant may have a counsel present. The Appellant may call witnesses, which witnesses shall remain sequestered until called. The Appellant should be prepared to present his/her case within sixty (60) minutes. The hearing chair shall have the discretion to extend the time if needed and reserves the right to question the Appellant or witnesses during the sixty (60) minutes.
- 3.06.3. If the hearing panel upholds the decision to disqualify and prohibit the Appellant’s participation in Mass Youth Soccer activities, the Appellant shall have the right to appeal that decision to the US Soccer National Appeals Committee.
- 3.06.4. If no further appeal is exercised by the Appellant, the file (including the tape transcription) shall be retained at the Mass Youth Soccer office for one year from the date of the hearing and then destroyed. Thereafter, only a record that the hearing took place and the decision rendered shall be kept in a secure file at the Mass Youth Soccer office. That record shall be kept for seven (7) years.
- 3.06.5. If the right of appeal from the Hearing Panel’s decision is exercised by the Appellant, the entire file shall be retained for one year after all avenues of an appeal (including litigation) are exhausted. After one year, the file and tape will be destroyed except for any decision and

appellate decision in possession of Mass Youth Soccer, which shall be kept for seven (7) years. The Appellant shall have the responsibility of notifying the Executive Director of any reversal of the Hearing Panel's decision by a higher appellate or court authority.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYING RULES

- 4.01. Player Eligibility. Mass Youth Soccer eligibility is governed by USSF rules, and to the extent applicable; USYS rules on: registration and fees; age limit definitions and roster limitations; player transfer and release; senior trial games; international players and/or other rules, policies, and procedures as may be applicable.
- 4.02. Multiple Rostering. Multiple rostering permits a player to play for more than one team during the same playing season, only as provided in this section.

A player may be rostered to not more than two (2) Mass Youth Soccer affiliated teams during a playing season if the player is age appropriate to play U-14 and younger.

A player may not be rostered to more than one team during a playing season if the player is age appropriate to play U-15 and older with the following exceptions:

1. A player on a team playing in the Massachusetts Premier League (MAPLE), Massachusetts Soccer Conference (MASC), or the New England Premiership (NEP) whose league team does not enter National Championship Series play (i.e., State Cup) may be rostered to another team for National Championship Series play only.
2. A player may be placed on a state roster called a "TOURNAMENT TEAM ONLY ROSTER" without the need for multiple rostering. A TOURNAMENT TEAM exists only for the duration of a tournament and is NOT the player's primary team. For purposes of this rule, MTOC is a competition, not a tournament.

The following rules shall apply to all players, irrespective of age:

1. A player can play on only one team entered in National Championship Series play in a soccer year, regardless of the state in which that competition is played.
2. Within the entirety of the MTOC eligible affiliated Leagues, a player can play on only one team during a playing season. A player may not play in two separate MTOC eligible affiliated Leagues at the same time, in the same season.
3. A player may play on only one (1) team in a competition