

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
OF
Taunton Youth Soccer League, Inc. (TYSL)



1. Introduction

To support the growth, stability, and effective management of our league, these policies and procedures have been established to ensure consistent practices across the organization. They outline how the club operates and help prevent misunderstandings by clearly documenting expectations and processes.

These policies and procedures are developed and updated by the Board of Directors and define how the league is run, how decisions are made, and how issues are resolved. All members of the league are expected to follow them.

As situations and circumstances change, these policies and procedures are reviewed annually and may be revised as needed. Any updates will be communicated to all league members.

2. League Mission and Affiliations

Welcome to Taunton Youth Soccer (TYS).

Founded in 1983 and based in Taunton, MA, TYS is dedicated to fostering, promoting, and developing the game of soccer for youth within the city. Through comprehensive training sessions and games conducted in a fun and safe environment, we strive to help players build strong soccer skills, deepen their understanding of the game, and most importantly, develop a lifelong passion for soccer.

TYS is affiliated with the **Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (Mass Youth Soccer):**

Massachusetts Youth Soccer

512 Old Union Turnpike

Lancaster, MA 01523

www.mayouthsoccer.org

TYS complies with the authority of Mass Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer (USYS), and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). To the extent permitted by law:

- TYS and its members shall abide by the articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and requirements of Mass Youth Soccer, USYS, and USSF.
- These governing documents and policies supersede conflicting TYS documents and decisions.

TYS is governed by its **Articles of Organization, Rules and Policies**, any procedures adopted by league leadership, and all applicable rules of Mass Youth Soccer, USYS, USSF, and the South Coast Soccer League.

3. Registration

3.1. Registration Guidelines

Registrations for new players are welcome at all times and are accepted based on availability. Tryouts for the competitive program are typically held at the end of the current season (e.g., Fall Travel tryouts follow the Spring Travel season, and vice versa).

All other programs will open for registration as advertised through email and Facebook and will remain available until they reach capacity or until registration closes.

Parents/guardians must create an account on the TYS website, register their child(ren), and agree to the player participation waiver before taking part in any TYS activities.

3.2. Registration Fee

Registration fees must be paid on time to maintain a roster spot. Failure to pay may result in the spot being assigned to another player. Fees include practices, games, and a uniform.

Fees do not include:

- Additional indoor practice time
- Tournament fees
- Indoor winter leagues
- Cleats, shin guards, ball, and shorts for recreational players
- Shirts for clinics unless otherwise noted
- Transportation to or from practices, games, or clinics (the league will cover ferry ride fees for Coaches, Team Manager, and Players when traveling to/from Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard)

3.3. Registration Refund Policy

TYS has a strict **no-refund policy**. Refunds are only issued under specific circumstances.

- If a child cannot be placed on a team, the full registration fee will be refunded.
- Refund requests for injury or illness may be considered at the sole discretion of the organization.
- No refunds are issued once the season begins.
- Approved refunds will not include the online processing fee.

3.4. Uniforms

All travel players must have a properly fitting travel uniform for both Fall and Spring seasons. Uniforms may be reused if they match the current style. A \$25 registration discount will be applied for travel players who already own a properly fitting current travel uniform.

Uniform kits include:

- **Travel:** 1 jersey, shorts, socks
- **Recreation:** 1 jersey, socks

There are no refunds for incorrect sizes or misspelled names. TYS will make every effort to provide appropriately sized shirts for clinics, leagues, and recreational programs, but size exchanges cannot be accommodated. TYSL can not cover the cost of lost, stolen, or damaged uniforms.

4. Practices

4.1. Expectations

Coaches and players are expected to arrive on time and come prepared with water and appropriate training attire. Coaches must bring all necessary equipment.

Practice schedules and field assignments are posted as early as possible; however, they may change due to weather, field availability, or other factors.

Unless closed due to extreme weather conditions as defined by Mass Youth Soccer's weather policy, practices continue rain or shine. Practices may be canceled during heavy rain to protect field conditions.

5. Teams

5.1. Tryouts

Tryouts are held before each travel season (Fall and Spring). Sessions are posted on the website, emailed to families, and shared on social media. Players must register online and agree to the participation waiver. All players must bring shin guards, soccer cleats, and water.

Tryouts are required unless an excused absence (illness, pre-planned travel, or school event) is communicated in advance. If a team does not have enough players for a specific age group the League may try and recruit additional players after the conclusion of tryouts.

5.2. Team Assignments

Players are assigned based on age/grade, tryout results, and coach evaluations. In some cases, players may be moved to an older age group if recommended by the coaching staff. Each age group may have multiple teams.

5.3. Team Expectations

Players are expected to attend all games and practices, follow the rules, display respect for teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents, and demonstrate positive sportsmanship.

All participants must follow the Mass Youth Soccer **Codes of Conduct**. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

6. Games

Games provide critical learning, development, and competitive experience. Most games and tournaments occur on weekends. Travel teams should expect to travel throughout Massachusetts, including the Cape and Islands.

Coaches may register teams for indoor winter leagues (additional fee) or tournaments.

Playing time guidelines:

- **Grade 4 and under:** Should play at least half of each game, with adjustments based on attitude, attendance, and performance.
- **Grade 5 and up:** Should play at least 25% of each game. Playing time may increase or decrease based on attitude, attendance, and performance.

7. Weather

Practices and games take place only when conditions are safe. TYS follows the guidance below:

Heat Index

- **Up to 89°F:** Normal practices/games
- **90–105°F:** Shortened sessions and additional water breaks
- **105°F and above:** Practices/games suspended

Cold Index

- **46°F and above:** Normal practices/games
- **45°F and below:** Extra layers allowed
- **35°F and below:** Practices/games suspended

8. Coaching

8.1. Coaching Expectations

Coaches play a crucial role in player development and represent the league both on and off the field. Coaches are expected to:

- Model professionalism and respect
- Maintain a positive and encouraging coaching style
- Be prepared, knowledgeable, and punctual
- Provide constructive feedback
- Complete all required MYS registrations, CORI checks, and trainings

Coaches must remain at the field until all players have been picked up. All coaches must complete concussion training every two years.

Coaches may **not** transport a minor athlete alone and may **not** engage in one-on-one electronic communication with a minor athlete outside of group messages or communications that include the athlete's parent or guardian.

9. Parent Expectations

Parents play a vital role in creating a positive soccer experience.

Parents are expected to:

- Drop off and pick up players on time
- Inform coaches of relevant health issues, including concussions (doctor clearance required to return)
- Cheer positively for both teams

- Support players, referees, and coaches
- Avoid vulgar, inappropriate, or derogatory language
- Register and pay fees on time
- Encourage effort and sportsmanship
- Understand that equal playing time is not always possible
- Follow the 24-hour “cool down” period when addressing concerns

Parents are also expected to help maintain a safe and welcoming complex by refraining from smoking or vaping, leaving pets at home, parking only in designated spots, and disposing of trash properly.

10. Attendance

Players are expected to attend all games and mandatory practices. Weekly practices are mandatory for travel players and strongly encouraged for recreational players. Attendance may impact future travel team placement.

Coaches are expected to attend all practices and games. If unavailable, coaches must follow league protocol for identifying an appropriate replacement. If no qualified individual is available, the team may be required to forfeit.

11. Conflict Resolution Policy

TYS strives to support players’ development and address concerns fairly. However, not all concerns can be resolved to every participant’s satisfaction.

A 24-hour “cool down” period is required before addressing any conflict.

Procedures:

- Concerns related to practices or coaching should first be discussed with the player's coach at an appropriate time.
- If unresolved, concerns should be documented in writing and submitted to the Director of Travel or Director of Recreation.
- Concerns related to league operations or policies should be submitted in writing to the League President.

TYS follows the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association **Procedures for Disciplinary Actions, Appeals, Grievances, and Complaints**.

Approved and Adopted - January 7, 2026