



CHELMSFORD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Travel Coaching Guide

ROSTERS / PLAYER NOTIFICATION

All coaches and players get notified at the same time through the team posting process in the Blue Sombrero system. It is always a good idea after teams are announced for the coach to reach out via email to their team.

PRACTICES

Coaches submit practice day requests as part of the volunteer process and to confirm their preferences coaches will be contacted (via email) by the Field Assignor for requests about 4 weeks prior to the first game of the season. **Practice night assignments are not managed by the Travel Directors.** The Field Assignor will ask for your top 2 preferences for practice nights and times. CYSA will do it's best to accommodate requests; practice slots will be honored on a first come first serve basis. The more teams the more difficult it will be to get your first preference. All practice/training schedules can be found in your team pages and the complete schedule for all CYSA can be found on the [CYSA Calendar](#)

Travel coaches generally run two 1.5 hour practices per week, consisting of warm-up, stretching, technical and tactical drills, scrimmage, and a cool-down. It is valuable to plan ahead and have the drills in each practice concentrate on an individual topic (e.g. footwork, defending, passing, shooting...etc.). Keep the practice session moving, maximizing the participation of the players (avoid drills where players wait for their turns for extended periods of time, such as line drills). Also, go over the common set plays such as goal kicks, kickoffs, and corner kicks so the players know what to do during the game. Having one or more assistants at practice help minimize down time between drills. It is important to always have at least a second adult at practice (in addition to the coach) in case an emergency should arise. Only CYSA-registered players should participate in practices since they are the only ones covered by MYSA insurance. Please refer to the Coach's Practice Guide for assistance.

PLAYER PLAYING TIME POLICY

Players participating in weekly practices must play a minimum of 40% of the game that week, except for injuries or disciplinary actions. Playing time is determined by the coach's discretion for those players who do not participate in any weekly practices.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS

Each season coaches will be provided with a medical release document by the Travel Director. This document must be kept with you at all times in case of player injury. Before any player can practice or play a game one of the parents of each player must sign this document on the appropriate line for that player.

FIELD PERMITS

Each season coaches will be provided with a field permit by the Travel Director. This document must be kept with you at all times in case you get questioned on the use of a field.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

Please check the field before games and practices for any potential hazards to the players.

For Home games, if you are the first game of the day for that field, you need to set up the corner flags.

Corner flags are located in the equipment box at each field.

The equipment box is locked – combination is 1225.

If you are the final game please return all flags back to the equipment box and lock it.

ROSTERS REQUIREMENTS FOR GAMES

For travel soccer games you must have 2 copies of your official MYSL roster to provide to the referee prior to the start of each game (1 for the referee to keep and 1 for the opposing coach). The referee will give you back a roster from the other team and this roster will have the referee's name on it. You will need this later to submit your referee evaluation – please do not lose it – see next section for referee evaluations. If you do not provide two rosters to the referee you will forfeit the game.

RESCHEDULING GAMES

If you are the home coach and need to reschedule a game, you are responsible for coordinating the rescheduling process and need to follow these steps:

1. Offer 3 alternative dates to your opposing coach within 7 days of the original game. Try to use your practice nights. **In the spring Sunday make up games are only allowed for U10. All others must be done at night during the week. This requirement is due to MYSL providing game referees, not CYSA. When scheduling games on Sundays make sure the game time offered matches the standard game times: 9:00AM, 10:30AM, 12:00PM, 1:30PM & 3:00PM.**
2. Once you have an agreed to date and time, you will need to confirm the following: **(please refer to the game number from the schedule in your messages):**
Field availability with our Field Assignor, Brian Kobrenski (field_assignor@chelmsfordyouthsoccer.com)
 - **Fall Season - all Age groups and Spring U10**
 - Referee availability with CYSA Referee Director, Jim Jordan (referees@chelmsfordyouthsoccer.com OR cysareferee@gmail.com)
 - **Spring Season - U12 and up**
 - Referee availability with your MYSL Age Director
3. Once you have received the OK for the game day, time, field availability and referee assignment then you need to notify the following people at least three days prior to the game **(again, refer to the game number from the schedule)**
4. Use the link from the email sent by MYSL to the Home coach.
Clicking the link and having agreement from the away coach does NOT guarantee you a field to play on or referees to officiate your game. Prior to using the link in the email from MYSL, Brian and Jim must give you approval.
5. Follow the MYSL process using the link below.

[MYSL Reschedule Process](#)

Make up games take precedent over all practices and coaches will be informed if they need to move their practice to accommodate a make up game. Make up games should only be scheduled on your practice field.

ENSURING GAME SCORING IS UNDER CONTROL (GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP)

CYSA wants to ensure a high level of sportsmanship at all of our travel games. If a game you are coaching is not competitive and the score differential reaches 6 goals we expect all coaches to take the following steps to keep the game under control. CYSA does not want to embarrass the opposing team.

1. Remove a player from the field to play one player down.
2. Inform all players on your team not to shoot and play ball control/keep away. Treat this as an opportunity to move the ball from side to side and backwards versus just going forward all the time.
3. If there is an obvious shooting opportunity do not embarrass the other team by not shooting, but instead make sure everyone on the team is aware that they can only shoot with their weak foot.
4. Play kids in positions that they normally do not play, treat this as a development opportunity.
5. If all else fails take another player off the field to play 2 players down.

CYSA never wants to see any Chelmsford team winning any game by double digits. If this occurs the coach is open to disciplinary actions.

I understand that my taking players off the field limits the kid's opportunity to play, but they are not learning much in these types of games anyway and we must think about the other team and how they feel with being on the losing end of a lopsided game.

This type of situation does not occur that often, but when and if it does be prepared. If the score starts to get closer, a 4 goal differential, then you can go back to full strength.

PASSCARDS (SPRING ONLY)

Player and coach identification is defined by the USSF and MYSA, and this ID is called a passcard. Passcards are required only in the spring season. Passcards are required for all travel coaches and for players U12 and above. The Travel Directors require an electronic photos for players and coaches to create these passcards. These photos will be requested as part of the spring travel soccer registration process. Coaches should hold all player passcards and provide them to the player at the start of each game to provide to the referee. Make sure you collect all player passcards at the end of each game.

COACH'S MEETING

There is typically a coach's meeting that occurs prior to the start of each season. This is a required meeting for all coaches. If a head coach can not attend then an assistant coach must attend in their absence. The coach's meeting will provide an overview of the upcoming season by MYSL, hand out passcards for the spring season only; provide direction on how to get rule info and league contact information, communicate the league's zero-tolerance behavior policy and a quick overview of the CYSA web site and tools for coaches. The meeting typically lasts less than 1 hour and takes place within 2 to 3 weeks of the first game of that season.

EQUIPMENT

Coaches equipment provided by CYSA includes: Soccer Balls: (#4 for U10-U12 or #5 for U14-U19) - 2 game balls + a few practice balls (optional – players should be encouraged to bring their own); Pinnies: At least enough to field an entire line should the other team's colors resemble ours (**home team is responsible for changing colors**) - 5 for U10, 10 for other age groups; Cones: About 10-12 of flat and tall; First Aid Kit; Goalie Gloves (most regular goalies should have their own gloves, particularly in the older age groups); Keeper Jersey. The Equipment Manager will contact coaches for equipment pick up and return. You can work directly with the Equipment manager to meet all of your equipment needs.

GAME SCHEDULES / CONTACTING OPPOSING TEAM COACHES

Games schedules can be found online at [MYSL Schedule](#). Use the filters to get the schedule for your league, division and team. Once you determine your game schedule, you should contact the coaches from the opposing teams to confirm game dates, times, and locations. This schedule link should also be sent to your team so they will always have access to the latest schedule. If you click on the '?' in the online schedule, it will expand showing all coach names, contact info and directions.

PARENTS / PLAYERS

It is particularly important to communicate MYSL's zero tolerance behavior policy for parents (and coaches) and to receive an acknowledgement of receipt such that the coach is not held responsible should any unacceptable parent behavior occur. (It is MYSL policy that the head coach is responsible for controlling the conduct of his team – including parents!). In addition, for games please make sure that parents sit on the opposite side of the field from the players. They can not sit behind either goal or on the same side as the players.

In addition, please make sure all players show respect to teammates, coaches, referees and other teams. This includes inappropriate behavior during games and practices like swearing, talking back, bad sportsmanship, etc. All players represent CYSA and how they act is a direct reflection on the CYSA program. CYSA takes great pride in its reputation within the MYSL program.

REFEREE EVALUATIONS

After each game you are required to submit a referee evaluation. This is done online and you will receive a reminder the day after your game to submit this. You can access this link by clicking on the [Referee Evaluation link](#). This is very important as it provides constructive feedback about each referee for their development. It is also important to provide positive feedback when you have good refereeing. For this evaluation you need the game # which can be found on your MYSL schedule. By entering the game number most of the information will automatically be filled out for you.

If you have a home game with a Chelmsford Center referee and the referee did a poor job please do not fill out the on line evaluation but instead contact the CYSA referee director via email directly to detail the issues so it can be addressed within the Chelmsford soccer program. (referees@chelmsfordyouthsoccer.com)

SCORING THE GAME

After each game you must score the game. The day after your game you will receive an email from MYSL – Sports Manager to score the game. This email will have a link embedded in it to allow you to score the game. If you do not get this email, it means that the game has already been scored by the opposing coach. You can go to the [schedule](#) or [standings](#) area in the MYSL web site to validate the score. If the score is not correct please contact your [MYSL age director](#) about the discrepancy.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Each season coaches are asked to evaluate the players on their team. This should NOT be done in a vacuum. The best way to evaluate players accurately is to get input from your assistant coaches. These evaluations are extremely important since they will be used in future seasons to better place players on the appropriate teams. These evaluations in conjunction with their Tryout/Assessment results will determine the player placement on future teams. If the coach evaluation and Tryout/Assessment scores are significantly different, the Travel Coordinator will contact the coach to resolve the discrepancy. The latest player evaluation form with all instructions on how to fill it out will be provided to the coaches about half way through each season by the Travel Director. Please take adequate time to do a thorough evaluation and make sure you add comments about each player.

HELPFUL COACHING LINKS

Cool moves to teach players - <http://www.vogelsoccermastery.com/video-clips-of-professional-soccer-moves/>
MYSA Coach's Corner - http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/coach's_corner.aspx
EZTeams activities - <http://www.eteamz.com/soccer/pills/jpill.htm>
Mo Yacoobali's training notes - http://chelmsfordyouthsoccer.com/training/Mo_Training_Notes.pdf
USYS Lesson Plans - http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/coaches/CoachConnect_LessonPlans.asp
SoccerXpert - <http://www.soccerxpert.com/soccertips/id1228.aspx>
Footy4kids - <http://www.footy4kids.co.uk/soccer-coaching-practice-plans.htm>
Soccerclinics.com - <http://soccerclinics.com/Drills/Drill14.html>
SureFire Practice Plans - <http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Portals/921/docs/MNSA%20Docs/42Drills.pdf>
Ramona Soccer Plans - <http://www.ramonasoccer.com/matt-callahan-drills.html>

Roles within the Make Up Process

CYSA Vice president – person responsible for updating Sports Manager for your new game date and time – Home Team is responsible for updating Sports Manager

MYSL Age Director – Responsible for approving the make up game time and day as well as requesting a Center Referee through MYSL (Spring games U12 and older)

CYSA Referee Director – responsible for assigning Center Referee for all U10 games and for fall games U12 and older) and ARs (Assistant Referees) to all the games every season (U12 and older)

CYSA Field Assignor – responsible for checking field availability for the make-up, scheduling the game, and informing other CYSA teams that practice/train on that day about the make up and what is required to accommodate practice/training space due to the make up.

For the spring with MYSL assigning center referees to all U12 and older games, make ups are only allowed on week day nights with starting time of 6 PM or later. U10 games are managed at the local, town level and have more flexibility. Therefore these make up games can also be scheduled on Sundays as long as referees are available to support the game.

SAMPLE COACH LETTER

Hi everyone,

My name is _____ and I am coaching the _____ team. The best way to get in touch with me for questions is through email at _____. I can also be reached at Home: _____ or on my mobile phone: _____.

Assistant 1 and Assistant 2 will also be coaching this season.

Team Philosophy

Never forget that the game of soccer is just that - a game. It's important to remember that while we play to win, winning is not our only objective. We want all of the kids to enjoy themselves, learn about soccer, and play the game with discipline and integrity. I will do my best to make sure that playing time is divided up fairly this season.

The three goals for the team this season are:

- 1.) Have fun
- 2.) Develop the players as individuals
- 3.) Develop the players as a team

Practices

For practices please arrive 10 minutes early so that we can get started on time and get a full practice in. If you arrive late for practice it can be disruptive to the other players and the activities/games we are doing. Losing just 10 minutes of practice time per week results in players losing hundreds of touches on the soccer ball over the course of the season. The more we practice as a team the better we will play as a team.

Practice Days and Times

_____ and _____ from _____ to _____ (_____ Field).

Games

For the games please arrive 30 minutes early so we can get warmed up, get checked in by the referee and so the players can get their instructions and positions.

If for some reason you cannot attend a game, please be sure to let me know in advance. This will allow me to better prepare for each game and not have to make last minute adjustments.

During the games please do not yell out things to the players trying to coach them. It is important that they get direction only from the coaches; otherwise they can get confused by getting different instructions. Please cheer for the players; I am sure that will help motivate them. In addition, please refrain from yelling at the referee. Most of the referees are very young and are doing their best. It is the coach's job to talk to the referee to resolve any issues and to ensure the safety of the players. It has been my experience that most of the referees do a very good job.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year.

Thanks
Coach Name