

## Madison Area Youth Soccer Association's Club Best Practices Recommendations

**Objective:** To create a better youth soccer environment by encouraging “best practices” amongst MAYSA-affiliated clubs in the areas of player development, coach development, parent education and club administration.

### I. Player Development – The primary role of a club and coach is to develop players

- A. Club recognizes and generally adheres to US Soccer Federation Best Practices\*.
- B. Club maintains and implements an age appropriate player development curriculum.
  - Age appropriate training themes
  - Nutrition and goal safety education
  - Fitness, agility, coordination & balance training
- C. U6 to U12 players play games in age-appropriate small-sided format.
  - 3v3/4v4 for U6
  - 4v4 for U8
  - 6v6 for U9/10
  - 8v8 for U11/12
- D. U6-U12 players are trained utilizing small-sided training methods and a “player centered” focus. That is, coach-guided rather than coach-directed.
- E. If using the Club Pass option the club must exercise this flexibility for the sole purpose of enhancing player development.

### II. Coach Development – Coaches must put player development and “The Game” above all else

- A. Club has a clearly-defined Director of Coaching with a minimum of a US Soccer “C” License or NSCAA National Diploma and/or US Soccer Youth License.
- B. All coaches – head & assistant – have obtained the minimum license (WYSA Y1) and have an up to date WYSA Coach Pass. All competitive coaches have obtained, at minimum, an “E” License.
- C. Coaching staff adheres to MAYSA’s Zero Tolerance Policy Towards Referees and requires the same of their players & parent group.

### III. Parent Education – Supportive, positive and catching players doing good

- A. The club conducts meetings each season (or by team) to educate parents about the game of soccer, the Laws of The Game and expectations for their child’s long-term participation in soccer.
- B. The club implores parents to not coach from the sidelines.
- C. The club and team share & promote information provided by MAYSA & WYSA.
- D. The club educates parents about the WYSA Olympic Development Program & Centers for Excellence.
- E. The club does not discriminate against family/child based on ability to pay fees and demonstrates outreach.

### IV. Club Administration – Leadership & a positive culture starts at the top with an active & engaged Board

- A. The club is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and has filed its most recent Form 990 and maintained up to date Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions Records.
- B. The club has & implements a comprehensive Risk Management Plan that addresses, at minimum, the following:
  - Financial risk management
  - Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Background checks for all adults (18+) who plan to have significant contact with children or club funds
  - Goal Safety Plan
  - Severe Weather Policy
- C. The club submits player registrations and payments efficiently and on time each season.
- D. Ensures that all players, parents & coaches are aware of and adhere to MAYSA Code of Conduct.
- E. 100% of club players are registered with MAYSA.
- F. Maintains and regularly updates a website.
- G. Contact information for Board members and key operational staff are on file with MAYSA and publicly available on its website along with adequate details of fee structure for player participation/membership.
- H. Board meetings are made open to members and meeting minutes are posted/shared on club website.
- I. Provides representation by a Club Officer at MAYSA & WYSA AGM.
- J. Actively promotes referee courses amongst its membership.
- K. Provides clear and appropriate channels of communication for all intra-Club, MAYSA, and WYSA issues.
- L. Is aware of and adheres to MAYSA’s policies regarding player recruitment and discourages recruitment of any kind amongst players, parents & coaches.
- M. Markets itself in a positive manner by not disparaging other clubs, organizations or institutions.

\*Please note: Many of the resources and information to help clubs comply with Best Practices can be found at [www.maysa.org](http://www.maysa.org) within the Resource Center section.