



# Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

## Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Club-Parent Communications

**INTRODUCTION:** MSYSA is aware that these are unprecedented times – both in youth soccer and in life. There is a lot of uncertainty, and while MSYSA cannot tell you when the pandemic will pass and what life will look like then, we can provide some answers on what clubs can and cannot do when it comes to forming their travel teams for the 2020-2021 seasonal year.

In general, clubs and players/families should have the ability to connect with each other before entering into a year-long player registration contact. It is important that information such as club associated fees, calendar commitments, training location(s), games/travel distances, tournaments, coach qualifications/assignments, and how a player may ‘fit in’ be communicated by clubs and considered by families when selecting a club. In the absence of a physical tryout, this communication will likely be done virtually.

It is our hope that this policy will assist clubs in knowing what types of communications are considered okay and which types of communications should be avoided.

### **GENERAL RESTRICTIONS:**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person tryouts, player trainings, assessments, open practices, etc. are not sanctioned, approved, or insured. However, virtual tryouts, evaluations, assessments, and trainings that are under the supervision of a club staff member and a parent/guardian will be covered under MSYSA insurance.

Organizations/Clubs are permitted to guarantee roster spots to EXISTING members of their club beginning June 1, 2020.

Organizations/Clubs are permitted to guarantee roster spots to potential NEW players (not existing member of the club) beginning June 13, 2020.

Read the chart below for examples of communications/activities that are permitted by clubs and examples of communications/activities that are not permitted. This is not a comprehensive list and items may be added to the list at any time. If you have questions about whether certain communications/activities are permitted or not, please contact [StateOffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org](mailto:StateOffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org).



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Permitted by Organizations/Clubs	NOT Permitted by Organizations/Clubs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poll existing players to see what their intentions are for 2020-2021. However, clubs should be very careful not to state, guarantee, or imply any sort of commitment to the player/family for the next seasonal year, nor can they collect payment for the next seasonal year (prior to June 1).</li> <li>• Offer roster spots or otherwise commit to EXISTING players beginning June 1</li> <li>• Commit EXISTING players to the club beginning June 1 via verbal or written statements, collecting fees, registration forms, etc.</li> <li>• Offer roster spots or otherwise commit new players beginning June 13</li> <li>• Commit new players to the club beginning June 13 via verbal or written statements, collecting fees, registration forms, etc.</li> <li>• Commit players to the CLUB (in the timeframe indicated above) instead of to specific teams. However, MSYSA strongly recommends that this be made very clear with the player/family as well as how the club plans to ultimately place players on specific teams.</li> <li>• Accept and respond to inquiries from players/families inside and outside the club at any time</li> <li>• Allow prospective families to sign up for email or mail communications regarding the club</li> <li>• Allow prospective families to sign up for “virtual tryouts” provided that:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The player/family MUST initiate the sign-up process</li> <li>2. There is no fee involved</li> <li>3. Virtual tryouts do not occur until June 1 for existing players or June 13 for new players</li> <li>4. Clubs cannot commit to potential new players/families until June 13</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct or facilitate in-person tryouts of any size, including in-person 1 on 1 assessments.</li> <li>• “In-person” assessments above also includes ‘drive-by’ assessments where a coach (or other evaluator) drives by an area where a person is playing soccer for the purposes of evaluating or assessing that person’s soccer skills.</li> <li>• Commit existing families to the club prior to June 1 via verbal or written statements, collecting fees, collecting registration forms, etc.</li> <li>• Initiate contact with players outside your own club prior to June 13</li> <li>• Offer roster spots or otherwise commit to a NEW player prior to June 13</li> </ul>



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## Permitted by Organizations/Clubs

- Have “conversations” with players/families outside the club at any time provided that the conversation was initiated by the player/family
- “Conversations” above exclude virtual tryouts but may include telephone calls, email communication, webinars, Zoom calls, FaceTime calls, etc.....the important things to remember are:
  1. The player/family MUST initiate the communication
  2. The club MUST NOT commit to potential new players prior to June 13
- Promote online or via social media the ability for potential new players/families to have “conversations” with the club as outlined above or to submit video as noted below.
- Accept video submissions of potential new players demonstrating their skills. Clubs should do what they can to ensure videos are submitted by a parent or guardian
- Initiate contact with players/families from outside the club beginning June 13. Note: Clubs are strongly encouraged to first ask if a player has committed to another club for the 2020-2021 seasonal year. If the answer is ‘yes’, the club should cease conversations with that player/family immediately.
- Promote online or via social media the anticipated number of open roster spots within a given age group or team
- Promote online or via social media information relating to the club which may include club fees, calendar commitments, training location(s), anticipated leagues, travel expectations, tournaments, coach assignments, and coach qualifications

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