

## **Mass Youth Soccer's New Safe Soccer Platform Questions and Answers**

### **CREDENTIALS**

#### **Who must complete the requirements for the CORI/Background Check, Abuse Prevention, Concussion and Credential policy?**

All adult members, direct volunteers and employees of your organization fall under your guidance and therefore must complete the requirements.

#### **Who is included in the definition of members and volunteers?**

The following people/roles are included:

- Coaches (all types)
- Team Managers, including designated team parents assigned team management responsibilities
- Board members (Officers, Directors, Administrators, Committee Chairs, Appointees, etc.)
- Referees (Note: All USSF Referees will complete their CORI registration through MSRC).
- Trainers (Permanent or Temporary)
- Volunteers
- Organization Employees
- Concession Workers
- Tournament Organizers, Employees, Volunteers
- And any other person age 18 or older who may have the opportunity to have direct and unmonitored access to children.

#### **Our field is owned by the Town and is lined by a Town employee. What are the expectations for enforcing the requirements in this situation?**

Town employees do not have to complete these requirements unless they are also members, direct volunteers or employees. Town employees are required by the town to attend certain trainings.

#### **Our landscaper (and the two previous landscapers) has daily migrant workers cutting the grass. What are the expectations for enforcing the requirements in this situation?**

Same as for town employees. However, you must make sure your landscaper provides your organization proof of insurance and lists your program as an additional insured if they are working on fields you own outright. You should also have them complete background checks if these workers will be working on the property while there are children there without any other adult supervision.

#### **We have Porta-Potties delivered weekly by an outside vendor. What are the expectations for enforcing the requirements in this situation?**

Same as for the landscaper.

**On picture day, there are up to six photographers taking photos. What are the expectations for enforcing the requirements in this situation?**

Same as for the landscaper, but even more important with people like this who work very close with children, you must make sure they are all background checked by the employer. As a best practice, you should have an adult/board member on site whose sole purpose is to monitor activities during photo shoots.

**Ice Cream trucks routinely park in the town-owned parking lot. What are the expectations for enforcing the requirements in this situation?**

If you have not contracted for the trucks, all you can do is ask the town to make sure all of these vendors are properly permitted, which should include background checks.

**If a volunteer doesn't have direct contact with children (e.g., they are lining or maintaining fields when no children are present) are they required to register and go through the background process?**

The key phrase in the definition of members and volunteers provided above is “*may have* the opportunity to have direct and unmonitored access to children.” Please note the emphasis on the words “*may have*.” If the individual lining the fields is an employee (hired or volunteer) of the organization, they are considered “covered individuals” and must comply with the requirements. The next factor to consider is who owns the fields. If the member organization owns the fields and these individuals are employees of another entity (e.g., contractor, town, school, etc.), they are not required to comply with our requirements, but the hiring organization must make sure they have been properly cleared by their employer and the employer demonstrates they have proper insurance coverage and provides the member organization with a Certificate of Insurance listing the organization as an additional insured. If the member program is using the fields by lease, permit or granted permission, and these individuals are employees of another entity, they are not required to comply with our requirements, but the hiring organization must make sure they have been properly cleared by their employer.

## **ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING**

**I've already taken the Safe Sport Training course and have my certificate as a PDF. What should I do with it?**

At this time, as we move over to the Stack Sports system, your record in Affinity will not be updated. Once we make the move to Stack Sports, the adult records will be updated to reflect your completion of the course. For now, hold on your certificate as a PDF in your computer. When time comes, you can easily upload and update your record.

**As an organization, how will we know when an adult completes the SafeSport training? Will it be tied into the new system from Stack Sports?**

The Club Connect system of US Soccer Connect system from Stack Sports will manage all adult registrations (paid or volunteering) and credential requirements. Stack Sports is in the process of developing a data sharing (API) feed to facilitate this data exchange. In the meantime, when an adult takes the course, they will be issued a certificate which they will be able to upload into Club Connect.

We will use a similar tracking method to manage background checks (CORI, SORI and National) and concussion training.

**Can individual coaches provide a certificate of alternative training from, say, Catholic Archdiocese or Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts?**

At this time, the Abuse Prevention Training from SafeSport is the only acceptable training and training provided by other sources will not be sufficient. There may be some broader training in the future.

**Will adults be required to take all three SafeSport Training courses (Sexual Misconduct Awareness, Mandatory Reporting, and Emotions Physical Misconduct)?**

Yes, all three are required. All three programs make up the total Abuse Prevention Course. It is possible that all three programs will be combined into just one course in the future to simplify the process.

**Based on the policy, it appears the SafeSport education requirement is mandatory by September 1, 2019. Can you confirm?**

YES, the SafeSport training for adults is now mandatory (was optional starting February of 2018) and must be completed before the adult can be involved in soccer starting September 1, 2019.

**Based on previous communications, it appears there are no changes in the CORI process until this coming Fall (i.e., if my CORI is valid through August 2019, then I do not need to renew/re-up my CORI credentials for this Spring Season). Can you confirm?**

There are no changes to the CORI process, but the CORI process will now be bundled with the SORI and National Checks. All three of these will have the same expiration dates. The process will be managed for adults starting in June when Stack Sports is targeted to come online for adult registrations. At that time, adults will complete a new registration using Club Connect, the town/club component of the US Soccer Connect system from Stack Sports. This registration will require adults to provide demographic information, upload a new photo, and answer all of the risk management questions. Our plan is to phase in the need for running CORI/SORI/National checks based on each adult's current CORI compliance expiration date. This will prevent the need for us to run 30,000 checks this summer. We are working on the best way to update every adult's record with their current CORI expiration date after they complete their new Stack Sports registration. If the adult has an expiration date coming up during the next soccer year (September 2019 to July 2020), we will run the new bundled checks. If their expiration date is after July 31, 2020, we will run their check at the next time it is due.

**It appears that Mass Youth Soccer provides a code for the SafeSport course. Can you confirm there is no extra cost to adults who enroll in this online course?**

The course is free.

**What is the deadline for adults to complete the training?**

All adults must complete the initial training and then the subsequent annual refresher training before every fall season starts. It would be best to have this done by August 15, thus giving enough time for credentials to be printed.

### **What is the estimated time to complete the training course?**

The initial course may take up to 1.5 hours. Please note that you can bookmark an uncompleted course and return later to complete it. The refresher course takes approximately 20-30 minutes.

### **What is the duration of certification?**

This is an annual certification

## **RISK MANAGER (Formerly CORI Submitter)**

### **What is the primary role of the Risk Manager?**

The Risk Manager:

- Oversees the MA Safe Soccer platform requirements for the town/club
- Works with Club/Town Registrar and/or Secretary to provide assistance and direction to all adults on how to complete the registration and background check process
- Completes the required ID verification process for all new registrants
- Assists Club/Town Registrar and/or Secretary in producing credentials

## **US SOCCER CONNECT FROM STACK SPORTS**

### **We just switched to a new registration system (not Stack Sports) this past fall. Will the two systems "talk" to each other?**

The systems don't directly "talk" to each other. For player registration uploads, you will be able to get the information downloaded from your registration system in the format needed to upload into US Soccer Connect using Club Connect. Adult registrations will also be separate. If the town decides to move over to Club Connect in the future, there will not be a need for separate adult and player registration processes.

## **INSURANCE**

### **How can we get additional information on what the new insurance policy will cover?**

The expansion will include coverage all year long for normal soccer activities, including the continuation of regular town, club and league play, as well as all indoor (soccer and futsal) practices and league play (in sanctioned facilities) and summer sanctioned clinics and camps. These are explained on our website at <http://www.mayouthsoccer.org/about/insurance/>. More information will be provided mid-year in preparation for the September fall season start.

### **What is a sanctioned indoor facility?**

We will commence the process of sanctioning indoor facilities this summer. We will be looking for facilities that have been established for the purpose of indoor sports and have a history of being used for soccer. We will not sanction a facility such as an empty garage or warehouse or something similar.

**Does it cover board member and coach's personal liability?**

All insurance policies will be expanded, not just Excess Medical.

**We run informal soccer activities, pickup games, position-specific training, and some recruiting events during the summer where we provide general coaching and play some games. Are those types of activities covered?**

Training will be covered as long as those who are not currently members of the soccer organization sign a waiver that they are not members and thus not covered by any policies. It is always easiest to have them become a member, even if it's just for the summer. Outdoor games must be a part of a sanctioned league or league affiliated with any US Soccer recognized member. This means all players must be registered and insured with a governing body. Games played as a scrimmage after a training session are considered training.

**We make frequent use of our schools for practice space and the school system requires we provide proof of insurance on an annual basis. Does the policy provide for additional third-party certificates?**

Yes, we will issue COIs as needed for approved activities.

**Our soccer program has an additional insurance policy to cover most of those activities, but if the Mass Youth Soccer policy covers them then can we eliminate a cost and reduce the impact of the fee increase on our registration amounts?**

It is always a good idea to have additional coverage where needed. If you assess that all of the relevant activities will now be covered by your member's Mass Youth Soccer affiliation, then the decision is up to your organization of what do to with additional coverage.