



## Michigan State Premier Soccer Program

9401 General Drive Suite 130  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Phone (734) 459-6650 Fax (734) 459-6664  
Web site: [www.mspsl.org](http://www.mspsl.org)



### MSPSP Calendar Birth Year Transition Policy

The MSPSP Board of Directors has adopted the following policy to support MSPSP clubs in the transition to the MSYSA and US Youth Soccer mandated calendar birth year registration. This policy will be effective for the Fall 2016 season (August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016). MSPSP will be registering teams in age groups of U13-U19 High School Open.

#### Rule Changes:

Additions to the Rules and Regulations are signified by being **bolded** while subtractions are ~~struck out~~.

#### Rule 6. Age Limit Definition.

*Section 1. Youth.* The term Youth as applied to these bylaws shall mean an amateur player who has not attained his/her 19th birthday before the first day of ~~August~~ **January** of the seasonal year in which he/she applies for registration.

*Section 2. Attaining Age Limit.* Players attaining the limiting age for any age group on or after ~~August~~ **January 1st**, will be eligible to play for the remainder of the seasonal year.

*Section 3. Reinstated Player.* A reinstated player shall mean a player who has been reinstated to an amateur youth status.

#### *Section 4. Age Groups.*

- (1) Eligibility for age groups shall be determined by a player's age on ~~August~~ **January 1st** of the seasonal year.
- (2) There will be single year age group (U-13 through U-19) in both the Boys and Girls divisions when enough teams are registered to comprise a division.
- (3) If there are not at least four (4) teams registered in an age division, there will be no division for that particular age group.
- (4) No team shall be allowed to play in an age group unless a minimum of 51% of the rostered players on that team were born within the year(s) specified for that specific age group ~~(e.g. a team which rosters fifteen (15) players and wishes to play as a U-13 team must roster at least eight players who have attained the age of twelve (12) prior to August 1st of that seasonal year)~~. **Exceptions to this rule are applied at the discretion of the MSPSP Board of Directors and to the U19 High School Open age group as defined in Rule 22.**
- (5) **No team shall be allowed to roster players who are too old for the age group in which they are playing.**
- (6) No player may play up more than two (2) age divisions except as defined in Rule 22.

#### Rule 20. Team Definition.

##### *Section 1. Existing Team.*

- (1) An existing team shall be any team that has at least 51% of its players returning from the same sponsoring league from the team's roster of its previous Premier Program season. **Exceptions to this rule are applied at the discretion of the MSPSP Board of Directors and to the U19 High School Open age group as defined in Rule 22.**
- (2) A Team (winning or runners-up in the State Cup), which elects to play the National Regional League, may do so without losing their Team position in the Premier Program. When they return, they will take the place of the Team, which displaced them in the National Regional League. They may also return on their own accord and will displace the lowest placed team of the division that they were in when the Team elected to join the National Regional League.

*Section 2. New Team.* A new team is any team, which does not meet the requirements of section 1 above; regardless of whether or not that team physically played in the Premier Program in any previous playing season. New teams are subject to placement in the lowest division of a given age group. Any team may petition the MSPSP Board of Directors for divisional placement.

#### Exceptions:

The MSPSP Board of Directors has elected to give ALL clubs automatic exceptions to MSPSP Rule 6 Section 4.4 (51% age eligibility) and MSPSP Rule 20 Section 1.1 (51% team returning) for a term of three (3) seasonal years of play (2016/2017, 2017/2018, and 2018/2019).

MSPSP encourages teams to begin grouping their teams by birth year as soon as possible. By automatically issuing an exception to MSPSP Rule 20 Section 1.1 for three years, clubs will be able to keep their divisional standing even if they do not retain 51% of the previous season's roster (transitioning to calendar birth year registration immediately).

If keeping the team together is the priority for a club, the team will need to play up in competition so their oldest players are age eligible. By offering automatic exceptions to MSPSP Rule 6 Section 4.4, clubs will be able to keep teams intact and still be eligible for a given age group (this delays the transition to calendar birth registration).

**Divisioning:**

MSPSP will host a meeting prior to the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 season to foster the input of club Director's of Coaching (DOCs) on team placement for the upcoming seasons. MSPSP is anticipating a lot of team movement across age groups so the input of DOCs will be very valuable. The MSPSP Board of Directors will still ultimately determine team placement but the feedback from the DOCs will play a significant role. Specific dates and times will be released as the new season approaches.

**Club Passcarding:**

Effective in Fall 2016, Club Passcarding for ALL divisions in MSPSP will be expanded to a maximum of five (5) non-primarily rostered players per match (previously three per match). This should also give clubs increased flexibility to transition to calendar birth year teams.

**U15 Supplemental Season:**

Given that many players will now be classified as U15 and will not be eligible for high school soccer, MSPSP will be offering U15 play for boys and girls in BOTH the Fall and Spring seasons. The Primary U15 Season will be unchanged and occur opposite of the High School Season.

U15 Boys Primary Season- Spring  
U15 Girls Primary Season- Fall

The 'Supplemental Season' will be offered the same season as the high school soccer season:

U15 Boys Supplemental Season- Fall  
U15 Girls Supplemental Season- Spring

The purpose of the Supplemental Season shall be to give those players and clubs an opportunity for statewide competitive soccer when high school (or MRL) play is not offered/available. The U15 Supplemental Season shall be focused on player development opposed to results. MSPSP will register clubs (opposed to teams) for the Supplemental Season. Clubs will have the option to register for Statewide or Regional competition. The Supplemental Season shall follow the same Rules and Regulations as the primary season with the following exceptions:

- The season will be limited to 8 games per team.
- There will be no minimum roster size. Clubs will register for spots in the Supplemental Season. Clubs will be required to submit player contracts for only those players who are participating in the Supplemental Season.
- Club passcarding to U15 Supplemental divisions shall be unlimited (from eligible divisions).
- The standings for the Supplemental Season will NOT directly impact the divisions of the Primary U15 Season.
- Clubs will have the option to play small-sided games on a match-to-match basis (if agreed upon by the coaches during the scheduling period).
- Registration fees will remain unchanged. \$550.00 for new teams and \$200.00 for returning teams that played in the previous season.