



TEWKSBURY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Coach Education Standards/Reimbursement Policy

Well-educated and experienced coaches are a critical component to the successful long-term development of youth soccer players. The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and its local affiliate, Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) as well as United Soccer Coaches are all excellent resources for developing Tewksbury's Youth Soccer (TYSL) coaches. Formal coaching education granted in the form of Licenses or Diplomas by a sanctioned professional organization, combined with coaching experience and mentoring, will help build well-rounded coaches who in turn help build stronger players and consequently stronger teams.

In addition to formal coach education courses, TYSL coaches are also encouraged to: **1)** seek new on-field activities that both introduce and reinforce player learning of technical and tactical concepts; **2)** promote small-sided games as a foundation to player development; **3)** learn about proper warm-up activities and stretching for the prevention of soccer injuries and **4)** understand the Laws Of The Game. Some great information can be attained through the TYSL web site at www.tewksburyyouthsoccer.org and click on the Links page.

The coach education standards outlined below are not meant to be an obstacle nor a prerequisite to coaching a team. Instead, the standards are meant to convey reasonable expectations that TYSL has for new and existing coaches to embark upon and continue the life-long journey of learning and growing as a soccer coach, in the classroom, on their own and, ultimately, on the pitch .

Coach Education Standards:

Min Standard	U4	U5	U6	U8	U10	U12	U14	U16+
United Soccer Coaches	Foundations of Coaching	Foundations of Coaching	4 v 4	4 v 4	7 v 7 / 9 v 9	7 v 7 / 9 v 9	11 v 11	11 v 11
United Soccer Coaches	-	-	-	-	GK Level 1	GK Level 1	GK Level 1	GK Level 2
USSF	Intro to Grassroots Coaching	Intro to Grassroots Coaching	4 v 4	4 v 4	7 v 7	9 v 9	11 v 11	11 v 11



The USSF Licenses and NSCAA Diplomas cover similar content areas and therefore can be considered equivalent for the purposes of TYSL Coaching Standards. It should be noted, however, that they are distinctly different education pathways. The pathway the coach chooses is ultimately a personal preference, based on the individual's level of experience, the age groups currently being coached, the age groups the individual plans to coach in the future and the individual's affinity for a particular learning experience. It is recommended that individuals experience some elements of both pathways throughout their educational journey.

1. **Time Period for Obtaining Appropriate Coaching Standard:** A new or existing TYSL team coach is strongly encouraged to obtain the targeted minimum, age-appropriate coaching standard by the end of their 2nd season (fall and spring count as two seasons).
2. **Start of Time Period:** The suggested time period for obtaining the appropriate coaching standard commences when a new soccer coach begins their first soccer season. For example, the time period would start September 1st for a new coach starting his/her first season in the fall or April 1st for a new coach starting in the spring.

Reimbursement Policy

In order to encourage coaches to actively seek out coach education opportunities, TYSL will reimburse each coach for:

1. USSF License course tuition up to and including the National D License (subject to USSF National D License Reimbursement Conditions of Eligibility referenced herein).
2. United Soccer Coaches Diploma course tuition up to and including the 11 v 11 Diploma.
3. United Soccer Coaches Goalkeeping Diploma course tuition up to and including the Level 3 Diploma (subject to the NSCAA Goalkeeping Level 3 Diploma Reimbursement Conditions of Eligibility referenced herein).
4. United Soccer Coaches Special Topics Diploma course tuition.



Reimbursement Policy Restrictions and Limitations:

1. **Maximum Annual Tuition:** Coaches will need time to properly apply their classroom learning into their soccer training sessions. Consequently, a coach's maximum annual tuition reimbursement for all courses taken in a calendar year will be limited to \$250.00/year with the exception of the USSF National D License course and United Soccer Coaches GK 3 Diploma. The National D License and GK 3 Diploma course tuition will be reimbursed at the then-current tuition rate. However, if a coach submits reimbursement for the National D License or GK 3 Diploma course tuition, they will not be eligible for any further reimbursement of tuition for any other courses until the following calendar year. Further, National D License or GK3 Diploma course tuition may not be submitted for reimbursement if a coach has already received reimbursement for other courses during the current calendar year.

2. **USSF National D License and NSCAA Goalkeeping Level 3 Diploma Reimbursement Conditions of Eligibility:** The National D License is geared towards experienced coaches that are coaching soccer teams playing matches in the 11 v 11 format. The United Soccer Coaches Goalkeeping Level 3 Diploma is intended for those coaches working as specialist goalkeeping coaches at the team or organizational level. Coaches interested in taking the USSF National D License or the United Soccer Coaches Goalkeeping Level 3 Diploma courses are demonstrating a serious commitment of time and energy to their coaching career. TYSL wishes to encourage this commitment while also reasonably ensuring a beneficial return on the organization's investment in that coach. Therefore, the following eligibility requirements apply to USSF D and United Soccer Coaches Goalkeeping Level 3 course tuition reimbursement:
 - **USSF D:** The coach must have at least two seasons of soccer coaching experience at the U10 age group (or higher), with at least one of those two seasons at the U12 age group (or higher).
 - **USSF D:** The coach must commit to coaching at least two more seasons for TYSL at the U14 age group or higher.
 - **USSF D:** The coach will be expected to volunteer as an organizational staff coach for coach mentoring, player development clinics and player evaluation committees.
 - **United Soccer Coaches GK Level 3:** The coach must have at least two seasons of soccer coaching experience at the U10 age group (or higher) with at least one of those two seasons at the U12 age group (or higher).
 - **United Soccer Coaches GK Level 3:** The coach will be expected to volunteer as an organizational staff coach for coach mentoring (in the area of GK development), goalkeeper development clinics and player evaluation committees.

REVISED 11/13/2018

APPROVED BOD MEETING: 12/11/2018