

Kentucky Youth Soccer Mandates Coaching Education

On September 1, 2007 Kentucky Youth Soccer Board of Directors implemented a minimum coaching policy for those working with Select/Academy Soccer Players. Currently there are no minimum coaching standards for recreational coach's but Kentucky Youth Soccer Board of Directors recognizes and fully supports coaching education for all levels and would like to emphasize that there is no substitute for an educated coach.

The rationale for coaches of all age groups to hold a minimum coaching requirement is as follows.

- To increase your effectiveness as a volunteer or paid coach by enhancing your knowledge of fundamental coaching concepts such as:
 - Philosophy of Coaching
 - Age appropriate training of children
 - Prevention of injuries
 - Care of injuries
 - Team management
 - Risk Management Issues
- To protect you from civil lawsuits. If you are ever sued for an injury to one of your youth soccer players (although rare), you can present a much better legal defense as a result of being educated and trained
- To increase your knowledge on how to properly teach technique and tactics
- To ease the worry of volunteer coach's who have never played or have limited knowledge in the game
- To provide the coach with soccer related activities that will provide for a safe and fun learning environment. Instead of placing them into drills, standing in lines and running laps.

The information below is what will be a minimum coaching requirement for Club Directors of Coaching/General Manager, Select/Academy Soccer Head & Assistant Coach's. It is recommended that each coach attempts to exceed these minimum requirements.

Minimum Coaching Standards as of September 1,2007

*** Club Directors of Coaching**

Full Time Select & Recreational: USSF "C" License and USSF National Youth License

Part Time Select & Recreational: USSF "D" License and USSF National Youth License

Volunteer Select & Recreational: USSF "D" License and/or USSF National Youth License

Academy Directors: USSF "D" License and USSF National Youth License

- * A Club Director of Coaching is defined as an individual coach who is directly involved with the hiring and/or releasing of coaches for the club. Additionally, they are in charge of overall education of coaches, players and parents. These positions will play a vital role in implementing these policies on behalf of Kentucky Youth Soccer. A volunteer is defined as a person who receives no payment or expense reimbursement for their services.

*** Select/Academy Soccer Coaches**

U9 Assistant/Academy Coaches will have until September 1, 2014 to meet the new requirements listed below.

U9 Select/Academy Teams

Head Coach: USSF "E" License

Assistant Coach: US Youth Soccer Youth Technical Certificate

U10 – U19 Head & Assistant will have until September 1, 2014 to meet the new requirements listed below.

U10-U19 Select Teams

Head Coach: USSF State "D" License

Assistant Coach: USSF State "D" License

Below is the **recommendation** for Recreational Head & Assistant Coaches

All Age Groups: US Youth Soccer Youth Module and/or US Youth Soccer Technical Certificate

Minimum Coaching Standards for teams playing in the MRL

Effective July 1, 2010 (for the 2010-2011 season), the following rule has been adopted by the MRL Commission:

“Team Coaches – Licensing Requirement

Beginning in the 2010-2011 season, all coaches participating in MRL games must hold at least a US Soccer "D" License (or equivalent*) as the minimum coaching qualification.

Beginning in the 2013-2014 season, all coaches participating in MRL games must hold at least a US Soccer "C" license (or equivalent*) as the minimum coaching qualification.

*Equivalencies are based on US Soccer standards.” (See below)

At the time that a team submits an application to participate in the MRL, It should be expected that teams will be required to list all coaches (DOC, Head Coach, and Assistant Coaches) and their current coaching license status. Proof of Coaching License status will be required.

The action taken by the MRL Commission in adopting this rule follows an initiative by the US Youth Soccer Coaching Committee to upgrade the coaching education standards within its programs.

License Conversion

Candidates who have completed the equivalent of the minimum coaching requirement from a foreign country or another organization such as NSCAA can receive equivalent USSF status. A copy (no faxes or emails) must be mailed to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Director of Coach & Player Development.

The table below shows the NSCAA equivalent to the United States Soccer Federation License:

USSF License	NSCAA License
USSF “A” License	Premier Diploma
USSF “B” License	Advanced National Diploma
USSF “C” License	National Diploma
USSF “D” License	National Diploma
USSF “E” License	Advanced Regional Diploma
US Youth Technical Certificate	State Diploma
US Youth Soccer Youth Module	State Diploma

For a candidate who has completed the equivalent of the minimum coaching requirement from another US Youth Soccer State Association or has previously received coaching certification with Kentucky Youth Soccer, a copy (no faxes for emails) must be mailed to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Director of Coach & Player Development. If appropriate proof can not be provided or the state office has no record the candidate must take the appropriate course.

Waivers

To receive a waiver into the USSF “D” License, a coach **must meet one** of the following requirements

- Have professional or semi professional playing experience; proof of playing contracts must be provided to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Director of Coach & Player Development
- Posses an equivalent coaching qualification from a foreign country

Candidates requesting a waiver must write a letter to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Director of Coach & Player Development at least 45 days prior to a course. Each request will be dealt with separately and the decision made by the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Director of Coach & Player Development will be final.

Waiting Periods

Any candidate that has successfully completed the USSF “E” License after September 1, 2007 must wait a period of 6 months before they can attend a USSF “D” License.

Any candidate who fails the USSF “D” License will have to wait 6 months before retaking the entire course.

Candidates who have successfully obtained the USSF National “D” License must wait a 1 year period before they can attend a USSF “C” License.

Upgrading “D” License

Candidates that wish to upgrade from State “D” License to a National “D” License must wait 3 months.

Procedures for upgrading from USSF State “D” to USSF National “D”

Click on the Kentucky Youth Soccer Coaching Course Calendar and register for an upcoming USSF D License.

- Fill out the information required. Please note for payment type, please select “Check” but do not send payment prior to the course.
- Email the state Director of Coach & Player Development and let him know that you plan on attending the **second** weekend of the course.
- You will then be assigned two coaching topics for retesting.
- Bring a payment of \$60 to the event. Checks should be made out to “Kentucky Youth Soccer”.

Prerequisites

License/Certification	Prerequisites
USYS Youth Module	Candidate must be at least 16 years old
USSF “E” License	Candidate must be at least 17 years old
USSF “D” License	Candidate must be at least 18 years old. Must have held an “E” Certificate or equivalent for at least 6 months or received a waiver from the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association DOC
USSF “C” License	Candidate must be at least 18 years old. Must have held an “D” Certificate or equivalent for at least one year or received a waiver from the United States Soccer Federation

Monitoring & Policing

Kentucky Youth Soccer will monitor coaching qualifications through the League One system. If the system does not show the correct data a copy of the appropriate coaching certification needs to be sent to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Head Office for them to enter the details into the system.

If the team head & assistant coach do not possess the appropriate qualification the official roster and player passes will not be stamped and issued.

Any coach who does not meet the required criteria by September 1, 2009 will not be allowed to coach with a Kentucky Youth Soccer member.

Following September 1st 2009, coaches who are assigned to new teams will be required to obtain the appropriate certification within six months.

Any Director of Coaching/General Manager whom has not received the appropriate qualifications at the end of the phase in period may not have their name placed on any of that teams rosters nor can they receive a coach’s pass.

Kentucky Youth Soccer Roles & Responsibilities

The 24 month phase-in period will allow those individuals in need of attending a coaching education course plenty of time to do so. During the phase-in, Kentucky Youth Soccer will be providing additional coaching education opportunities in and around the state of Kentucky. We are going to try our best to provide each District with ample course selections in time periods which are typically slow for coaching.

Although the prime responsibility does fall upon the state association we also rely on the members to set up courses to help coaches within their own and neighboring clubs. To encourage clubs and associations to do this Kentucky Youth Soccer Association will provide the members with the appropriate marketing materials.

Clubs will also be strongly encouraged to reimburse or pay for their coaches to obtain the appropriate certification.

Kentucky Youth Soccer will continue to work with US Soccer Federation to host a National Youth & "C" License.

If you have any specific question regarding coaching education, please contact Adrian Parrish, Kentucky Youth Soccer Director of Coach & Player Development adrianparrish@kysoccer.net