



## 2017 Mass Bay Select League Procedures and Protocols

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*Coaches and town administrators, welcome to the 2017 Mass Bay Select season! The purpose of this document is to outline the expected procedures, rules, policies, and other processes so that we may all enjoy a fair and competitive season with clear understanding of the protocol. This league's primary focus is the positive experience of the youth athlete. This document, however, is a detailed list of the ways in which we are trying to make the experiences of our coaches to be the clearest and easiest we can. Thank you!*

### Requesting Game Changes

*Whether it is a weather-related postponement, the need to move a game from one field to another, or a start time change, there will almost certainly be a time in which you need to request a change:*

Important considerations:

- The changes need to be made as soon as possible (the moment they are known)
- You should over-communicate with your opponents
- You should over-communicate with the officials

**Any change that occurs within four days of the scheduled game MUST be done through direct communication with both the opposing coach AND the two (2) assigned EMLOA officials.**

For changes outside of four days, use the Select Change Request form located on the MBYLL web site.

To fill out a game change request form:

1. Visit [www.mbyll.org](http://www.mbyll.org)
2. Under the "Coaches" tab, choose "Select League Game Change Request"
3. Fill-out the fields with the most accurate information you have

You will need the following information:

- Original Game Date
- The official name of each of the competing teams

- Type of change (Date, Time, Field)
- The specific details of the amended game

You will be asked if the opposing coach was notified.

You will be asked if the officials have been notified.

If your team's website is synced with MBYLL through league athletics, you should receive email confirmation once the game has been changed. If not, you will need to check the website periodically until the game has been changed.

You will receive a head coaching directory including names, emails, and phone numbers for each head coach in MBYLL Select.

The appropriate EMLOA assigners to contact regarding late game changes are:

Darrell Benson <dbenson1@comcast.net>

Jimmy Tighe <tighecarver@yahoo.com>

### [Your Pre-Game Checklist](#)

*As a Mass Bay Select Head Coach, it is recommended that you complete the following "to-do" items at least three (3) days in advance of each scheduled game.*

- Reach out to your opposing Head Coach (you will be provided the complete directory)
  1. Confirm game details
  2. Inform him/her of any expected roster changes
  3. Learn about/provide specific field rules and parking suggestions/limitations
- Reach out to the two (2) assigned EMLOA officials and confirm their participation (their names and emails will appear on your game details on your online schedule)
- Download your opponent's roster (see *Downloading Opponents' Rosters*)

### [Downloading Opponents' Rosters](#)

*Like last year, we will require the exchange of official Select team rosters. They are available online for Head Coaches with the password. You are encouraged to print and keep with you your opponents' roster.*

To find your opponent's roster:

1. Visit [www.mbyll.org](http://www.mbyll.org)
2. Under the "Coaches" tab, choose "Select League Rosters"
3. Download the file which contains all rosters via a drop-down list of team names
4. The file is password protected: playfair

If the roster appears incomplete, please inform your opponent and request a fully-filled out roster. Please also let the league know so that we may request the same and get the complete roster on the website for future games.

## Understanding General Select Rules & Regulations

*In 2017, the Select Competition Committee set forth a number of rules, policies, and expectations for the administration of the league. Egregious breaches of these rules will result in harsh sanctions.*

**NOTE: Ignorance of a Select Rule will not be an acceptable excuse for an infraction. It is your responsibility and duty to know and understand each of the policies that were agreed upon.**

- ❖ All Mass Bay Select Athletes must be playing full-time for an MBYLL Classic team. No exceptions.
- ❖ MBYLL is a grade-based league, with an age qualifier. Players may not exceed the age qualifier.
- ❖ The U15 level is comprised of 7th & 8th graders (younger grades can play up).
- ❖ The U13 level is comprised of 5th & 6th graders (younger grades can play up).
- ❖ Regardless of how old they are, 7th & 8th graders can never play in U13. No exceptions.
- ❖ Regardless of how old they are, High Schoolers can never play in Mass Bay Select. No exceptions.
- ❖ All Mass Bay Select coaches (Head, Assistant, and Sideline Managers) must have an up-to-date unexpired Coaching Certification card, visible at all times. No exceptions.
- ❖ All MBYLL Athletes must be deemed "eligible" to play for that specific select team and must appear on the official team roster.
- ❖ "Select eligibility" means that they play for the same Classic program affiliated with the Select team unless A) his Classic team does not offer a select program AND B) the player was granted a waiver by the Select Competition Committee PRIOR to the start of the 2017 season.
- ❖ For programs that have multiple select teams at a single level, there are expectations that must be enforced. D1\* players must never play for D3 teams. No exceptions. To fill a need at a D3 game, Classic players should be brought up.
- ❖ D3 players are allowed to play D1\* to fill a need. It is expected that coaches rotate which D3 players fill the need should one occur multiple times in a season. (The same D3 player should not be brought up to the D1\* team 7 times in the year - essentially making him a D1\* player playing on the D3 team)

*\* D1 designates all "upper" teams when a program has multiple (D1, D1 Blended, etc.)*

**NOTE: Anyone knowingly falsifying an official team roster will be subject to penalties that may include: coach suspension(s), game forfeit(s), and/or postseason & MBYLL All-Star ban.**

## Reporting Incidents & Suspected Rules Infractions

*There is a specific process for reporting a game incident (e.g. a player fight or coach/official/spectator confrontation) or a suspected rule infraction.*

In the event of a game incident (e.g. a fist fight on the field)

Coaches & Officials will be expected to report the incident in the post-game report.

In the Mass Bay Select Post-Game Report (*see Post Game Reporting*), use the comments section to report an incident. Please include specifics including the names and uniform numbers of the player(s) involved and a description of the event.

In the event of a suspected rule infraction (e.g. an ineligible player)

We **STRONGLY** urge you not to confront your opponent with any accusations or suspicions. Please record all details of your suspicions and contact one of the three co-directors of Mass Bay Select. The co-director will then take the note to the Select Competition Committee and an investigation may be launched.

*The best path to avoid all suspicions of "foul-play" is to over-communicate with your opponents. If there were waivers granted or unusual circumstances, discuss these with your opponent before the game.*

**NOTE 1: In the event of a reported player ejection, the player will be suspended for one full game-cycle (he must miss the following Select game and any scheduled Classic game that falls before it).**

**NOTE 2: As a reminder, if a player is ejected from an MBYLL Classic game, he is suspended for one full game cycle (he must miss any Select game that falls before his suspended Classic game).**

### Select Game Rules

*It is your duty and obligation to know and understand the playing rules that govern Mass Bay Select League. There are multiple ways in which you can obtain a complete copy of the game rules.*

Mass Bay Select games will be played by US Lacrosse Youth Rules with MBYLL modifications. Some highlights to remember:

- A team may have up to four (4) long poles on the field at any given time.
  - At U15, they can be up to 72"
  - At U13, they must be no longer than 60"
- Substitution horns are allowed for sidelines only (not end lines)
- Coaches are granted two timeouts in each half
- U13 Goalies must wear elbow pads for all MBYLL games. No exceptions.
- U15 Goalies have the option to not wear elbow pads, though it is encouraged.
  - *This is a NEW USL Youth rule in 2017*
- All players must be equipped with NOCSAE regulated equipment
  - Note that the two helmets which required modification (Cascade-R & Warrior Regulator) must have the manufacturer's sticker of approval or else the player is ineligible
- Regardless of the score differential, there will be a face-off after each scored goal and to lead off each quarter
  
- In the event of a tie game at the end of regulation, teams CAN play overtime IF both coaches agree AND time allows (if there's another game to be played and limited daylight, game should end in a tie).
- For OT, play a maximum of two (2) sudden death periods. Periods should be four (4) minutes each.

**NOTE: We are not playing by NCAA rules. We are not playing by strictly NFHS rules. Please report any official who tries to tell you that we are.**

### Miscellaneous Policies

Home teams are responsible for supplying game balls, field cones, and properly functioning nets.

The home team is also responsible for providing a game clock and an operator. Score book keeper and penalty minutes keeper are encouraged, but not required.

It is strongly recommended that the home team has nearby access to an A.E.D.

For instances of thunder and/or lightning, stop all activity and get players and coaches indoors. Wait 30 minutes after the last sign of the storm before resuming.

All coaches should be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion and have an action plan.

### Pre-Game Conference

*The two head coaches and the two EMLOA officials are required by league rules to have a pre-game conference.*

In this conference, coaches are expected to bring their MBYLL Pre-Game Checklist to review game rules and league regulations.

Coaches will be asked if all their players are properly equipped. Coaches will be held liable for the team's compliance with safety & equipment rules.

Coaches will be asked to show their up-to-date, unexpired Coaching Certification card.

Please be sure to write-down and confirm the names of the officials. You will need them for the post-game report.

**NOTE: After the game, both teams are expected to have a post-game handshake. Helmets should be kept on. Right gloves should be removed. Players should shake hands (not fist-bump). It is strongly recommended that the coaches stagger themselves at the front, middle, and back of the line to minimize unsportsmanlike conduct during this sacred tradition of post-game salutation.**

### Post-Game Reporting

*Both head coaches and each of the two officials are required to fill out a Mass Bay Select Post-Game report.*

Filling out reports is crucial to ensure that the scores are being reported for standings, the officials are fulfilling their obligation, the teams are evenly-matched, and the participants respected and honored the game with their behavior.

To fill out a Post-Game Report:

1. Visit [www.mbyll.org](http://www.mbyll.org)
2. Under the "**GAME REPORTS**" tab, choose "MBYLL Select Post-Game Report"
3. Fill-out the fields with the most accurate information you have

You will need the following information:

- Game date
- The name of the home and away team
- The score for each competing team
- The names of each participating official (you will select from a drop-down menu)
- **The names and grades of any player who participated but did not appear on the official team roster**

**NOTE: In order to have up-to-date and accurately published standings, post-game reports must be submitted by 9 PM on the Sunday following Friday and Saturday Select games.**

### Standings & Playoff Seeding

*In Mass Bay Select, game scores are recorded, standings are kept, and a single-elimination playoff bracket-style postseason will occur at the end of the regular season with seedings based on record and strength-of-schedule.*

MBYLL will try in all our power to have up-to-date standings available by the Tuesday following a weekend of games. Some factors that may hinder that deadline include missing and late post-game reports.

**NOTE: For tie-breaking procedures, we do not consider Goal-differential to be a factor, nor Goals Scored (GF). We consider Goals Against (GA) only. THEREFORE... running up the score in an unevenly matched game in an effort to "get a better seeding" is inconsequential and will be frowned upon.**

### Playoff Seeding

We will make every effort to ensure an accurate seeding for each team. However, we may have to make minor adjustments to factor geography for 1<sup>st</sup> round games. For example, we may need to swap a 16 seed with a 15 seed if it meant for a more local first-round game. We will try not to fluctuate more than 3 seeding spots (up or down). And we will honor the top 8 with a first-round home game.

There will be eight (8) playoff brackets. Every team is guaranteed to appear in one of them:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| U15 D1 Championship Bracket    | U13 D1 Championship Bracket    |
| U15 D2 Championship Bracket    | U13 D2 Championship Bracket    |
| U15 D3 Championship Bracket    | U13 D3 Championship Bracket    |
| U15 "Best-of-the-Rest" Bracket | U13 "Best-of-the-Rest" Bracket |

The Select Competition Committee will determine seeding for each bracket. As part of this process, the SCC will use a formula to determine a power-ranking. The home team will be the better seeded team and will host the playoff game.

The formula for the power ranking includes the following factors, listed in order of weighted importance (1 being more important than 2 being more important than 3, etc.)

1. Your win/loss record
2. Your opponents' win/loss record
3. Your opponents' opponents' win/loss record
4. Cross divisional adjustment (regardless of a victory or defeat)
  - a. Positive adjustment if you play "up"
  - b. Subtractor if you play "down"

The best way to improve your power ranking is to secure wins over stronger teams.

**NOTE: Instructions and policies for scheduling and playing post-season games will be created and shared with you later in the season.**

### **Sportsmanship Report Card**

We will publish a mid-season and an end-of-season Report card for each team regarding sportsmanship, as it relates to both coaches AND players. Factors that could negatively impact a team's grade include: a pattern of negative post-game reports, failure to honor the schedule, major on-field / bench incidents, roster violations, and other policy infractions.

Having a low of "Failing" grade may result in outcomes such as loss of home-field play or outright playoff ban and loss of All-Star nominations.

### **Mass Bay Select All-Star Game**

*On Saturday, August 5th, Mass Bay Select will host its annual All-Star Games prior to the final home game of the Boston Cannons at Harvard Stadium. We will have an 8th grade game, a 7th grade game, a 6th grade game, and a 5th grade game.*

At this time, we have not yet determined how we will comprise these All-Star teams. We can guarantee that each Select team will have at least one honoree selected to the Games.

**NOTE: Instructions and policies for format and selections to the Mass Bay Select All-Star Game at Harvard Stadium will be created and shared with you later in the season.**

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand this fairly detailed packet of information. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, or need for clarification, please do not hesitate to contact one of your three co-directors for Mass Bay Select. Best of luck this season and please continue your part to teach, grow, and honor the game.

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