



TO: MRL Team Representatives
FROM: MRL Commissioner
RE: 2018 Spring Season Team Pre-Season Update

This administrative and procedural update is being emailed to the Coach and Team Admin Contacts as listed by each 2018 MRL Spring Season team. The areas addressed below include:

- A-Pre-Season Information Documents
- B-Schedule
- C-Hosting MRL Games
- D-Team Rosters
- E-Playing Formats - Promotion/Relegation
- F-Reporting Game Scores

A-PRE-SEASON INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

For the 2018 Spring Season, all pre-season team information can be found at:

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl/>

Be sure to read all of the documents listed under “Team Pre-Season Information” especially the document titled “**2018 Spring Season General Information**” and “**2018 Spring Season Points of Emphasis Memo.**”

Each team will need to download copies of the MRL Line Up Card that are to be completed and provided to the Referee prior to each game. The MRL Referee Report form should also be downloaded and provided to Referees for any games hosted by your team.

B-SCHEDULE

--Schedules continue to be updated regularly and posted at:

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl/>

--For changes to schedules (once they have been finalized) be sure to follow the MRL's scheduling policy that is found on this page: <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl/>

--Team contacts can be found using the appropriate links found on this page:

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl/>

--For any team that is hosting multiple games and you have not finalized game times or sites, please do so by **Friday, February 23, 2018.**

--Regarding One-Offs (previously known as Self Schedule games), any games not played shall be considered a No-Contest game and both teams will be recorded with a game played and no points earned for such game (see MRL Scheduling Policy). All games are to be scheduled to be played on or before **June 3, 2018**.

--In divisions where two or more teams from the same club are competing, the game between such teams must be played during the first one-third of each team's games this season. See MRL Scheduling Policy for more information.

--Field space at MRL Sites is very tight. Our schedule is based on field availability, providing equal time between games (where possible) for teams playing multiple games in a weekend, as well as being able to service games with referees. Remember we do not have exclusivity at these sites and must work around local games that are scheduled

--A reminder to coaches...when travelling out of state you may encounter specific rules/laws in regards to concussion procedures. Suggest that you check the state association websites of the state that you are visiting for more information.

HOSTING MRL GAMES

--If your team is listed as a Host (i.e. your team is hosting multiple MRL games) be sure to review the Team Hosting information. Hosting Information is posted on our website, click on the 2018 Spring Season/Hosting Information section at: <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl>

- **In all cases, if your team is hosting a one-off or a series of games, please be sure to Submit match scores, Game Reports and Line-up cards via the SportsForms Game Score Reporting at <https://www.SportsForms.club/MRL>**

--Be sure to review the MRL Game Hosting Guidelines and Local Site Coordinator Guidelines. In summary, the key areas of hosting include (1) obtaining and insuring that fields are ready for play, (2) assuring that referees are assigned to your games and (3) communicating with visiting teams.

(1) Host teams need to secure site locations and work with the MRL Office in finalizing game times. While we are cognizant of field time availability, MRL rules require that in situations where teams play multiple games in one day a three hour rest period be allotted between the end of a team's first game and the start of the team's second game. Hosts should forward a proposed game time schedule to the MRL for review, and posting. **This should be done by Friday, February 23, 2018**

(2) Please contact your local referee assignor immediately and notify the assignor of the game dates, times and sites. (If game times have not been finalized at least notify your assignor of the number of games and game dates). Be sure to emphasize that these games are Midwest Regional League games. A list of approved assignors in many states is posted on the MRL Referee page. If not listed, go through your local assignor. Please refer the assignor to the Referee section on our website in regards to specific game rules and procedures for referees. Assignors are paid \$12 per game by the MRL. MRL Referee information including the Assignor form is available at: http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl_referees/

(3) As for communicating with visiting teams, we suggest that you provide your visitors with everything that you would look for when visiting a site (i.e. directions, hotel information, emergency contact information etc.). The team contacts for teams within your division are posted on the 2018 Spring Season information page. **IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT THIS BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AS TEAMS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF SECURING HOTELS FOR THEIR VISITS** (in fact, we know that many teams have already secured hotels for their trips). For teams playing in Rockford, Muscatine or Overland Park, please check the MRL hosting page for hotel info. The hotel information is only provided as a courtesy. There are no requirements to use the hotel provider.

Again to review, if your team is hosting games, please be sure to review the hosting guidelines and information at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl>

D-TEAM ROSTERS

MRL rules require teams to file a Team Roster with the League no later than seven (7) days prior to your first game. Be sure to read both the Roster information documents posted at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl>

Rosters may be updated in accordance with rules and policy up through **Wednesday May 16, 2018.**

Look under the Roster Information section for the forms and guide. All rosters must be approved by your state association before filing with the MRL. The MRL does not approve rosters—your state association does.

Only Primary passed players are permitted in the MRL.

E-PLAYING FORMATS – PROMOTION/RELEGATION

A summary of the playing formats for each division, Regionals Wild Card Information and the Promotion/Relegation information will be available (“2018 Spring Season – Competition Formats & Promotion and Relegation Policy”) at: <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl>

F-REPORTING GAME SCORES

- Host should: Submit match scores, Game Reports and Line-up cards via the SportsForms Game Score Reporting at <https://www.SportsForms.club/MRL>

Thanks,
MRL Commissioner