

Mason Dixon IM Regulations

I. Registration & payment

- A. Registration will be conducted online only.
- B. Only credit card payment will be accepted
- C. Players must be at least of age allowed for Kindergarten enrollment in the Southern York County school district at the beginning of the Fall IM season during the current calendar year to be eligible to register.
- D. Players must play in the created age group appropriate for their grade level. The appropriate intramural coordinator may grant an exception if the player's parent/guardian agrees, and meets eligibility requirements, to be the head coach of the team on which the player is to be assigned.
- E. Waivers for payment may be granted at the discretion of the MDSL Board of Directors.
 - 1. Players asking for a waiver of registration fees must agree to participate as a volunteer in the organization for the season in which they have obtained the waiver.
 - 2. Failure to participate when asked may impact future waiver requests.

II. Creation of teams

- A. Teams will be created by grade, not age.
- B. Whenever possible, Kindergarteners, 1st graders and 2nd graders will not be asked to play with other grade levels.
- C. No player below 8th grade will be asked to play in a division made up of players that are predominantly of high school age.
- D. If registration numbers are insufficient to create an appropriate number of teams in an age division, MDSL may partner with outside organizations.
- E. The IM program will be guided by, but not held to, USSF youth soccer guidelines.
- F. Player requests to be placed with other registrants will be honored at the discretion of the coordinator
- G. IM coordinators will create teams allowing for no fewer than two players more than the number of players on the field during active play.
- H. Maximum recommended number of active players on the field of play per team
 - 1. Kindergarten – 3
 - a) No player shall play goalkeeper
 - b) No player shall have an assigned position
 - 2. 1st & 2nd – 4
 - a) No player shall play goalkeeper
 - b) No player shall have an assigned position
 - 3. 3rd grade – 6th grade – 9
 - 4. 7th grade – 12th grade – 11
- I. Criteria for the creation of teams

1. Coordinators will make all reasonable efforts to create balanced teams at all times
 - a) Criteria for competitive balance
 - (1) Evaluation of player ability by previous coaches
 - (2) Player age
 - (3) Player gender
 - (4) Prior playing experience

III. Coach selection & approval

A. Eligibility

1. All coach candidates must meet EPYSA eligibility requirements prior to being assigned a team
 - a) Coach candidates must register as a coach in the MDSL online system
 - b) Coach candidates who have previously been disciplined by the league require Board approval
2. No team will be assigned two assistant coaches until all teams within the division have been assigned one.
3. When there are more head coach volunteers than available positions
 - a) Parents/guardians volunteering to coach will be given preference over non-parent/guardian volunteers.
 - b) Head coach candidates who are not coaching another MDSL team during the current season

IV. Fields

- A. Fields will be created according to the recommended USSF and/or YorkUSA sizes
- B. All fields will be insured in accordance with EPYSA rules
- C. Fields of play will be within the Southern York County school district whenever the division is not paired with an outside entity.

V. Games

- A. All age divisions will play in accordance with the MDSL Laws of the Game.
- B. Scoring
 1. No official score will be kept in Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade games
 2. Unofficial scores may be documented to monitor competitive balance at the 2nd grade level
 3. Goal differential will be a +/- 4 maximum and will only be used as a tie-breaker for tournament seeding
- C. The Fall and Spring seasons will end with a tournament for teams 3rd grade and up.
- D. All teams, grade 1 and above, will play a minimum of six games, including tournament games
- E. Kindergarten will participate at the academy level and technique will be emphasized over competitive play
- F. Coaches
 1. One coach from each team will be allowed on the field for Kindergarten, 1st Grade and 2nd Grade games.

2. Coaches at other grade levels may only enter the field at the discretion of the referee
 3. Coaches must stay between the penalty box and midfield on their side of the field
- G. Spectators will be seated on the opposite sideline from players and coaches. No players or coaches are allowed to be behind the goal line within 10 yards of the field.
- H. Minimum number of players required to start a game
1. 7 players per side must be on the field for 11v11 games
 2. 6 players per side must be on the field for 8v8 games and 9v9 games
 3. 5 players per side must be on the field for the 6v6 games
- I. Both teams are required to have an approved head or assistant coach on the sideline at all times during a game
- J. To encourage player rotation through all positions in 2nd grade, no player will play the same position for consecutive quarters, more than 2 quarters of any game, or more than 3 quarters in consecutive games.
- K. Coaches must provide their MDSL Clearance Pass to the referee and/or opposing coach prior to all games. Only league assigned head and assistant coaches with passes will be permitted on the player sideline.

VI. Weather

- A. Lightning policy
1. In the event of lightning or thunder, all practices and games are immediately suspended for 15 minutes.
 2. The field must be cleared of all players, coaches, spectators and volunteers.
 3. This time will continue to reset for each subsequent lightning/thunder event.
- B. Game cancellations are at the discretion of the President or Games Commissioner.
- C. The referee may suspend or cancel games within 30 minutes of kickoff or at any time after kickoff
- D. Regular season games and all team practices shall be cancelled if the temperature falls below 32 degrees.

VII. Practices

- A. No teams will be permitted to have more than 3 hours of practice per week with a maximum of 90 minutes per practice.
- B. Coaches must make all reasonable efforts to have a minimum of 90 minutes of practice per week during the season.
- C. No Intramural team shall have more than 2 practices, including scrimmage games, per week.
- D. Teams must practice at their assigned field location and time only.
1. Swaps of practice times with other teams within the division is permissible at the discretion of the Coordinator.
- E. Coaches will be provided passes by the league to verify compliance with PA Act 153 and must have their pass in their possession at all practices and games. A league

approved and assigned head or assistant coach must be present at the field for the duration of all practices.

- F. Coaches may not leave the practice field until all players have left the practice field or their parent/guardian is present.
- G. Use of the head in practice is restricted by age.
 - 1. Players in 4th grade and below may not use their head in practice under any circumstances.
 - 2. Players in 5th-7th grade are not allowed to head the ball more than 15-20 times per week.
 - 3. Players in 8th grade and above do not have restrictions on the use of the head in practice.

VIII. Sportsmanship

- A. Playing time
 - 1. Coaches will ensure that playing time is equal for all players over the course of the season.
 - 2. All players must play 50% of each game.
 - 3. No player is allowed play an entire game if his team has substitutes available.
- B. Scoring
 - 1. Coaches should make all reasonable efforts to keep single game goal differential within 5.
- C. Code of Conduct
 - 1. All parents and coaches are required to sign and adhere to the code of conduct.
- D. Cautions & Dismissals
 - 1. Coaches who are dismissed from a game by the referee will be suspended for a minimum of one game.
 - a) Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Games Commissioner and/or the corresponding division coordinator
 - 2. Players who are dismissed from a game by the referee will be suspended for a minimum of one game.
 - a) Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Games Commissioner and/or the corresponding division coordinator
 - 3. Coaches and players who accumulate multiple cautions during the course of the season may be suspended by the Games Commissioner and/or the corresponding division coordinator