

Answers provided by Cam Stoltz, Director of League Operations, on behalf of MYSA:

All good questions. MYSA will sit down with you folks when you need, and I can also talk to you specific about a couple of things.

Q: What are the options for rejoining MYSA if TCSL does not work out?

You are a member and allowed in leagues as long as you are a member. All but a few of the TCSL Clubs are still members of MYSA putting at least some teams with us, generally 13U and older and those seeking high level Premier - now Minnesota League One, State Cup, Presidents Cup and in then younger with Futures (14 Clubs most also TCSL). Ironically, or not, your neighbors Cottage Grove and Burn Valley are not with MYSA . Not sure what Hastings and SSP intent is with older kids. I will approach them and ask - yet they did not inform us they were leaving for fall. I hope those clubs do what most TCSL customers so, and place all or some older teams with MYSA.

Q: Can we play both MYSA and TCSL scheduled?

Yes, while we recognize the 9U-12U market has continued to shift towards the Twin Cities League, we are still relevant with over twice as many registered players (but we are statewide) and we are more dominant in the 13U and older/ 11v11 game. This last year had about 2/3 of the 9U-12U metro market with TCSL and while MYSA had about 2/3 of the metro market at 13U-19U. We are making a concerted effort to keep all teams we have in this range, as well as asking all MYSA clubs, including TCSL, to put 13U and older with MYSA. We think most Zone 2 players in a competitive mode prefer the MYSA experience and extras like playoffs and State Championships.

Q: What are the details of this 3rd league?

Not sure of the potential and timing. I will share more in person as details are emerging and I would want to be as accurate as possible. If we meet, I can detail in person what I have heard.

Q: MYSA – can games be scheduled in neutral game sites (between two locations)?

Yes – this has already begun to happen in outstate Minnesota. This would be encouraged knowing the older ages play with more travel depending on level - but I would like to visit with you and tell you where/how IGH C2 and C3 , now Black and Blue, would be prioritized to play in the metro area at older ages 16U to 19U and again, break out what we want to do in 13U to 15U.

Q: MYSA – If we want to play Blue, how can MYSA ensure there are enough teams to play and not drive far?

See previous question answer and have you seen the Black leveling of your “top teams” in ages you don’t field Minnesota League One? Please see the COMPETITIVE LEVELING AND TEAM PLACEMENT section of the general info of the Black and Blue here.

Q: MYSA - What are the closes areas to us that have committed? When can we know?

We are doing a survey we had hoped to administer a week ago. Our communications director adjusted and thought it would be better a few days after the AGM (tomorrow) as AGM may steer a thing or two. Once we do the expected teams survey, I can share info prior to your AGM.

Q: MYSA – what is the count of committed teams/clubs and who we will play?

We have 110 Clubs. The Twin Cities metro area has about 55 Clubs in our membership The TCSL lists about 32 Clubs which are generally staffed with fulltime directors. The remaining MYSA metro Clubs also have either fulltime, part time and or volunteer directors. MYSA/TCSL clubs all vary in which leagues they put teams in. But most of those clubs put most of the 9U-12U in TCSL. A good number also use the break at 9v9 and 11v11 (12U and 13U) and put teams with the 13U / 11v11 teams with MYSA. All of the TCSL clubs put high level (Premier and now MN League One) with MYSA at 13U and older. 14 TCSL those clubs do play Futures League with MYSA.

Q: MYSA what is the minimum number of teams a club must enter into the MYSA league structure?

We have no minimum. We would like to provide for all your teams.

Please let me know if you have further questions. Are you folks going to be at the MYSA AGM? Otherwise, I would look to meet with you prior to your meeting?

Answers to questions provided by Matt Tiano, Twin Cities Soccer League:

Q: Escalation structure – how are issues addressed?

Issues are dealt with and resolved quickly DOC to DOC. Our Technical Advisory Panel meetings (DOC attended) also provide an opportunity to resolve issues.

Q: Youth/Grass roots program switch.

- o Does TCL have Grass Roots?
- o Can we extend insurance to in-house league (grass roots)?

I think you are asking about rec/in-house soccer. US Club Soccer offers registration for rec soccer players (\$10 per player). Many clubs are moving away from registering these players with a US Soccer-affiliated organization and instead are just asking a local insurance agency to cover players. The route you choose would be based on your preference but yes US Club Soccer offers registration for rec players.

Q: Do they provide insurance for all players?

Yes, all registered players are covered via the US Club Soccer insurance policy - More info is here: <https://www.usclubsoccer.org/members-area-insurance-summary-youth-january-to-august-2019>

Q: Are refs signing up with TCL also?

- o What are ref fees?

No. Clubs still hire their own independent assignor, set the rates for their home games, etc. This is no different from the setup with MYSA.

Q: When is the registration deadline (teams and players) for TCSL?

Summer calendar is here: <https://www.tclsoccer.com/calendar/>

Q: What are we getting? What's better?

In the end, you will evaluate if TCSL is a better fit than alternatives. What I can share is that our substantial growth is due to: club-centric philosophies; facilitating of club collaboration; reduced travel; increased competitive parity; improved administration, including effective communication and transparency; transparent decision making; soccer leaders making soccer decisions; eliminating red tape for the sake of having red tape; etc.

Q: Can we register only some teams with TCSL?

As stated, TCSL evaluates the commitment that the applying club would be making to TCSL. The rationale behind that is attendance at meetings for example may be in question if only a team or two is placed into the league. We have a four-team absolute minimum but the full picture is evaluated when making decisions. Similar clubs in size to IGH have committed fully to TCSL.

Q: Can we have tournament only teams with TCSL?

No.

Q: What are the requirements for teams to be at different levels at TCSL (i.e. MYSA League 1 Requirements)

o Is there relegation and promotion?

We do not have promotion and relegation as you generally think of pro-rel. Team placement is based on DOC placement and oversight by the Technical Advisory Panel. We present teams and records/history at each meeting and we discuss the placements as a group. It's DOC-driven. It makes absolutely zero sense to have an 8-team league and relegate 50% of teams (4) when those teams may have been 3-3-4, and lost those 3 matches by a goal. TCSL aims to have teams playing at the right level of play and this Advisory Panel approach/model has proven effective.

Q: What are the fees per player and per team and for the club?

There are two sets of fees: US Club Soccer player registration and TCSL league fees.

US Club Soccer player/adult registration fees - <https://www.usclubsoccer.org/registration-fees>

TCSL league fees - <https://www.tclsoccer.com/admin/fees/>

Adult/staff passes are valid for two years.

Playing TCSL is about 15-20% less costly than playing MYSA.

Q: What system do they use for registration?

GotSoccer, with adults/staff registered in Sports Engine.

Q: What does probation mean and what decision is made (and how) at the end of probation?

o How long is the probation period?

Probation simply means that TCSL will accept applications if there is an agreed upon plan to meet certain criteria (i.e. coach education standards). The period would be generally one year. Once criteria is met, a club is no longer "probationary".

Q: Can we play both MYSA and TCSL scheduled?

Not sure if you are asking if as a club you can register teams in both MYSA and TCSL. In principle, yes, but see answer above ("can we register only some teams with TCSL"). If you are asking if the same team can play a TCSL and MYSA schedule, I would definitely encourage you not to do that. Too many matches, too much to coordinate, not enough training.

Q: How does TCSL handle player sharing/club passes?

TCSL has led the initiative when it comes to the club pass. There is flexibility to balance rosters as you see fit using the club pass, as long as the reason for doing so is for developmental reasons.