

# MAHONE BAY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION (v04.30.2024)

### NEED & AUDIENCE

Mahone Bay Youth Soccer Association (MBYSA) is an all-inclusive, not-for-profit soccer club, run by a diverse group of volunteers committed to offering barrier free and accessible participation to anyone under 18 who wants to play. Our mission is to have as many people as possible enjoying the benefits of the game and we are building a solid foundation for a long-lasting soccer club that is part of the fabric of the community of Mahone Bay.

MBYSA was born out of the growth of Mahone Bay United (a recreational community club at the heart of all things Mahone Bay) that started in 2018 on a field designated as surplus land, with 15 players aged 4-14. The 2022/23 winter soccer program saw 225 players sign up, assisted by more than 30 coaches in two locations – costing \$0 to play. The club has almost doubled in size every year, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our administrative and coaching teams.

As a result of the evolution of Mahone Bay United (MBU) there was a demand from the community for competitive soccer which led to the revival of MBYSA which had last participated in the local league in 2013. Our club is part of the thriving community of Mahone Bay. We are proud to be supported by many local businesses, organizations and individuals. The evaluation and feedback received from families tells us that our programming builds confidence, creates belonging and improves soccer ability – in that order of importance! Our focus is on access, development and building a love for the game.

We offer high quality, well-organized, cost-free development opportunities for young players in the South Shore region of Nova Scotia. Our focus on enjoyment, technical skills, creativity and positive team relationships within a fee-free environment contrasts sharply with the high costs and rigorous emphasis on competition that are currently features of the formal system.

The all-inclusive culture of the club makes us the natural home for individuals and families that may otherwise be excluded from mainstream sports because of cost and culture. We have an international and racially diverse coaching team, another aspect that encourages young people and families from various equity-seeking groups to join our sessions. Our development represents a great opportunity to build on the all-inclusive ethos of our club, increasing inclusion and access to recreation and sport for populations that face constraints to participation.

### Purpose (what we would like to become)

- An all-inclusive club for anyone who loves soccer.

### Mission (what we would like to achieve)

- As many people as possible enjoying the benefits of soccer.
- A place to express yourself, play together and grow together.

### Principles (how we behave as a club)

- Affordable, accessible, well-organized, high-quality soccer experiences
- A soccer club that contributes to our town and region
- Learning and development at the heart of our club
- Soccer as a vehicle for building community, confidence and creativity
- A style of football rooted in:
  - Problem solving
  - Technical ability
  - Creative expression
  - Positive team relationships.
- Provide a safe environment for everyone involved to experience high pressure situations and learn from them
- MBYSA 3 Cs:
  - Care
  - Community
  - Competition
- Grow as leaders and improve as players, coaches and organizers
- High quality organizing, communications and delivery

*It is important that the coaches understand the DNA of the club so that it is integral in their session design/delivery, but also allow them the opportunity to be creative and deliver a style that they think works best for their team.*

### Product (what we deliver)

- Year round opportunities to play, develop and compete for all ages
- Accessible programming available to anyone under 18
- Coach and leadership development (based on MBYSA philosophy)

### Club Philosophy:

- All members of the club promote an enjoyable learning environment and feeling of belonging.
- Player development emphasizes technical skill, creativity, teamwork and the world of football.
- All coaches have the opportunity to develop their coaching of the game and skills in working with young people.
- Soccer is a vehicle for all members of the club to build confidence, friendships and better their lives.
- We depend on the support of our local community and region to be successful as a club
- We believe early player development and a love of the game is accelerated when we emphasize joy over competition.

### **Player Profile:**

- Problem solver mentality
- Creativity and self-expression
- Positive team player
- Awareness to make the pass that creates opportunities

## **PEOPLE**

### **Executive - meet once a month**

#### **NSRJS Registered Officers**

- President - Francis Kangata
- Vice President - Juliette Haughn
- Treasurer - Tim Merry
- Secretary - John VanLaer
- Communications - Brian Limoyo

### **Board - meet once a quarter**

#### **NSRJS Registered Directors**

- Ashley den Hollander
- Chris Tilley
- Dylan Wells
- Dan McDonald
- Kira Curtis
- Max Sheehan
- Wes Johnstone

### **Coach Profile:**

- Understands the process is more important than the end goal
- Can balance challenge and support
- Committed to creating a positive environment that shapes the person
- Provides the fundamentals of ball mastery
- Creates learning from the game to set up players for life

#### **Player Profile:**

- Problem solver mentality
- Creativity and self expression
- Positive team player
- Awareness to make the pass that creates opportunities

#### **Parent / Guardian Profile:**

- Willing and to be part of community oriented club (understand we are not a service provider but rooted in passion, participation and responsibility)
- Understands and supports the approach to the game
- Open to trusting the club structure and coaching decisions for their player
- Able to raise concerns kindly and politely to club and coaches

#### **Organizer Profile:**

- Committed to efficient and high quality organizing
- Able to communicate kindly, clearly and positively
- Comfortable with technology and basic money management
- Understands and believes in 'MBYSA way'

## **CONCEPT**

#### **Three (3) key elements flow through everything we do:**

1. Access – no barriers to play under 18, transport, equipment give away /loan, facilities access
2. Development - soccer skills, creativity, with the ball, teamplay, game knowledge,
3. Love - player confidence, enjoyment of the game, relationships, sense of belonging

#### **Coaching Philosophy:**

**ENTRY LEVEL - Control your feet, control the ball, enjoy the game**

**INTERMEDIATE - Find the free player, create the free player, be the free player**

**LIFETIME - Express yourself, play together, grow together**

- Learning and development at the heart
- We are training to create “problem solvers”
- Enjoying the game and having fun
- Building positive relationships and a feeling of belonging
- Learning about the local and global game

- Just enough structure to help learning (not so much players feel controlled)
- Create environments to grow technical skills, creativity / self expression and awareness to make the pass
- Personal development - leadership

### Coaching Outcomes:

1. Experience of community and belonging
2. Growth in player's intrinsic confidence
3. Increased ability to play soccer

*“At MBYSA, we are building genuine opportunities for player development and improvement. We have lots of ideas and formats for participation that will continue to challenge our players to grow and improve, whatever league or level they play in. This includes setting challenges for our teams / players around formations, set plays, passing sequences, learning position specific skills, etc. We think of MBYSA as an academy where the kids grow as leaders and improve as players.”*

- The process not the end goal
- Challenge vs support
- Environment shapes the person
- Fundamentals of ball mastery
- Learning from the game to set up for life