



LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

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Providing each and every child with a fun filled experience in a soccer environment

To: Spring Intramural Players – Bantams, Juniors, Microns and Quasars Divisions
From: Biff Sturla, President, Lower Merion Soccer Club
Date: March 25, 2024

Thank you for signing up for our 2024 Spring Intramural Program. The spring program will run every Sunday from April 7 through June 9, except for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day Weekend. All players have been assigned to a set team for the season. The first weekend will strictly be 75 minute practices, no games. Your first game will be the weekend on April 14. Each game will be preceded by a 30 minute practice.

Be sure to show up PROMPTLY each week so that the coach can work with the players before the game. This will be the only practice time during the season. There will be no weeknight practices in the spring.

We do NOT keep standings during the season. There are no playoffs and no league champions. The purpose of the program is to provide all the players with a fun filled time in a soccer environment while helping to teach them the basic skills of the game.

We will not switch players from one team to another unless absolutely necessary. If this must be done, please e-mail LMSC. We cannot guarantee moving players to other teams and most teams are filled and cannot take any more players.

Players will be given a jersey at the first day of the season. They will be expected to have a pair of soccer shoes, shin guards and a size 3 soccer ball. All players will need to have dark (navy or black) shorts as well as white soccer socks.

WHAT TO BRING EACH WEEK – Size 3 soccer ball, game jersey, shin guards, navy shorts and soccer cleats. A filled plastic (not glass) water bottle is recommended. These divisions use a size 3 ball. Please be sure to bring a size 3 ball each week for the skills clinic.

Note: For players with earrings: all earrings must be removed or COMPLETELY covered with tape or band aid. Earrings may not be exposed for safety reasons.

FORMAT - There will be a 30 minute practice, followed by a game. Bantams and Microns Division teams will play two simultaneous games of 4 vs. 4 (four field players and no goalie). Juniors and Microns Division teams will play 5 vs. 5 (four field players and a goalie). Games will consist of two 25 minute halves. There are no playoffs or standings.

HOW TO READ OUR GAME SCHEDULES – Our game schedules are posted on our web page. The time posted is for the start of your 30 minute practice. Arrive at this time. The game will start 30 minutes after the time listed on the schedule page.

PLAYING RULES - A copy of the level 2 rules for these divisions can be found on our web page, www.lmsc.net at the bottom of the Spring Intramural Program page.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN - If games need to be canceled: LMSC will update the web page (www.lmsc.net) with a message saying that games are canceled. This will hopefully be done by 8:30 AM. LMSC will also attempt to e-mail those players and coaches who we have e-mail addresses for.

SIDELINE CONDUCT - Parents and spectators will be asked to display sportsmanship at all times. Spectators are not to yell at the referee or the players during the games. Parents are also strongly asked to not to "coach" or "instruct" the players while the games are going on. Please leave the coaching to our coaching staff so that the players can relax on the field, have a good time and not get confused by all the sideline antics.

Soccer is a game of thinking and creativity. Parents who yell instructions to their child during a game, while well meaning, are actually hindering player development since the players will not be able to learn to think on the field and will not be able to make quick decisions. Coaches and parents are asked to please NEVER yell out to a player and tell him / her what to do. Let the children learn to think on their own, let the children have fun, they really don't like the burden of having people yell at them during a game.

ATTENDANCE AT GAMES - Players are asked to be at as many games as possible. It is not fair to your teammates to only show up occasionally and leave your team shorthanded. Please make every effort to be at all games so that your team does not have to play shorthanded. Over the years, we have had a severe drop in attendance on Mother's Day. PLEASE make every effort to play on Mother's Day. Bring mom to the game, treat her to a fun filled afternoon of soccer.

THE LMSC WEB PAGE (www.lmsc.net) has information and registration material for all our club activities, including special training programs, the Fall Intramural Program (ages 4 - 14), Travel Team Tryouts, our Developmental Academy, Spring Intramural Program, Summer Soccer Camps, Special Needs Program, Winter Indoor Soccer, etc. Schedules for all intramural divisions are also posted on the LMSC web page.

NO DOGS AT THE FIELDS - The Township and School District do not allow dogs or pets on their fields. Anyone found with a pet at a field could be ticketed by the police.

PARENTS AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

All parents and spectators are asked to adhere to the following:

- Do not yell at the referees. Would you want people yelling at him / her if the referee was your child?
- Please do not shout out instructions to the players while they are playing. The coaches are trying to teach the players to THINK on the field and make quick decisions. Well-meaning parents who shout out instructions to the players hinder thought development and decision making. Please, let the players make their own decisions.
- Positive encouragement and cheering for ALL players is welcome and encouraged.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL TRAVEL TEAM ACADEMY - One of the purposes of the Spring Intramural Program is to develop our more talented and enthusiastic players for the LMSC Travel Team Program. Many of the players in our older divisions will be eligible to tryout for our Developmental Travel Team Academy.

This coming year's Developmental Academy will be for PLAYERS BORN IN 2018.

The program offers a first look at the Travel Team Program for our younger players.

We will pick a team of up to 20 boys and a team of up to 20 girls. In the fall, each team will have two practices per week (one on a weeknight, the other on Saturday) and play 5 v 5 games on Sunday afternoons, using the same format as our 6 - 9 year old intramural divisions. Our Developmental Academies will also participate in one or more tournaments towards the end of the fall season, competing against similar teams from other clubs in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The D.A. teams will train twice a week in the winter, indoors, before returning outdoors for the spring season.

Tryouts for our Developmental Academies are posted on our web page.

Please make every effort to be at BOTH tryouts. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early to check in and get a tryout shirt. More information on these programs is on our web page, www.lmsc.net in the Developmental Academy section.

THE TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM - One of the primary purposes of the intramural program is to advance the more athletic and competitive players into the more prestigious Travel Team Program. Travel teams for both boys and girls start at Under 8 and run through Under 19. The Travel Team Program offers the players a chance to play against other local area clubs. The program offers a more extensive soccer experience and more experienced coaches. Many of our travel teams play indoor soccer in the winter months.

Since 1989, our travel teams have won over 85 State Championships. We hope that our more talented and enthusiastic players will give consideration to playing travel ball when they are old enough. Several of our former LMSC Travel Team Players have played professionally, including Daniel Lovitz who was with the USA Men's National Team in 2019, Ben Olsen who played for the 2006 USA World Cup team and the 2000 USA Olympics team. Olsen played for DC United of MLS for 12 years and is now their head coach. Former LMSC player Jon Conway also played in year MLS for 12 years, with the San Jose Earthquakes and the New York Red Bulls and Chicago Fire.

Former LMSC player Jimmy McLaughlin played several years for the Philadelphia Union. Former LMSC player Greg Cochrane played for the Chicago Fire.

Several former LMSC Travel Team Players have represented our country on the National Youth Teams: Sophia Muetterties plays for the Costa Rican women's national team, Matthew Real was on the USA Under 18 National team and now plays for the Philadelphia Union. Will Kohler (U-17 National Team in 1992), Jon Conway (U-20 National Team in 1997) and Olsen. Former LMSC player Suzie Grech was a member of Spain's Under 17 National Team in 1999. Former LMSC player Max Kurtzman was on the U-15 National Team in 2007 while Emily Morgan was on the U-14 Women's National Team in 2009.

Our more talented intramural players should give serious consideration to trying out for the Travel Team Program. Tryouts are held each spring. LMSC will field up to four boys' teams and up to four girls' teams in each age group from Under 8 up through Under 19.

TRYOUTS FOR THE 2024-2025 LMSC TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM - Complete tryout information can be found on the LMSC web page. Our 2024-2025 travel teams will be for players born between 2006 and 2017. Tryouts will start the week of April 15 and run into early May.

We hope that you enjoy the Spring Intramural Program. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. We are best reached by e-mail at: soccer@lmsc.net