



LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

Box 360 Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

www.lmsc.net

soccer@lmsc.net

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

MIDDLE AGE GROUP PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM FORMAT

The first Saturday of the season (September 10) will be a just practice. The first games of the season will take place on Saturday, September 17, except for the Bantams and Microns Division. Their first games will be September 24. Teams will have a game on all remaining Saturdays, through the end of the season on November 5. We will use November 12 as a makeup date if needed. Each team will also have one weeknight practice (or Sunday afternoon practice) each week throughout the season. All intramural teams will have three before their first game.

WHAT TO BRING TO BOTH GAMES AND PRACTICES

- Game jersey
- White shirt
- Shin guards (mandatory)
- Navy shorts
- Proper fitting cleats
- A filled plastic (not glass) water bottle is recommended.

Be sure to bring a white shirt to games (in the event of a color conflict with the other team). Bring a white shirt to practices so your coach can divide players into two groups.

Please bring a soccer ball to both practices and games.

- Size 3 Ball for Bantams, Juniors, Microns and Quasars Divisions
- Size 4 Ball for Intermediates and Protons Divisions

WHEN TO SHOW UP FOR GAMES

Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled game time for warm ups. Your coach will lead the team through a pre-game warmup. Be sure to bring your soccer ball so that the coach can have each player work on soccer skills.

PHILOSOPHY OF YOUR DIVISION

Team records and division standings are NOT kept in your division. There are no championships. Parents are asked to remember this and help keep the competitive level in perspective. We expect parents and other spectators at games to display sportsmanship and courtesy at all times. The primary goal of our club is:

"To provide each and every youngster with a fun filled experience in a soccer environment."

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF RAIN

The fields that we use are owned by the Lower Merion Township and the Lower Merion School District. They will close their fields if the fields are in bad shape due to weather. The fields will remain closed even after it has stopped raining if the fields are saturated and in danger of being ruined.

If the fields are closed, LMSC will post a notice on the LMSC web page, www.lmsc.net, stating that the fields have been closed. LMSC will also attempt to e-mail coaches and players if the fields are closed on game day. This however might not be possible so please check the LMSC web page. Please do NOT call the LMSC Officers or Division Commissioners. They have been specifically told to tell people to go to the LMSC web page.

DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THE FIELDS

The Lower Merion Township and Lower Merion 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.

THE ANNUAL INTRAMURAL ALL STAR GAMES

These games will be held near the end of the season. Players selected to play will be notified by mail from the LMSC Directors about a week in advance. Players will NOT be picked by the coaches of the teams. Overage players are NOT eligible to participate in the All Star Games.

SPRING INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Our Spring Intramural Program will start in early April. This program runs primarily on Sunday afternoons. Each Sunday, teams will have a 30 minute practice, followed by a 50 minute game. Unlike the Fall Intramural Program, there are no midweek practices. The Spring Intramural Program is open to children ages 4 - 12. Information and registration material for the Spring Intramural Program will be available on our web page starting in December.

JEWELRY AND DANGEROUS OBJECTS

Per rule of the United States Soccer Federation, jewelry may not be worn during soccer games or practices. Earrings that cannot be removed **MUST** be fully taped to ensure the safety of all players. Similarly, necklaces must be tucked under the shirt and may not be exposed during the game.

PARENT AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

The one thing we get more complaints about than anything else is the conduct of the parents and spectators on game day. While we appreciate that parents care about their child's soccer, we need to discourage parents and spectators from acting in ways that bother the players and other spectators. Please keep in mind that this is not the National Football League. Rather, this is youth soccer and it is played for the enjoyment of the players.

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? Most of the referees will be 12-15 year olds. Many of them were playing in your child's division not many years ago. In a few years, your child might be working as a referee at LMSC. How would you want your child to be treated by the spectators?
- 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. Spectators who shout out instructions to the players are hindering the players' ability to have fun and also hindering their ability to make quick decisions on the field ... you are **NOT** helping them at all.
- Positive encouragement and cheering for **ALL** players is always welcome. The main thing that children want from their parents is encouragement and approval. Please be positive so that your child can have a fun and memorable experience each week.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS AND CHANGING TEAMS DURING THE SEASON

Your team will have one practice a week, the particular weeknight (or Sunday afternoon) that you have practice will be determined by your coach. If the night that your coach has chosen for practice conflicts with your personal schedule (Hebrew School, C.C.D., piano lessons, etc.), let your coach know **IMMEDIATELY** so that he / she may arrange to trade you to a different team in your division so that you will not have a conflict between your practice schedule and your personal schedule. Please do **NOT** call the LMSC Hotline or the LMSC Officers. Your coach is the one who will be able to coordinate this.

We will only be able to make trades right after the first night of practice so let your coach know **IMMEDIATELY**. Your coach will get in touch with the Division Commissioner and attempt to move your child to another team. Please be aware that we will **NOT** be able to move your child to a specific team with a friend if that team is full. We do not let teams grow beyond the maximum allowable number of players.

If the coach is able to put you on a different team, you **MUST FIRST** return your old jersey so that we can give it to another player who will be taking your child's spot on the old team.

DEVELOPMENTAL TRAVEL TEAM ACADEMY

One of the primary objectives of the LMSC Intramural Program is to develop the more talented and enthusiastic players for the very prestigious Travel Team Program.

Each year, we run our **Developmental Academy** for players who are too young for the travel team program. Tryouts are held in late April and May. The program runs from late August through April. This year's teams are comprised of children **born in 2016**. Each team will take a maximum of 20 players. This year, we had over 40 boys tryout and over 30 girls tryout for the Developmental Academy. The program offers a high level of coaching. A much higher level of commitment from the players is expected. The Developmental Academy has two practices per week, as compared with the intramural program which has one practice a week.

Each team trains together during the fall season under the direction of the LMSC Coaching Staff. The teams continue during the winter, practicing in local area gyms and playing in local area indoor leagues. We strongly encourage our more talented and enthusiastic players of the proper age to tryout for the Developmental Academy.

TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM

Thank you again for enrolling in LMSC. As a former player in the program (a LONG time ago) and a coach at LMSC for the past 40 years, I am confident that you will enjoy the program. We have developed a lot of high quality players over the years.

Since 1989, our club has had over 80 travel teams win state championships. In 2022, our Under 11 boys were crowned state champions. In the spring of 2021, our girls Under 15 travel team and our boys Under 17 travel team both won state championships.

In the fall of 2019, we will have over 70 former LMSC players playing at the college level.

LMSC has had several former players make it to the professional ranks in soccer including Daniel Lovitz of the USA Men's National Team and the Montreal Impact. Also, former LMSC player Matthew Real is on the Philadelphia Union.

Former LMSC player Ben Olsen played for the USA in the World Cup in 2006 in Germany as well as the Olympics in Sydney, Australia in 2000. He later served as head coach for D.C. United of Major League Soccer, our nation's top professional league, for over 10 years.

Former LMSC player Jon Conway played in the MLS, our country's top professional league, for twelve years. Jon was an All American selection at Rutgers in 1999. Former LMSC player Suzie Grech was a member of Spain's Under 18 National Team. Former LMSC player Will Kohler started for the USA Under 17 National Team in 1991. In 2006, Max Kurtzman was a member of the Under 15 National Team. LMSC alums Greg Cochrane and Jimmy McLaughlin both played in the MLS up through 2015. Former LMSC player Derrick Jones also played in the MLS for several years.

LMSC E-MAIL LIST

Players in our Fall Intramural Program have been placed on our e-mail list and will receive information from the club about upcoming events such as the Spring Intramural Program, Travel Team Tryouts, Developmental Academy Tryouts, etc.

If you change your e-mail address in the future, or if you wish to have additional e-mail addresses added to our database, please e-mail us at **soccer@lmsc.net**

Thank you again for enrolling in LMSC. We are looking forward to our 55th year of soccer. We hope you like our program and will stick with soccer for many years.

Soccerly,



Biff Sturla
President
Lower Merion Soccer Club
soccer@lmsc.net