



LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

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

Dear Penn Wynne Park Soccer Participant,

March 25, 2024

Thank you for signing up for our Spring Intramural Program. We will be playing every Sunday from April 7 through June 9th, except for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day Weekend. Each Sunday, the age groups will meet as followings.

Pee-Wees Boys (2019 birth boys)	10:45 – 11:50	and	1:15 - 2:20		
Pee-Wees Girls (2019 birth girls)	10:45 – 11:50	and	1:15 - 2:20		
Atoms Division (2018 birth boys)	Advanced 9:30 – 10:35	Regular	12:00 – 1:05	Beginners	2:30 – 3:35
Neutrons Division (2018 birth girls)	Advanced 9:30 – 10:35	Regular	12:00 – 1:05	Beginners	2:30 – 3:35

FIELDS - All divisions will play at Penn Wynne Park, 1298 East Manoa Road in Wynnewood. The boys divisions will play on the fields FURTHEST from Manoa Road (left field of the baseball field). The girls divisions will play on the fields CLOSEST to Manoa Road (right field of the baseball field).

LATE SIGNUPS - We will accept on site registrations during the season. If you have friends who would like to play, please invite them to show up (with the proper equipment) and sign up at our registration table.

CHANGING DIVISIONS – Players may switch between the divisions as needed to fit their families' personal schedules.

STARTING EACH SESSION - We realize that there will be occasions when players won't be able to make a session or two. This is perfectly fine. We do ask however that if you are going to show up, show up at least 5 minutes early so we can get started **promptly**. If you show up late, we will not be able to get you put into the flow of things right away so you will have to stand around awhile. PLEASE get to the fields on time.

PARKING - Please be aware that the police will ticket illegally parked cars. The police will be coming around, as they do every season, and look to ticket all cars parked illegally.

NO DOGS OR PETS ARE ALLOWED AT THE PARK BY ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP!!!!

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM - Our primary objective at LMSC is to "provide each and every youngster with a fun filled experience in a soccer environment." We try to provide soccer for children of all ages as well as provide different competitive levels for each age.

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 be posted as soon as possible. LMSC will also attempt to e-mail all players and coaches who we have an e-mail address for.

SKILLS CLINIC - At the beginning of each session, we will run a short skills clinic to teach the players the most basic of soccer skills. For that reason, we are asking that **players bring a size 3 ball to the field each week**. Please **Be sure to put your name on the ball in magic marker**. We will have extra soccer balls for players without their own ball. If you are interested in helping to coach, please let me know. We send out a weekly lesson plan to all coaches and referees several days before each session.

EQUIPMENT - Players **MUST** have shin guards, NO EXCEPTIONS. It is preferred that players have soccer shoes as opposed to sneakers. Players should have a dark pair of soccer shorts (preferably navy). Players are to wear their red LMSC jersey to all games (given out at the first Sunday). A filled, plastic water bottle is optional but recommended.

All these items can be purchased at most any sporting goods store.

ADULT CONDUCT - One item of great concern to us is sideline conduct at our soccer games. We have several rules for our spectators that we expect to be followed by **ALL** spectators:

- Do not yell at the referees or attempt to influence them in any way. Our referees are all travel team players and are under strict orders to only follow orders from the LMSC Directors.
- Remember that the coaches and directors are volunteers. Do not give them a hard time, do not yell at them, do not whine and complain to them about trivial things. If you have a problem, state it in a mature fashion to one of the LMSC officers.
- Do not smoke at the fields. We will remove your child from play if you smoke near our athletes.
- Dogs are not allowed at the fields by order of the Lower Merion Township.
- Keep comments positive to your child and all other children. We want to create an atmosphere where the children can enjoy themselves and not feel that they are "forced" to perform up to someone's expectations. Our coaches are instructed to make the number one priority of the program to allow the kids to have fun and learn to enjoy the game.
- Don't let your children or other children to climb on the soccer nets or hang from the goalposts.
- Keep baby strollers, cribs and reclining chairs away from the fields and away from the sidelines
- Do not expect the coaches to turn your child into a professional player, the children are only 5 and 6 years old. Over eager parents are asked to realize that the best way for your child to develop into a top notch player is to let him enjoy the game and develop a passion for the sport. They are too younger to understand the tactics of the game and too young to master the skills.
- Please keep younger children off the fields so they do not get hit by a stray ball.

While on the subject of sideline conduct, please take a few minutes to observe some of the other spectators. If they are acting crazy and out of control, do you think it is embarrassing to their child? If so, please figure out how your child would want you to behave.

INNER CITY SOCCER PROGRAM - LMSC is always collecting old, used soccer equipment, including cleats and balls, to give to underprivileged children in the city who play soccer. If you have equipment you'd like to donate, please bring it to the fields no later than May 17th so that we can forward your donations to the proper people.

COACHING VOLUNTEERS - One of our objectives at LMSC is to provide ample coaching material to our coaches. We have different coaching manuals for the different age groups in our program. All of this is in our budget because we believe that players will enjoy the sport more and develop faster if our coaches know the game and know how to coach it.

We realize that most parents did not play the game as a child. If you are interested in helping to coach, please volunteer. We will try to help you improve your knowledge of the game, no matter what your background. All we ask is that you do your best to make sure the children have fun, and you do your best to improve your soccer knowledge and your coaching skills. Please let us know if you are interested in helping coach your child's age group.

BEYOND THE SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM - The primary season for LMSC is in the fall where we have over 1200 youngsters playing in the intramural program and over 750 players in the Travel Team Program. The Fall Intramural Program offers 12 divisions for boys and girls ages 4-12. The season will start on the Saturday after Labor Day Weekend and run through mid-November. Games are played on Saturdays for all groups except for the Pee-Wees Division which play on Sundays. **BELOW IS THE SETUP FOR OUR 2024 FALL SEASON:**

Boys Divisions

Pee-Wees Division: Boys born in 2020 (play on Sundays)
Atoms Division: Boys born in 2019
Bantams Division: Boys born in 2018
Juniors Division: Boys born in 2017
Intermediate Division: Boys born in 2015 and 2016
Seniors Division: Boys born in 2012 through 2014

Girls Divisions

Pee-Wees Division: Girls born in 2020 (play on Sundays)
Neutrons Division: Girls born in 2019
Microns Division: Girls born in 2018
Quasars Division: Girls born in 2017
Protons Division: Girls born in 2015 and 2016
Electrons Division: Girls born in 2012 through 2014

The Youngest Age Divisions (Atoms, Neutrons and Pee-Wees) will NOT be on set teams for the fall. Each week, the players will led through a skills clinic, which will be followed by small sided games.

The Middle Age Divisions (Bantams, Microns, Juniors, Quasars, Intermediates and Protons) will have the players placed on set teams for the season. Teams play two simultaneous games against their opposing team. Team standings will not be kept during the season.

The Oldest Age Divisions (Seniors and Electrons): Players are placed on set teams for the season and play games of 9 versus 9.

In addition, each fall we offer a **Special Needs Division** for youngsters ages 6-17 with physical and mental limitations. For more information on this program, please visit our web page.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL 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 program will be open to 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.

Tryout information 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. LMSC had 42 alums playing college soccer in the Fall, 2018 season.

Our more talented intramural players should give serious consideration to trying out for the Travel Team Program when they reach eight years of age. 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 15.

TRYOUTS FOR OUR 2024-2025 LMSC TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM - Complete tryout information can be found on the LMSC web page.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send us an e-mail at soccer@lmsc.net. Thank you for your participation in the Spring Intramural Program, we are looking forward to yet another fun filled season.

Soccerly,

Biff

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