

Montclair Soccer Pitch

Special Interest Articles:

- Photo Day is October 6
- U6 & U8 New Parents Night
- New Uniforms
- Help Wanted—Montclair Soccer Needs Volunteers
- New Process for Tracking Your Volunteer Hours

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Message From the President

Now is the time of year when everyone is anxiously awaiting game schedules. Links to the schedules will be posted on the web site as soon as they are available. By the time you read this, most will have already been published. A few may still be in process because we are getting our final permits from Oakland Parks and Rec and the Oakland Unified School District. The permits are critical to the process because they let us know which fields we have permission to use. Our match secretaries who create the game schedules each season know how anxious we all are!

Schedules for U6 and U8 teams will be found on Sportability again this year. Schedules for the older teams will be published on MySoccerLeague.com.

Most of our uniform and equipment orders should be in by now. We got hit by a

double-whammy: a large increase in registration as well as shipment delays. We have appreciated your patience. On top of this, some of the equipment stored in our shed got water damaged due to leaks in the roof. We are looking into getting a replacement shed. When this happens, we will need help transferring the contents from the old one to the new one. Stay tuned for a call for volunteers!

Our season begins in a week. Lets have all of our parents supporting the players from the sidelines, our coaches offering support and encouragement, and our volunteer referees out there in the middle of things receiving nothing but good exercise and our gratitude.

Peter Costantinidis

president@montclairsoccer.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sep. 5	U6 + U8 New Parents Night, pre-season session
Sep. 7	Field Set Up/Take Down Crew Training
Sep. 8	Fall season begins for U8 and above
Sep. 10	Monthly Meeting
Sep. 10	Women's World Cup 2007 begins
Sep. 13	U6 + U8 New Parents Night, regular session
Sep. 15	Referee Grade Level 9 Clinic
Sep. 16	U6 Season begins
Sep. 22	Referee Grade Level 9 Clinic
Oct. 6	Photo Day
Oct. 8	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 4	Season ends for U6
Nov. 11	Season ends for U8 and above
Nov. 17-18	JLYSSL End of season tournament for U10-U14

October 6 is Photo Day

This year's Photo Day will be held on Saturday, October 6, a little later in the season than last year. We plan to hold it at Montera Middle School again. Coaches will be contacted around the middle of the month and given instructions for where to pick up order forms. They will distribute order forms to families about a week before Photo Day.

Photo times should be scheduled close enough to game times that teams can go from one straight to the other. The photo schedules will be available one week before Photo Day. In addition to an email announcement, they will also be posted on the web.

Register Now for U6 & U8 New Parents Night

Dear U8 and U6 Families in the Montclair Soccer Club,

We had a very successful Coaches Day on Sunday, August 19, and we are hard at work getting ready for the rapidly approaching U8 and U6 soccer seasons.

All parents of new U6 and new U8 players are required to attend one of the New Parents Nights. At this orientation parents learn about MSC and the U6 & U8 soccer programs, participate in a Positive Coaching (PCA) workshop, and meet other parents. **Attendance at a New Parents Night is required by one parent from every family of new players.** We must plan for attendance, so register:

New Parents Night #1 – Wednesday, September 5, 2007, 7-9pm (Bishop O'Dowd HS) To register:

<http://www.sportability.com/spx/Leagues/League.asp?LqID=15945>

New Parents Night #2 – Thursday, September 13, 2007, 7-9pm (Bishop O'Dowd HS) To register:

<http://www.sportability.com/spx/Leagues/League.asp?LqID=15946>

New? If your child is a new U6 or new U8 player, you are required to attend one of the New Parents Nights. **Returning?** If you are a returning parent and have not yet attended a PCA workshop, you must attend for your child to be eligible for our soccer program. If you attended a PCA Workshop as part of an U8 New Parents Night in the last 3 years, you are not required to attend again.

If you are a coach and have not yet attended a PCA Workshop in the past, you MUST attend a PCA Workshop at one of these New Parents Nights.

We hope your family has a great season of soccer.

Sincerely,

U8 Commissioner, U8@montclairsoccer.org

Return Extra or Old Uniforms

Got extra or outgrown uniforms? Return outgrown jerseys at Shepherd Canyon on Saturday 09/08/07 (first day of U8 games and 1 week before the first U6 games), 9am – 4pm, at a drop box by the Equipment Shed (the Shed is a container near the firehouse at Shepherd Canyon field). Jerseys must be clean and completely dry.

U6 & U8 Team Meetings

Coaches should be in contact with their team families sometime in the next 2-4 weeks to have a Team Meeting. To get a feel for what's coming, take a look at the sample *Letter from the Coach*, which can be found in the *Coaches Guide* (available at www.montclairsoccer.org, under *Coaches Corner*).

Save the Date: U8 Referee Training is September 7

Referee training for U8s is held the evening before the first game at Shepherd Canyon field. Check www.montclairsoccer.org for an announcement about the start time. Refereeing gives you the best seat in the house to watch your child's game. And, every team is required to provide referees throughout the season. Come to the U8 Referee Training on Friday evening, 9/7/2007.

Equipment Donation Drop Off on Photo Day

On Photo Day (October 6), our equipment coordinator Kathleen and other volunteers will be at Montera Middle School to collect donations of used soccer equipment and returns. Please bring in any soccer equipment that you don't need that can in any way be reused. These discontinued and old jerseys, etc., in the past have gone to Ghana, Cuba, Mexico, as well as Oakland teams that we have sponsored. What's taking up space in your closets and garages can be an opportunity and a delight to someone in the world.



New Uniforms for Fall 2007, Coaches Stock Up for Season at Open Shed Saturdays

Because of a discontinuation of the previous U14-U19 jersey, we took the opportunity to choose a completely new uniform for the older players—new shorts, new jerseys. I must admit, I was a little gun shy from the U6-U12 red shorts debacle last year (which was a last-minute supplier issue and had nothing to do with me), so I took some sample jerseys to a board meeting, and with the help of the president modeling and everyone's input, we chose the current jersey. We personally think it looks great and is a nice perk for the kids. Also, the younger kids are now getting the checkered short originally reserved for their bigger brothers and sisters—a perk for them as well.

We just completed our third and last “open shed Saturday,” where coaches pick up supplies for the season. The coaches were terrific—except for those still in Greece and outlying areas who emailed me later—they pretty much all came and got their equipment, which makes it much easier all around.

Of course, there are always glitches: We were unable to get all the U6-U12 shorts we ordered in on time; we got fewer jerseys and shorts back than we had expected, and more kids registered, and so, we ran out of uniforms near the end. The good news, however, is that because we held the open sheds early in the pre-season, we expect to get everything we need in well before the first games. This is with the exception of the reversible jerseys, which will take an additional week or two. However, we expect with a little communication between the U6 and U8 coaches, there are plenty of jerseys for everyone in the right size already out there.

Kathleen Kline equipment1@montclairsoccer.org

Master Plan Design Developed for Raimondi Park

Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation (Friends) in cooperation with the City of Oakland, local sports teams, the West Oakland Commerce Association, and local community members have developed a Master Plan Design for Ernie Raimondi Park. The park would include 2 multi-purpose artificially surfaced regulation size playing fields that would be striped for soccer and football. The sports fields will include scoreboards, bleachers, sports lights, and PA systems for games. The artificial surfacing and lights on the field will increase playing time significantly by allowing the fields to be played year round and

into the evening hours seven days a week.

Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation invites you to buy a personalized, engraved fundraising brick to be placed in the new Raimondi Park. Your contribution supports the construction of this \$7 million renovation project. For \$250 (or \$500) your family, child, team, coach, or business will forever be a part of the park and memorialize the good times spent playing soccer. For more information, go to <http://www.oaklandparks.org/raimondi.htm>

Upcoming Referee Clinics

Local soccer clubs are continuing to host Recreational (Referee Grade Level 9) Clinics in September.

The Grade 9 Clinic is an eight hour course taught in two four hour or one nine hour session. A Recreational Referee may referee ONLY U14 and younger recreational games in JLYSSL.

For the latest schedule of local Referee Clinics, consult the [CNRA District 4 Referee Clinics web page](http://www.d4ra.com/ref/clinics.html): <http://www.d4ra.com/ref/clinics.html>

Date	Contact
9/15	Gr. 9, ASC: refcoordinator@alamedasoccer.org
9/22	Gr. 9, RSC: rscrefs@jlysl.org

Coach Needed for Bishop O'Dowd JV Men's Soccer

Bishop O'Dowd High School is looking for a JV Men's Soccer coach. If you are interested email the O'Dowd Athletic Director, Mike Bowler, at mbowler@bishopodowd.org.

If you would like to talk to another Montclair coach about his experience as a JV coach at O'Dowd, contact our board member, Steve Shub SGS@crafts.net. He coached at O'Dowd last fall.



U14 Girls Improve Skills at Sutton Soccer

Dear Fellow Coaches,

Earlier this year I took my U14 girls team (a class IV team) to a new soccer training facility in Alameda called Sutton Soccer. I was impressed by how quickly my players improved their ball skills, and have since organized 3 more sessions – with one more planned for this Fall. The Sutton Soccer facility staffs professional trainers and serves over 1000 balls per session giving players hundreds of repetitions (think: a big batting cage with ball machines serving up soccer balls from 4 corners). My players improved their skills and confidence. They enjoyed the sessions and really liked the trainers. Sutton offers a free first session for U10 and up teams (that's how my teams got started). There's also an introductory hour for coaches and team managers every Sunday 4:00 – 5:00pm. You can visit their website at www.suttonsoccer.com, where you can watch a video, view pictures, and learn more about their programs. Sutton Soccer is in Alameda, and the facility is for U10 and above players only.

Kimberly Guillen vicepresident@montclairsoccer.org

*U19 Clippers
tournament August 25,
2007*

Help Wanted: Photo Day Organizer

For the past five years, Peter Costantinidis has organized the Montclair Soccer Club's photo day. He is very ready to retire from this position.

Interested parties should contact:

Peter Costantinidis
Photo Day Organizer
photos@montclairsoccer.org

This position entails:

- Arrange date and location
- Provide game schedules to photographers who produce the photo schedules
- Distribute photos

Help Wanted: Sweatshirt Sales

Montclair Soccer Club needs a sweatshirt sales coordinator to structure the sales table shifts, tell the Volunteer Coordinator how many sales folks are needed, work with the Treasurer on safe handling of cash and check receipts, and get the stock, tables, etc. all lined up for Photo Day on Oct. 6!

The approximate time commitment is two hours to order and organize each sales event, more if you choose to work any sales shifts. Plus, if you are a go-getter you could investigate other sales opportunities, like an occasional table at a specific field.

Responsibilities

- Place orders for t-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece jackets, etc.
- Organize sales volunteers to man the sales table at registration and photo day.
- Maintain sales history of purchases

Bonus Points

- There is a detailed how-to procedure available.
- There are folks ready and willing to help get you started, including the former coordinator.
- The supplier is already in place, and there is no real need to order more stock for the October sale at Photo Day.

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Lane, at volunteers@montclairsoccer.org if you can be persuaded to take on this great volunteer job for your child's team!

New Procedure for Tracking Volunteer Hours

Submit Those Volunteer Hours!

Volunteers run our club, and our Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Lane, is ready to have you enter your own hours into a survey tool. This will replace the back-and-forth emails to get your hours recognized for the right child's team.

To enter your hours, please click on the link below. It will take you to a Survey Monkey survey that will collect the information.

<http://www.montclairsoccer.org/Volunteers/hours.html>

Periodically, the data will be collected and published on the MSC website. That's where you can check to see if your team has made it to the 16 hour mark, the requirement for Under 10's and older to be able to play in our end-of-season tournament.

The Volunteers web page will be updated to reflect the change, too. The details of our volunteer policy can be found there - including what activities you can undertake to fulfill your child's team requirement. Check in there if you need more information!

Volunteers Keep Us Going

Volunteerism is a key element of the Montclair Soccer Club philosophy. Your volunteerism is a positive example for children and it can show your commitment to them. The club is an all-volunteer organization that elects its officers and selects volunteers to coordinate all areas of responsibility. Volunteers are always needed to fill these positions plus crucial coaching and referee jobs. Without your volunteer efforts, the club will not function and your children will not be able to play.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The *Montclair Soccer Pitch* is a once-a-month newsletter for members of the Montclair Soccer Club community. This newsletter is our primary communication mechanism for information and announcements. However, we will continue to use email to disseminate time-critical information.

The newsletter will include such content as open volunteer positions, recruiting coaches or players, upcoming events, referee news and information, tournament results, and general interest local soccer news.

Submit news items and announcements by the 24th of each month to newsletter@montclairsoccer.org. Items should be as complete as possible and include appropriate contact information. Most articles should be limited to a couple of paragraphs.

“Submit newsletter items by the 24th of each month.”

About Our Organization...

We generally meet on the second Monday of each month. Meeting changes are always reflected in our online calendar.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. They are a good opportunity to find ways to help make a difference within our Club.

Our meetings take place at Bishop O'Dowd in the Dominican Hall Board Room. Bishop O'Dowd is at 9500 Stearns Ave (I580 to Golf Links Rd exit; continue on 98th Ave up the hill to Stearns Ave; right to campus entrance). The Dominican Hall Board Room is the first building inside the gate on the left just past the chapel.

There will signs directing you to the meeting room on the first floor. Park anywhere.