

Montclair Soccer Pitch

Special Interest Articles:

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Message From the President

Greetings Everyone!

Welcome to our first issue of the new year! Not only do we have the Spring season just around the corner, we are starting to make plans for next Fall as well! Our Spring season will begin either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April, with the Under-6 teams starting a couple of weeks after this. We will know the dates for certain in time for the March newsletter.

This past weekend, the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) held their 28th annual Soccer Expo here in Oakland. I had never been to this event, and with it right here in our backyard, I had to go see what all of the excitement was about. There were many exhibitors, including Shooting Stars, the photographers we use for Photo Day. They said they would probably switch from film to digital cameras in a couple of years. CYSA set up two "fields", each with a full-sized goal. One field was primarily used for coaching clinics, with the other focused on player events. The kids were definitely enjoying the indoor soccer venue.

There were a variety of workshops, ranging from *Secrets of Sports Psychology* to *Secrets of Division 1 College Coaching*. I attended the ClubReg demonstration. ClubReg is an alternative to sPortability, our current online registration and communication system. The biggest thing ClubReg has going for it is that it is fully integrated with CYSA's official registration software. We don't yet know if we will be switching to ClubReg this year. However, as it continues to evolve and become more and more of the CYSA registration standard, I expect a switch may happen eventually.

Let's hope we get all of the rain we need during the next few weeks and have green and dry fields ready for us in April!

Peter Constantinidis
president@montclairsoccer.org



Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb. 11 | MSC Monthly Meeting |
| Mar. 15 – 16 | U9-U12 Clippers tryouts |
| Mar. 29-30 | U13-U19 Clippers tryouts |
| March 2008 | Fall registration (tentative) |
| Apr. 12 | Earthquakes vs. Chicago Fire at McAfee Coliseum |

Spring Season 2008 Information

The Jack London Soccer League spring season will start either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April. The U6 games usually begin a week later. The spring season is usually eight games. Our spring season is shorter and less formal than the fall. It is a good time to have fun and stay fit.

Most schedules are published the week before play begins. We know you would like the schedules sooner, but the reason for this is that we are often uncertain of field availability until right before the season starts. Links to the schedules will be posted to www.montclairsoccer.org as soon as they are available.

Spring teams are created by returning fall coaches forming their teams with extra players from other teams (e.g., for example combining teams). Rosters of 20+ are not unusual for the older age groups. This is because conflicts with other sports during the spring can make it difficult for everyone to make the scheduled games.

Before we can begin registering new players, we must hear back from our fall coaches to see who will be fielding a team in spring. We anticipate opening our spring registration the second weekend in March. Registration instructions will be posted on our website at www.montclairsoccer.org.

Pam Hoffman, Montclair Soccer Registrar

Registrar@montclairsoccer.org

Cheetahs Advance to State Quarter Finals

Montclair Soccer Club's U14 girls' team, the Cheetahs, advanced to the quarterfinals at the California Youth Soccer Association's annual Founders Cup in Morgan Hill, the annual state cup competition.

It was a long haul to the State Cup for this group of girls; they worked hard. They did 2 summer soccer camps (we had 16 players at the Dutch Soccer / Hoek camp), started the season early with practices, played as many games as possible (rescheduling rained out games even if that meant playing during the week right after school) in the Class IV Gold flight, did a Fall session of Sutton Soccer and did the Delta Invitational as a dress rehearsal for the State Cup. They girls showed up for practices in big numbers (consistently we had 15-16 players at practices throughout the season) and they worked hard.

After the 0-1 match against the Novato Wildcats, the referee had some nice words. He said he's been refereeing at the Cup for years, and that our game not a quarter final game – it was championship match. The Novato Wildcats went on to win the State Cup in the finals.

Reminders for Players: Spring Soccer

Spring soccer is informal. There are no standings, but there is fighting.

Player pass cards for U10 and older and still enforced.

Fall fees include the cost of playing in the spring. Players returning from the fall do not need to re-register.

All players must have a medical release form (with wet signature) in order to play. A coach may make copies of this form and have the parents sign each copy. The player can carry this with them from team to team.

For under 10 and up players need to carry their player passes. If your team is not playing this spring then it is the coach's responsibility to give the player his or her pass to take to his or her spring team. We will not be reprinting new passes for spring. Contact your fall coach for your pass.

We may have a limited amount of space for practices. Not all teams practice in the spring.

Sometimes kids play up in the spring, say from U8 to U10 or U10 to U12. But they may never play down. In addition, a player from a different class may play on a spring team. However, you should let the opposing coach know if you have, for example, a class 3 player on your class 4 team.

Some teams/players will need equipment or uniforms. They should contact our equipment coordinators.

Teams must have referees for spring! There will be an entry-level referee class offered this spring (see p. 4 for details). There will be other classes during the summer and the very beginning of the season.

2008 Clipper Tryout Schedule

Please check the Montclair Soccer Club Web Site at <http://www.montclairsoccer.org/> prior to your tryout date for any changes in dates, start times, field changes, or possible rainout.

Try to attend all tryout dates. Please arrive 30 minutes early to register. Tryout registration forms are available online. Please contact the coaches if you cannot attend a tryout. Coach contact information is available at <http://www.montclairsoccer.org/>. Players must wear shin guards.

Coaches will be posted at <http://www.montclairsoccer.org/>.

Girls' Schedule

| Age Group | Day/Date | Place | Time |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| U9 Girls* Born between 8/1/99 – 7/31/00 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 1:30 – 3:30 pm 4:00 – 6:00 pm |
| U10 Girls Born between 8/1/98 – 7/31/99 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 1:30 – 3:30 pm 4:00 – 6:00 pm |
| U11 Girls Born between 8/1/97 – 7/31/98 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 8:30 – 10:00 am 11:00 – 1:00 pm |
| U12 Girls Born between 8/1/96 – 7/31/97 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 8:30 – 10:00 am 11:00 – 1:00 pm |
| U13 Girls Born between 8/1/95 – 7/31/96 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 1:30 – 3:30 pm 4:00 – 6:00 pm |
| U14 Girls Born between 8/1/94 – 7/31/95 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 1:30 – 3:30 pm 4:00 – 6:00 pm |
| U16 Girls Born between 8/1/92 – 7/31/94 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 8:30 – 10:00 am 11:00 – 1:00 pm |
| U19 Girls Born between 8/1/89 – 7/31/92 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 8:30 – 10:00 am 11:00 – 1:00 pm |

Boys' Schedule

| Age Group | Day/Date | Place | Time |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| U9 Boys* Born between 8/1/99 – 7/31/00 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 11:00 – 1:00pm 8:30 – 10:30am |
| U10 Boys Born between 8/1/98 – 7/31/99 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 11:00 – 1:00pm 8:30 – 10:30am |
| U11 Boys Born between 8/1/97 – 7/31/98 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 4:00 – 6:00pm 1:30 – 3:30pm |
| U12 Boys Born between 8/1/96 – 7/31/97 | Sat. 3/15/08 Sun. 3/16/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 4:00 – 6:00pm 1:30 – 3:30pm |
| U13 Boys Born between 8/1/95 – 7/31/96 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 11:00 – 1:00pm 8:30 – 10:30am |
| U14 Boys Born between 8/1/94 – 7/31/95 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 11:00 – 1:00pm 8:30 – 10:30am |
| U16 Boys Born between 8/1/92 – 7/31/94 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 4:00 – 6:00pm 1:30 – 3:30pm |
| U19 Boys Born between 8/1/89 – 7/31/92 | Sat. 3/29/08 Sun. 3/30/08 | Merritt College Merritt College | 4:00 – 6:00pm 1:30 – 3:30pm |

* Developmental Team that will play Class IV Recreational Flight

Merritt College Field Directions

Take I-580 to the 35th Avenue exit. Proceed east on 35th Avenue towards the hills. At the Warren Freeway (Highway 13) 35th Avenue becomes Redwood Road. Continue on Redwood Road up the hill and turn right at the second stoplight onto Campus Drive. After about a quarter mile, turn left onto the College grounds. Take the second left to enter a series of parking lots. On weekends, you may use any of the white painted spaces not reserved for special use. Bring two quarters to buy a parking permit, which must be placed on your dashboard (not required on Sunday). Walk across the basketball courts and up the ramp to the soccer fields or use the stairs from the innermost lot. The Deputy Sheriff will ticket improperly parked cars.
ABSOLUTELY NO DOGS ALLOWED! Field #2 is the U14-and-up field to the right, closest to the football field. Field #4 is the Turf Field

Coaches Gear Up for Spring Season

Spring soccer is a lot of fun, and to make sure things run smoothly, coaches will want to take note:

If you are a coach please notify your players (and parents) whether or not you plan on coaching in the spring. Have them to contact their Age Group Coordinator if they want to play and you are not coaching. Some kids find out late and don't get on teams - let your kids know about your plans for the spring season right away.

If the count of players per team are too many or too few and we have trouble deciding how many teams to field per age group/sex, work with your Age Group Coordinator.

The biggest problem we face is teams saying they are going to play and then don't follow through, messing up schedules for everyone. This year the League may impose a fine on Clubs that submit bogus teams.

Remember this is a FUN season and a great way to get your team ready for fall. It is also a fantastic time for new players to get an informal introduction to Montclair Soccer.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your involvement and positive influence on the youth of our community.

Pam Hoffman, Montclair Soccer Registrar

Registrar@montclairsoccer.org

Grade 8 Ref Classes Start on March 11

JLYSSL will offer one class for new referees this spring. Piedmont SC is hosting, but all are welcome.

The class will hold only 25 students, though, so sign up early if you are interested.

Students must attend five of the six classes, and must attend the final night and take the exam that evening. Students pass and earn their 2008 badge with a score of 75% or higher on the exam. Classes will run for about three hours each evening, for a total of 18 hours.

The dates are March 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, and 27 in the Piedmont Rec Center. Contact the class host to confirm them.

<http://jlysl.org/refpages/clinic.asp>

Time: 7pm to 10pm

Location: Piedmont Rec Center, 358 Hillside Ave, Piedmont

Minimum age is 14.

Class is free but there is a \$25 referee registration fee if you pass the test.

A complete uniform costs about \$55. You can get a refund from your club after you officiate five games in your first season as referee. You must referee five games to qualify for the refund.

For specific questions about this class, contact the host, Alain Knechtli, pscrefs@jlysl.org 510-923-1338.

For other questions about refereeing, contact MSC's Dan Sommer, referees@montclairsoccer.org



New equipment storage shed in place. Thanks to all who coordinated the effort to replace the leaky old shed.

New Volunteer Policy to Take Effect Fall 2008

After much thought and discussion, Montclair Soccer Club has updated its volunteer policy to better meet the needs of busy families and an active club. While the soccer club maintains its mandatory volunteer policy, it now also offers a “buy out” option. If your child participates in soccer, your family must either fulfill the 6 to 8 hour club-level volunteer requirement or buy out the requirement for \$100.

The Montclair Soccer Club expects each team’s team manager, team volunteer coordinator or, in their absence, head coach, to provide an accurate list of volunteers to the club volunteer coordinator prior to the first game of the season. Families with more than one player need to fulfill only one volunteer responsibility.

MSC’s new volunteer policy takes effect for Fall 2008 & Spring 2009, and for subsequent seasons. *Families can volunteer in Spring 2008 for the 2008-2009 seasons.*

What counts towards Club-level volunteer hours? For a full list of Club-level volunteering jobs, see Volunteers at www.montclairsoccer.org.

What does *not* count towards Club-level volunteer hours? Organizing snacks, bringing snacks, organizing your team’s photo shoot on Picture Day, individual team fundraising, organizing team trophies, and other tasks directly for your child’s team besides the jobs listed below (coach, assistant coach, team manager, team volunteer coordinator, referee, PCA coordinator).

Note that the following team-specific roles are exempt from fulfilling club-level volunteer hours: head coach, active assistant, team manager, and team volunteer coordinator.

Please visit www.montclairsoccer.org for the complete details on the new volunteer policy. Below is a summary of changes to the volunteer policy.

| Old Policy (before 2008) | New Policy (begins Fall 2008) |
|--|---|
| 16 hours of Club-level volunteer time <i>per team</i> | 6-8 hours of Club-level volunteer time <i>per family</i> |
| Teams were assigned practice field slots based upon when they submitted their request and field availability | A team will be assigned a practice slot ONLY after its Team Volunteer Coordinator has submitted a complete list with volunteer jobs identified for each team family |
| No volunteer buy-out existed | Families may buy-out their volunteer requirement by paying \$100 when they register |
| Coaches and team managers often fulfilled their team’s volunteer requirement | Head coaches, active assistant coaches, team managers, referees, team volunteer coordinators, Board members and Club Officers are exempt from fulfilling additional volunteer roles |
| Volunteer fulfillment was summarized toward the end of the season | After the 3 rd game of the Fall season, a list of volunteer hours fulfilled per family will be distributed Club-wide and families who have not yet fulfilled their volunteer hours will be put on notice |
| Referee game fulfillment was summarized toward the end of the season | After the 3 rd game of the Fall season, a list of games refereed by team will be distributed Club-wide. Teams who are not making progress in their referee requirement will be put on notice that their practice field assignment is in jeopardy |
| Families were assigned to teams regardless of their volunteer time fulfillment | Families that do not volunteer will receive direct follow-up from the Club via email and are required to pay the \$100 volunteer buy-out. Families who fail to fulfill their volunteer hours and also fail to remit the \$100 volunteer buy-out will be automatically wait-listed for team placement in the subsequent season |

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.

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.

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

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.