

Montclair Soccer Pitch

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Message from the President

Hello fellow volunteers, parents, and Montclair Soccer Families;

It is a funny thing about soccer. Even a weekend warrior like me that spends hours behind a desk each week can turn into a 10 year old kid when there is a team, a coach and a soccer pitch to play around on for a few hours. I am a little sore and very happy to have had the pleasure of working with a number of our dedicated coaches to obtain an E level coaching license this past weekend. The class was a three day event with classroom time on Friday and field exercises on Saturday and Sunday. Our amazing recreational level and Clippers level coaches arrived at 8:00 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday morning to play soccer for five hours to advance the quality of leadership in the youth teams that they coach. We were joined on Sunday by a host of other coaches obtaining their F level license as well.

For two days of field exercises, we volunteer coaches played sharks and minnows, small

sided games and kicked the ball around cones like... well, like kids. There was a spirit of collegiality and humor among us weekend warriors as we participated in the drills and games that we will teach to the children we will coach this season. Even at 8:00 a.m. on a Sunday I felt energized by the idea of working with people who are selfless or crazy enough to chase soccer balls around in the blazing sun and on a cold Bay Area summer morning. Thank you to all of the volunteers, parents and soccer families that contribute their efforts to organize the training class for coaches and referees, coordinate equipment, update the club website, set up our fields for scores of kids to play each weekend and manage their sons and daughters teams. Thank you to Bishop O'Dowd High School for generously hosting yet another Montclair Soccer Club event. It is your collective efforts that create the supportive community that has allowed our kids to thrive in youth sports.

Best regards,

Meredith Brown, MSC President

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 1	Submit practice requests
Aug. 3	Earthquakes vs. LA Galaxy at McAfee Coliseum
Aug. 7	Deadline for practice requests
Aug 17	U6 & U8 Coaches Day (mandatory for all U6 & U8 coaches)
Aug. 11	Monthly meeting
Aug. 14	Practice schedule released
Aug. 17	U6 & U8 Coaches Day
Aug 20	U10+ Coaches Dinner
Aug. 25	Practices begin
Aug 27	New Parents Night #1 (new parents are required to attend one NPN)
Aug 30-31	Labor Day weekend
Aug 31	U6 Coaches Dress Rehearsal
Sep 4	New Parents Night #2 (new parents are required to attend one NPN)
Sep. 5	U8 Referee training
Sep 6	Fall season games begin
Sep. 8	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 4	Photo Day



Successful Fall Registration Event

Greetings Parents, Coaches and Players!

A long overdue thank you to everyone for coming to fall 2008 soccer registration at Montera Middle School. We expect to have at least 1300 players in Montclair Soccer spread out over about 100 teams.

The under ten and above age groups have all been placed on their teams. Our age group coordinators have a very tough job with this giant puzzle. They deserve a large salary for their efforts, but since we are a nonprofit an even larger thank you goes out to them.

We still have some room in the U14 boys group. Other groups are full, but please feel free to inquire. Sometimes over the summer we have families that move and a space or two will open up.

Our U6 and U8 groups have had a waiting list since the end of April. If more coaches step up, we can place some of these kids on teams. To volunteer, please visit www.montclairsoccer.org to locate the directory and contact the U6 coordinator or the U8 coordinators.

Your coaches will be getting in touch with you toward the end of August if you have not heard from them already. Please send me an email the last week in August if you have not yet heard from a coach.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best Regards, Pam Hoffman, Registrar

Special Announcement: The City of Oakland will make a presentation to the Montclair Soccer Club at our August 11th meeting regarding the City's planned Shepherd Canyon Parking Lot Improvement Project. The Montclair Soccer Club is supporting the Shepherd Canyon Parking Lot Improvement Project with a generous donation. Please join us in learning about the project. The meeting will be held at Bishop O'Dowd at 7:30 p.m. on August 11th

Bay Oaks Fundraiser

Earthquakes vs Galaxy - Oakland McAfee Coliseum - August 3rd!

It is time to rock the house. The McAfee house that is, right in our own JLYSSL backyard. The LA Galaxy are coming to town to play our San Jose Earthquakes on Sunday August 3rd at 12:00 PM.

Bay Oaks is coordinating ticket sales for JLYSSL so that we can have a terrific day at the game and root on our favorite players. Come see Beckham, Donovan, and all the rest of the stars as they battle it out right here in Oakland.

The Quakes have allotted us a big section of the stadium, but why don't we see if we can fill it up with players, families, and friends from JLYSSL soccer clubs and make them find us more room in the stadium for our league. Let's show the Bay Area where youth soccer lives. Right here in Jack London.

Tickets are \$30.(same as at the gate) All service and handling fees are included. You can pay by PayPal (secure credit card) or you can mail in your order for tickets.

Game day we will gather for a pre-game tailgate party for all of Jack London Soccer.

Tickets can be bought at: <http://www.bayoaks.net/quakes/> A portion of these ticket sales will go towards the Bay Oaks scholarship program.

Fall Practice Assignments

Coaches and Team Volunteer Coordinators,

Practice field assignments for teams will not be issued until the list of team volunteers is emailed to the Club Volunteer Coordinator. (U6 teams will not be added to the game schedule until the list of team volunteers is emailed.) This requirement is part of our new Volunteer Policy. For more information, including a template for entering team volunteers, see the [instructions](#) on our web site's [Practices](#) page.

We will be taking Fall practice requests from August 1 through 7. The practice schedule will be released August 14. Fall practices will begin August 25. While we do not yet have field permits, we expect to be using at least two of the following fields:

- King Estates
- Merritt College
- Montera Middle School
- Shepherd Canyon

Practice requests are submitted using an online form. A link to this form will be available from the Practices page on August 1.



The June Earthquakes vs. LA Galaxy game held in Oakland

Important Events for U6 & U8 Families for Fall 2008

Hello Families of Under 6 and Under 8 Players. Welcome to the 2008-2009 Montclair Soccer Club season. Our age group coordinators have been busy putting our teams together. Final team placement information will be sent to the coaches before August 1. Coaches will be contacting parents shortly thereafter. Parents should review the new Volunteer Policy, and be prepared to let your coach know what position you will be able to fill. It is important that EVERY FAMILY participate, as MSC is an all-volunteer organization.

When does the season start?

U6s play games on Sundays. First game: 09/07/2008. Last game: 11/09/2008.

U8s play games on Saturdays. First game: 09/06/2007. Last game: 11/08/2007.

When will I know who my child's coach is and what team s/he is on? The U6 and U8 Age Coordinators are working hard to get teams formed up. Coaches should be in contact with team families in August.

I'd like to help out as an assistant coach or game monitor (parent referee). Are there any meetings I should attend?

Yes. Coaches Day will be held on Sunday, August 17 at Bishop O'Dowd High School.

Every U6 and U8 game needs a volunteer parent to be a referee (a.k.a. game monitor) at every game. Please volunteer to referee, and let your team coach know. If you want to be a Game Monitor, come to Coaches Day on August 17. All U6 and U8 teams should have a representative attending this meeting!

Training for U8 referees will be held on Friday, September 5 (evening before the first games of the season – typically held at Shepherd Canyon 6-7pm).

We will have an U6 "Dress Rehearsal" for U6 coaches and game monitors on Sunday, August 31.

Are there any meetings that I as a parent need to attend?

Yes. MSC hosts two New Parents Nights. Attendance at a New Parents Night is required by one parent from every family of new U6 and new U8 players. At this orientation parents learn about MSC and the U6 soccer program, participate in a Positive Coaching (PCA) workshop, and meet other parents. This year our New Parents Nights are:

Wednesday, August 27, 2007 - U6+U8 New Parents Night – pre-season session – 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Thursday, September 4, 2008 - U6+U8 New Parents Night – regular session – 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Log Your Volunteer Hours

Volunteers: Have you already been working hard for the Club in preparation for our 2008 Fall Season? THANK YOU - and please, record those hard-worked hours in our [survey](#). You can access the survey from the Volunteers wiki page <http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers>. We will publish survey information on the wiki so that Team Volunteer Coordinators can watch over their team's families and see where they need to encourage folks to get out there and help.

Remember, if you are signed up for one of the "Big 7" jobs on your child's team (Head Coach, Active Assistant Coach, Ref, Team Manager, Team Volunteer Coordinator, Fields Coordinator, PCA Coordinator) you do not need to complete this survey. And if you have opted to buy out your commitment, you're done - we have that information gathered elsewhere already.

Parents, Get Ready for Fall Soccer: What to Do Now!

It's the middle of our summer break, sure - but you should be deciding what to do for your child's soccer club while you are jumping in the pool or sipping lemonade. The "now" things to do to be ready for fall soccer:

1. When you know your child's coach, contact him or her to find the name and contact information for the Team Volunteer Coordinator.
2. If no one has signed up to BE the Team Volunteer Coordinator, why don't you? We have a "how-to" page of instructions ready and waiting.
3. If there IS a Team Volunteer Coordinator, contact him/her and discuss the 7 required positions. If none of them sounds right for you, tell the coordinator what other event or role you will undertake this season.
4. If you have already done some work for the Club - maybe worked registration in the Spring - AND you know your child's coach, log on to the Volunteer Hours Survey to record your time. Don't know the team/coach yet? Wait until you do to record your hours.
5. Encourage all the other parents you know on the team to get signed up with the Team Volunteer Coordinator. The faster your team's volunteer roster is completed, the faster you will get a practice field assigned for Fall!

And of course - make sure your player is getting lots of fresh air, good food and sleep so he or she will be ready for the Beautiful Game in the fall.

Become a Soccer Referee

You can become a United States Soccer Federation (USSF)–certified referee by completing either the Grade 9 (Recreational Youth Referee) or Grade 8 training program. Below is a brief description.

Grade 9: This course is usually taught in one nine-hour session. Grade 9 or Recreational Youth Referees may referee **only** U14 and younger recreational games in the League where they are certified (no Class 3 Clippers or Class 1 Bay Oaks games). The registration fee with USSF is \$20 per year.

Grade 8: This is an 18-hour course usually taught in six three-hour sessions. A Grade 8 referee may referee any youth game. Of course, being assigned to older or higher-level matches requires actual game experience. The registration fee with USSF is \$25 per year.

Grade 9–to–Grade 8 bridging course: This course allows a currently registered Grade 9 referee to become licensed as a Grade 8. This course is designed to allow those Grade 9 referees trained in 2007 to upgrade without having to take another 18 hours of training. The registration fee with USSF is \$25 unless you are already registered for the current year; then the cost to upgrade is \$5.

Each local league (such as Jack London) sponsors courses during the year. As they are scheduled, information will be posted on the Jack London and D4 clinics pages. The local league pays the cost of the clinic, purchases the books, and obtains and pays for the facility. The district assigns the instructors.

Jack London tentatively plans to offer Grade 8 courses in July and August, with a Grade 9 course in September. Check the Jack London referees clinic page soon for confirmed dates. District 4 plans to offer the bridging course during the summer. Jack London referees and clinics pages: <http://jlysl.org/RefPages/referee.asp> and <http://jlysl.org/refpages/clinic.asp> District 4 pages: http://www.d4ra.com/ref/become_ref.htm and <http://www.d4ra.com/ref/clinics.html>

Dan Sommer, MSC referee coordinator: Referees@montclairsoccer.org

Help Wanted

The following volunteer positions are open. Please contact the designated coordinator to volunteer - or contact volunteers@montclairsoccer.org for more information.

Equipment Coordinator **URGENT!**

- Full instructions available, and previous coordinators are willing to train you!
- If we don't find new coordinators, we won't have kids in uniform playing this fall. PLEASE consider getting together with some other parents on your child's team to fill this important position for us!

Join the Volunteer Committee

- Help the Volunteer Coordinator with various tasks, like editing the wiki, doing some Excel list maintenance, helping to recruit for specific volunteer positions. There are lots of things needed, so grab some MSC friends and contact the Volunteer Coordinator!

Coach Evaluation Coordinator **EASY!**

- Update the annual Coach Evaluation Survey
- Send out two Club-wide e-mails to parents and players asking them to take the survey.

U12 Equipment Manager

- Click the link above to see the details on how to do this important job!

Web Site Coordinator

- Click the link for detailed "how to" information.

Fields

- We have a LOT of fields-related volunteer opportunities!

Specific positions supporting Under 6, Under 8, and Clipper groups

- If you have a player in the Under 8 or Under 6 age group, there are many unique tasks for these little champions. Please review the appropriate page and contact the relevant coordinator to volunteer.

Donations Administrative Assistant

- Send out emails acknowledging and thanking donors for their donations.

Please check the Montclair Soccer Club volunteers wiki for details and updates:

<http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.org/Volunteers%20-%20Help%20Wanted>.

Help Wanted from U8 Families

Shepherd Canyon needs some serious TLC before we can start using it for Fall 2008. Shepherd Canyon is used by our Club for U8 games. We need volunteers from our U8 families ASAP for these positions. These positions can fulfill your 8 hour per family volunteer requirement.

We need 2 "Field Stewards" for Shepherd Canyon who: 1) act as liaisons with the Oakland Park & Rec Department for field usage under the direction of our Field Coordinator and 2) lead a "Field Day" to rehabilitate.

We need 12 people to work a Field Day at Shepherd Canyon, filling in potholes, watering, seeding the field, and work with the Field Stewards to help organize in advance.

We have tentatively scheduled Shepherd Canyon Field Day on Saturday, August 16, the day before Coaches Day. Send an email to Volunteers@montclairsoccer.org. We need to get the 2 Field Steward positions filled first.

A's Tickets Giveaway

The first 25 people attending our August 11 monthly meeting will each receive a pair of A's baseball tickets! We have 25 pairs of tickets for the Tuesday, August 12 night game against the Tampa Bay Rays. These are "field-level" tickets, in sections 128 and 129. The A's tickets are courtesy of the Bay Oaks Soccer Club that received them in recognition of years of their loyalty and hard work in selling A's tickets as part of the Bay Oaks A's Night fundraiser. Bay Oaks passed along the tickets as a gesture of thanks to the clubs that support them.

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."