

Montclair Soccer Pitch

Special Interest Articles:

- Field availability and scheduling (p. 2)
- MSC's Wiki (p. 2)
- Please, no dogs! (p. 2)
- Photo Day (p. 3)
- Shepherd Canyon Parking (p. 4)
- Last chance for referee courses (p. 4)

Contents:

News 2 - 4
 Refereeing 4
 Volunteering 4 - 5

Message from the President

Greetings Montclair Soccer Families:

The harbingers of fall are all around us. Families are preparing the kids to start school next week, and the commencement of fall soccer is on September 6th. We welcome the predictability of fall, but miss the promise of relaxation that always seems to elude us during our summer. Fortunately, there are many fun and rewarding things to look forward to this fall. Our teams are well organized and more efficient, with specific tasks spread among more team parents. Thanks to your efforts this summer to promote volunteerism and apply the club's new volunteer policy, the load of each volunteer should be more evenly distributed. Our U-6 and U-8 program continues to grow and serve more children. The success of the younger teams is due to the willingness of the Montclair Soccer Families to step up and coach or assist their kid's team. We are also building invaluable

partnerships with the local agencies in our area to share resources and increase our access to playing fields. The patience, talent, and effort of our entire club will be needed to shape and nurture these relationships.

Much work remains to be done this year to improve youth soccer for our kids. Among the most urgent items on our "to do" list is the need improve the condition of the fields that we play and practice on. We also have a need for more trained referees to officiate our games. We will be talking about these and other issues at each meeting of the MSC Board this year. We invite the coaches from each team to send a team representative to the Board meetings to participate in this discussion. All interested parents are welcome to attend the Board meetings and share your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts on the stewardship of your soccer club.

Best regards,

Meredith Brown, MSC President

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug 28	New Parents Night #1 (new parents are required to attend one NPN)
Aug 30-31	Labor Day weekend
Aug 31	U6 Coaches Dress Rehearsal NOTE: we had 100% attendance of our U6 coaches at Coaches Day, so we're skipping this event!
TBD	New Parents Night #2 - date/location to be announced (change due to venue availability)
Sep. 5	U8 Referee training
Sep 6	Fall season games begin
Sep. 8	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 4	Photo Day



League Short on Field Space

Some of you have heard that the league is facing a more-than-usual field shortage this year. This is partly due to ARPD (Alameda Rec and Park Dept) limiting its fields to games involving at least one Alameda team and OPR (Oakland Park and Rec) reserving their fields for adults on Sundays.

The fallout is that our match secretaries have had to take a lot of liberties when scheduling games. This fall, you might find:

- Away games for Alameda teams being played in Alameda
- Home games being schedule on ACCYSL (Berkeley and North) fields
- Two games being played one weekend with another weekend completely off
- A ten game schedule spread out over eleven weeks
- and anything else they can think of.

Go easy on your match secretary and league officials. We're doing the best we can. If you want to help, particularly if you have relevant connections in Oakland or Alameda politics, please make yourself known!

Christopher Seiwald
President

Jack London Youth Soccer Sports League

Soccer Drill Sheets

Alex Zeltser, one of Montclair Soccer's U10 coaches, has created a set of soccer 'Drill Sheets' to help any new coach run a smooth, well-organized practice. Drill Sheets are a set of carefully-selected, clearly-described, and illustrated soccer drills. There are 10 laminated sheets in a set, one sheet for each week of practice. Drill Sheets are available at www.drillsheets.com. Montclair soccer coaches can use special code MSCCOACH to get \$10 off the order price.

No Dogs at Soccer

Please do not bring pets to the field at practices, games, or photo day. Please no doggie mascots. This violates health and safety polices of Merritt College, Oakland Parks, JLYSL, CYSA and MSC. Our fields are too valuable to take this risk. If we lose our permits due to pets, we have no replacement fields. Pets at fields jepordize our soccer program for everyone. Bringing a pet to the field, or allowing someone from your team to bring a pet (be it parent, friend, grandparent, visiting cousin) will result in your team being dropped from the schedule for the season.

If you see a visiting team bring a pet, please go to www.jlysl.org and file a serious incident report. If it is another Montclair team, please contact our disciplinary chair and club officers so that the team can be dropped from their practice field schedule and the game schedule for the season.



MSC Launches Wiki

Hello, my name is Katy Costantinidis and I have been a member of Montclair Soccer Club for ten years, eight playing as a Clipper. As part of my community service requirement for high school, I decided to give back to the Montclair Soccer Club by helping improve the online component of the club. For the past few months I have been helping to reformat and transfer information from the over-ten-year-old montclairsoccer.org website to a new wiki-based website:

montclairsoccer.pbwiki.com.

A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content. By shifting to a wiki-based system, editing and updating individual pages on the website has become much easier. The newer system allows for multiple people to collaborate and contribute to making the best possible website that we can. Rather than waiting for the Webmaster to go online and edit web pages, club volunteers can log onto the wiki and update, create and revise specific web pages directly. Wiki technology provides Montclair Soccer Club with a more efficient and easily accessible way to organize the Club website.

Since June, I have transferred around 20 pages worth of information from the old site into the new format. We have been gradually bringing the pages live, and as of August 15th, the wiki is the official main website of the club. Many coaches, parents and volunteers are currently contributing and working to develop the wiki. If you would like to be part of this project, please contact wikimaster@montclairsoccer.org.

Photo Day Fall 2008

This year's Photo Day will be Saturday, October 4, 2008. We plan to hold it at Montera Middle School again. Some coaches picked up their photo packets at the U6 and U8 coaches meeting in August, but there remain lots of packets to be picked up. As a reminder, each team should have a designated Team Photo Coordinator volunteer. If your coach did not already pick up his/her packet, the Team Photo Coordinator needs to pick up the photo packets at 11 Ascot Place, no later than September 19. This is Peter Costantinidis' house. Ascot Place is a right turn off Ascot, across from Montera. The packets will be in boxes on the front porch and there is no need to disturb anyone at the house. The boxes are divided for each team level, i.e. U6, U8, etc. Please pick up a packet from the appropriate level and you should have enough forms in the packet for each family in your team. Additional forms will be available at Montera on Photo Day, if needed. The Team Photo Coordinator should plan on distributing all the photo forms to their families at least one week before October 4.

Also, each TPC must contact photos@montclairsoccer.org as soon as possible and provide his/her name and e-mail contact information so that we can coordinate the schedule for Photo Day.

We will try to schedule photo times close enough to game times that teams can go straight from one to the other. The photo schedules will be available one week before Photo Day. In addition to an e-mail announcement, they will also be posted on the web. If your team cannot make the assigned time, please make rescheduling requests directly to Shooting Stars at www.shootingstarsphoto.com. If your team does not want to have photos taken at all, please advise photos@montclairsoccer.org as soon as possible so your team can be taken off the schedule.

If you can't make October 4 at all, a make-up day will be held on November 1 at Merritt College. Remember, October 4 and November 1 will be your only available days for photos. If your team determines that it will need to have photos taken on make-up day, please let us know by sending an e-mail to photos@montclairsoccer.org, however, you also need to make your own requests directly to Shooting Stars at www.shootingstarsphoto.com.

Photos should be available for pickup within one month of Photo Day. You will receive an announcement of where and when.

MSC Merchandise for Sale on Photo Day

While you're at Photo Day, be sure to stop by the Merchandise Sales booth! We will have a variety of clothing for sale to support Montclair Soccer Club. You will be the envy of all the other soccer fans in your fashionable new duds!

Choose from t-shirts for as low as \$10 or sweatshirts, fleece, or polos for \$27-35 and the ever-popular white or black hat for just \$15! Volunteers will be available to help you from 8:00am until 2:30pm and will accept cash, checks or credit cards. (If you want to volunteer to sell Merchandise, please visit <http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.com/Volunteers+-+Fundraising+Sales> to see if we have any openings.)

Food Drive on Picture Day

One of our U11G Clippers team is organizing a food drive at our annual Photo Day! The most needed items are: canned fruit & vegetables, canned meats & fish, peanut butter, pasta, beans, rice, canned soup, dry cereal & oatmeal, tomato sauce, powdered milk. All food donations will go to the Alameda County Food Bank. Look for the donation bins next to the Uniform Return area on Picture Day.

Return Those Outgrown Uniforms

The great thing about our Montclair uniforms is they are built to last. But once your soccer player has outgrown his/her Montclair jersey, it's not doing much good at the bottom of that drawer or closet. Bring your child's clean, outgrown Montclair jersey to Picture Day so that favorite jersey number can have a new life with another player.

Shepherd Canyon Parking Lot Improvement

The City of Oakland is planning to expand and improve the Shepherd Canyon parking lot this Fall. A portion of the construction funding for this project is being provided by the Montclair Soccer Club. Construction will likely occur during the soccer season and is expected to last from two to four weeks. The estimated start date is September 15. The existing parking lot will be closed during the construction. We encourage people to car pool as much as possible. In addition, we ask that if you park in the area, please do so safely and efficiently. There is room for 7-10 automobiles to park parallel to the fields, depending upon how far apart they park. The City has encouraged us to park at the Escher Drive entrance to the park (see below).

We believe the City has already put the project out to bid. When we have more information, we will let you know.

Shepherd Canyon's Escher Drive Parking

Many of you might not know about the Escher Drive entrance to Shepherd Canyon Park. This entrance, marked by a yellow gate, is near where Escher Drive ends at Bagshotte Drive. The road is fairly wide at this point, with plenty of room for cars to park. There's a path which leads from this entrance to the grass fields. The main path leads to a picnic area equipped with two picnic tables. To get to Shepherd Canyon fields, take the left branch just beyond the yellow gate on Escher. The path is fairly level, ending at the midpoint of the grass fields. It took me about five minutes to walk its length. About half-way the path crosses a stream. The stream was dry in August when I checked it out. I'd recommend against taking a stroller along this path. Don't confuse this easy path with the one that switch-backs up the hillside near the restrooms!

Escher Drive is on the right about half a mile up Shepherd Canyon Road past the fields. For online maps, see: <http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.com/Shepherd-Canyon>

Help Wanted

Thanks to all of you who have helped your children's teams get their team volunteer rosters completed. If you are still looking for a way to earn volunteer hours, we have opportunities for you! Please watch your email for direct contact from MSC or from your team volunteer coordinator. If you need some inspiration for where to direct your volunteer energy, here are a few ideas:

1. Attend several Board meetings! You'll be in the know about what's going on.
2. We can use lots of help in the Volunteer Committee, including

Volunteer Roster Checker

Volunteer Database Administrator (*what a whooshy title!*)

Unleash your Inner Author: Become a Wiki Editor!

Volunteer Analyst - Reporting on Volunteer Hours Submitted

Become a Volunteer "Missionary"

Write Volunteer Position Descriptions see the [Volunteer Committee page](#) for more details.

3. Write a short article for the newsletter! It would be great to read some 1st person stories of life on the parent sidelines, especially if you are a new parent. We'll certainly give you volunteer credit for that!

THANK YOU to the more than 60 parents who have logged their hours in our survey. I hope it was easy to use!

Nancy Lane
MSC Volunteers

September Referee Courses

You have two final chances to become a referee in time for the fall season.

The league will offer a one-day (8 hours) Grade 9 class on Sept. 14, and tentatively plans to offer a six-day (18 total hours) Grade 8 class that starts Sept. 9 and ends Sept. 25.

If you are interested in either class, you should immediately contact the host to get yourself a space.

We recommend the Grade 9 course primarily for adults because the training is less extensive than in the Grade 8 course. Also, a Grade 9 ref can work only U14 and younger class 4 games, no Bay Oaks or Clippers. If you have the time, the Grade 8 course is superior. You'll not only learn the rules better, you'll also be able to ref Class 3 and Class 1 games.

Class hosts

Grade 9: RSC's David Kaplan:

rscrefs@jlysl.org

Grade 8: OSC's Robert Holmes:

oscrefs@jlysl.org or

raholmes@sbcglobal.net

Dan Sommer

Montclair SC Referee

Coordinator, JLYSSL

DanSommer@sbcglobal.net

From our Club's Volunteer Coordinator

To date more than 75% of our U10 and above teams have their Volunteer rosters completed! (Note: our U6/U8 teams have a later deadline for Volunteer rosters since U6/U8 teams are formed up late in the summer.) If your team has not yet submitted its Volunteer roster, check with your coach about becoming your Team's Volunteer Coordinator. If your team has completed its roster, now you need to make sure you complete your volunteering commitment. Just as importantly, **YOU MUST LOG** your volunteer hours with the Club:

How to Log your Hours:

Complete this [survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4CiaCEmlAN_2bTa9DI3DNgWQ_3d_3d): (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4CiaCEmlAN_2bTa9DI3DNgWQ_3d_3d) to tell our Club Volunteer Coordinator what you did and when you did it. We will publish that 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.

If your family is choosing to **BUY-OUT** your volunteering obligation please complete the transaction through the Sportability website ASAP: You can [log on to Sportability](http://www.sportability.com/spx/Leagues/Client.asp?ClientID=209) (<http://www.sportability.com/spx/Leagues/Client.asp?ClientID=209>) to buy out your 2008 season volunteer commitment. The first item listed, "buy out of volunteer hours for fall 2008", will guide you through the process. Then let your Team Volunteer Coordinator know that your volunteer commitment is complete.

Please note the New Volunteer Policy milestones for completing your team's commitments:

- 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 - **DONE!!!**
- After the 3rd 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
- After the 3rd 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 that do not volunteer will receive direct follow-up from the Club 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.

For more about MSC's Volunteer Policy, see: <http://montclairsoccer.pbwiki.com/Volunteer+Policy>

Note from the MSC Board about our new Volunteer Policy

We have taken strident steps to increase volunteers in our Club. In the past few years we've found ourselves with a rapidly growing and popular Clippers program and a growing Class IV program because of the draw of our Club's local fields. Although we feel we never have enough field space, the fact is Montclair is incredibly wealthy in terms of local fields in comparison to other local soccer Clubs.

About 24 months ago we found ourselves consistently with less than 10 people at the monthly Board meetings trying to run the Club. Many of our most loyal, long-term volunteers were retiring from their Club because their children have aged/advanced out of the Club. We needed a new volunteer policy if our Club was to survive. Over 18 months ago, we looked hard at volunteer policies in other sports programs and soccer Clubs. We watched Rockridge last year with its newly adopted volunteer policy (which is very similar to ours now) to learn. At the same time, we decided to move forward with a new way of collecting and maintaining Club knowledge about volunteer jobs: in a wiki (same model that powers wikipedia). Any volunteer who wants to be assigned a wiki account can now contribute their knowledge about a volunteer job, making it possible for us to collaboratively grow and do things better.

Over summer 2008, our new Volunteer Policy has already been yielding tremendous boosts in volunteer participation. Things won't be perfect in this first year, but we are inspired and energized by the much needed increase in volunteers in Summer 2008. Thank you for your help as we move forward with our "many hands make for lighter work" future. We are committed to building a soccer Club that's supportive for our kids and their families.

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.”