

MJSL PARENT GUIDE TO TRAVEL SOCCER

We are under the immediate jurisdiction of the Westchester Youth Soccer League (WYSL) and must follow their rules and regulations. You can visit their web site: www.wyssl.com. Our web site: www.mjssl.org.

Head Coach

A Head Coach will be selected by the Travel Committee. The Coach will have overall responsibility for the team, and he or she should be your first contact in the event of a problem. The coach is responsible for team financial commitment and presenting the parents with a team budget, discipline, player substitution, and game tactics.

Assistant Coach

Each MJSL team strives to have at least one Assistant Coach who should be an active participant in all team activities. The functions and responsibilities assigned to the assistant coach will be at the Head Coach's discretion. The Assistant Coach should be able to step in for the Head Coach in the event of his/her absence.

Team Manager

Invaluable and necessary member of the team organization and serves "at the discretion and pleasure" of the Head Coach. The Team Manager handles many of the administrative aspects of the team, often supported by other team adults, such as team registration, uniform orders, team contact list, team finances, tournament travel plans, and other items to help the Coach with all of the time-consuming administrative details.

Travel program

There is a distinct difference between Rec and Travel soccer. Rec soccer is at the recreational, leisurely level, while travel soccer is at a more serious, competitive level. Only selected players are eligible for travel soccer, training is more intense, and travel soccer requires a serious commitment to your team, both financially as well as in time, such as attending all practices etc. The travel program is for the serious player wishing to advance his or her playing skills to a higher level. We are dedicated to providing a quality soccer environment. One that will allow players and coaches the opportunity to represent MJSL and "the beautiful game" of soccer with pride.

Punctuality

It is important to prepare mentally and physically for each game, and all players will be inspected for proper equipment by the referee before the game. Therefore, players are expected to arrive at the game site at the time designated by the coach, but in any event no later than 30 minutes prior to the designated start time. Players must arrive to practice ready to begin promptly at the designated start time.

Positional Play

Coaches determine what position a player will play during the season. There is a balance between personal development of the player and team success which the coach strives to achieve.

Playing Time

Many factors are taken into consideration on playing time. We are playing at the highest level of competition, not recreational soccer. Factors we consider are: Response to training, coaching and game instructions; Attendance; Punctuality; Effort; Cooperation; Attitude; Aggressiveness; Speed; Game performance; Endurance; Injuries; Team needs.

During the game

During the game, parents are on one side of the field while players and coaches are on the other side. One half of the field is for the home team (from the midfield line on), while the other half is for the visiting team. No players, coaches or parents are allowed behind the goal lines. Parents are strictly forbidden from entering the game field during the game. A parent entering the field during game play can result in the coach being ejected from the game. If a player is injured during the game, no one is allowed to enter the field until the referee blows the whistle to stop the game, and gives permission.

Personal Conduct (All)

There will be no coaching by parents from the sidelines. This distracts players and may well be contrary to the team game strategy. Yelling at game officials or engaging them in a confrontational manner is detrimental to the values

we want to instill in our players. If you must be vocal, only positive encouragement to your team is expected. We may lose the game, but loss of our pride and dignity is far more serious. Please refrain from taunting or providing negative comments to members of the opposing team. In each division, a **Sportsmanship award** is issued: After each game, the referee will rate players, the coaches *and the parents/spectators* for sporting behavior. The referees rates these three (3) groups from plus two (2) to minus two (2). At the end of the season, the team with the highest score in its division wins the sportsmanship award.

Silent Sunday

Once during the season the WYSL league implements Silent Sunday. On this day, coaches and parents should refrain from giving the players any comments. On this day, the children should just play without any directions from the sidelines.