

MIDDLETOWN SOCCER CLUB  
RULES AND REGULATIONS  
ARTICLE I - CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics sets forth guidelines for the appropriate behavior for the individuals affiliated with this Association. Soccer belongs to the players. It provides many physical values, emotional satisfaction and even a spiritual uplifting to those that play. Coaches who choose soccer as an avocation must understand this and put the welfare of the game and its players above their own personal rewards.

Any Soccer association, regardless of how honorable it is deemed, is only as good as its members and the conduct they exhibit. Soccer coaches affiliated with this association must maintain the trust and confidence placed in them by the players, their parents, and the public. Only coaches who are willing to comply with the principles of the Middletown Soccer Club's "Code of Ethics" are welcome to be affiliated with this organization.

A. Responsibilities to Players 1. The Coach must consistently place the safety and welfare of his players above the value of winning. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with considerable emphasis placed on the highest societal ideals and character traits.

2. The Laws of the Game were written to ensure a continuous flow of action. These laws have the safety of the players as their primary goal. Coaches should always play within these Laws and never seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsporting behavior. Coaches have a responsibility not to tolerate this type of behavior from their players.

3. The appropriate medical personnel should handle the diagnosis and treatment on injuries. Coaches should direct players to seek competent medical attention and follow the physician's orders thoroughly and promptly. Under no circumstance should a coach authorize the use of drugs. Any use of drugs must be authorized and supervised by a physician.

4. Academic achievement shall take precedence. Demands on players should pertain only to achieving success on the field and should not interfere with academic progress.

B. Responsibilities to the Middletown Soccer Club 1. The function of the coach is to contribute to intellectual growth of the player through participation in soccer.

2. The coach must behave in such a manner that the principals, integrity and dignity of the Association are not compromised.

3. Coaches shall support the policies, rules and regulations of the Association.

#### C. Rules of the Game

1. Coaches must be thoroughly acquainted with the rules of soccer. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the Laws. Coaches shall not circumvent the Laws to gain unfair advantage.

2. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their players. They are responsible for ensuring that the players understand the letter and the spirit of the Laws.

3. Coaches must not permit their players to perform with the intent of causing injury.

D. Officials 1. The game of soccer cannot be played without impartial, competent officials. Officials must have the support of coaches, players, and the MSC. Public criticism of officials by coaches demeans the game. Coaches must refrain from criticizing officials to their players.

2. The USSF, NJYSA, and the New Jersey State Referee Association (NJSRA) are professional organizations that have the welfare of Soccer as their primary concern. Coaches should support these organizations as well as the local referee assignors.

3. Officials should be treated with respect. A coach's attitude towards the official should be controlled and undemonstrative. Criticism of a referee should be made in writing to the appropriate governing body and not addressed to the referee before, during and after a game.

E. Public Relations 1. The soccer coach has a unique responsibility concerning the news media. In many cases soccer needs to be explained and public relations becomes a job of all coaches. The coach must be careful not to make derogatory or misleading statements.

2. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves appropriately when being interviewed by members of the news media.

3. Coaches have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that enhances the game of soccer and presents a positive image.

F. Other Responsibilities 1. A coach's behavior must at all times, be above reproach.

2. Soccer is a player's game. Coaches should be as inconspicuous as possible during game. Coaches should exhibit a friendly attitude toward the opposing coach, officials and players. Coaches should not be involved in verbal dissent or physical contact with opposing coaches or players.

3. Coaches should use their influence to ensure that all spectators exhibit appropriate behavior.

ARTICLE II - COACHES A. Attitude 1. Coaches, players, parents and spectators all represent the MSC. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, assistants, parents and spectators.

2. Coaching youth soccer can be a difficult job. A coach's conduct can have a major influence on the players and their parents. The MSC encourages coaches to maintain their composure and teach your players to win with class.

3. Coaches should always encourage their players to play their best within the letter and spirit of the Laws of the Game.

B. Coaching License. Coaches and trainers must obtain an USYSA or NJYSA approved "F" (or higher) license and execute the appropriate "Kid-s Safe" certification before they will be permitted to coach.

C. Coach / Assistant Coach Selection. All coaches and assistant coaches shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Board and, at the Executive Board's discretion, appear before the Board for interview prior to approval. The executive Board shall consider various criteria in making its determination.

ARTICLE III - FIELDS A. Games. All coaches are required to contact the Affiliated League Representative for field assignment prior to the use of any field for regularly scheduled or make-up games.

B. Practice. Prior to each season the Second Vice President shall develop a practice field schedule. The team designated to have a particular field on a particular day and time shall have priority over any other team that may show up for practice at the same time.

C. Priority Utilization 1st Priority State Cup Tournament Games  
2nd Priority League Scheduled Games 3rd Priority Rescheduled  
League Games 4th Priority Practice Session

#### ARTICLE IV - GAMES A. Canceled Games

1. The only persons authorized to cancel or change any scheduled game are the Affiliated League Representative, or the President. Coaches are not permitted to make any changes to the game schedule without the prior approval of the Affiliated League Representative or the President.

2. In accordance with affiliated league rules, coaches are responsible for notifying the Affiliated League Representative of any game cancellation by the visiting team prior to the date of the scheduled game.

3. Coaches will be held responsible for payment of any and all fees incurred due to any failure to follow the above notification procedure.

4. Make Up Games. Coaches shall coordinate rescheduling of any game with the Affiliated League Representative in accordance with the affiliated league rules.

ARTICLE V - MONEY MATTERS A. Fund Raising. Participation in Association sponsored fundraiser events is mandatory and all teams will be expected to actively participate.

1. Registration Fees. All teams are required to pay the mandated registration fees.

2. Coaches will be personally responsible for payment of referee's fees for games canceled without proper notification.

3. Individual Team Fund Raisers. Any team that wishes to conduct an individual team fundraiser must submit the fundraiser in detail to the Executive Board for approval.

4. The Executive Board will approve any fundraiser that does not conflict with any Association sponsored event and is legal, ethical and would not damage or jeopardize the reputation of the MSC. The Executive Board will not approve any fundraiser that requires door-to-door solicitation or jeopardizes the safety and well being of the players.

a. FUNDRAISING ASSISTANCE FOR TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN PREMIER TOURNAMENTS

i. The Association encourages team participation in premier tournaments that would elevate and enhance the awareness and brand of MSC (i.e. international tournaments, etc).

ii. In support of our team's participation in such tournaments, MSC will support the participating team's fundraising efforts by matching up to 10% of the total proceeds raised by the participating team.

iii. The Executive Board has sole discretion to determine if a tournament qualifies as a "premier" event.

iv. The participating team must make the Executive Board aware of their intent to participate at least 3 months in advance of the tournament and must deposit their fundraising proceeds in the team's designated MSC account.

v. Funds outside of the designated MSC account will not be eligible for this match.

5. Team Funds. No coach, assistant coach, parent, or team representative of any team is authorized to maintain funds in the name of any MSC Team. All funds collected, donated or given on behalf of any team must be deposited in the official MSC designated account.

6. All funds deposited in the designated MSC account(s) on behalf of any team shall be earmarked for that particular team and not utilized for any other team or purposes. The MSC, if requested by

the individual team, shall provide an accounting of each individual team account on a monthly basis.

7.No coach, assistant coach, parent or team representative is authorized to incur or obligate the Association for payment of any debt without written authorization of the Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE VI - REFEREES

Affiliation in various leagues requires that the Association satisfy certain referee requirements. Each team is responsible for assisting in fulfilling these requirements and supplying candidates for referees as needed. To the maximum extent possible, coaches and assistant coaches are encouraged to attend a course, earn a referee badge and referee games.

ARTICLE VII - TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION A. State Cup 1. The MSC shall pay for registration and referee fees for all teams participating in the New Jersey State Cup Tournament.

2. Teams who qualify for the USYSA Regional or National Tournaments

MSC will pay any registration or referee fees for any team involved in the USYSA Regional or National Tournaments.

B. Sanctioned Tournaments 1. No MSC team may enter or participate in any tournament not sanctioned by the USYSA or NJYSA.

2. Patches and Pins. Each registered MSC team shall receive a supply of club patches or, if appropriate, pins equal to 18 per game for participation in sanctioned tournaments.

#### ARTICLE VIII - PARTICIPATION IN THE OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Association encourages coaches and players to support the Olympic Development program (ODP) and will pay the registration fee, including the uniform fee, for any player presently on the roster of a MSC team who is selected for the New Jersey State, Region 1 or National ODP team(s), providing that the player has been on the

*roster of a MSC for at least four (4) consecutive seasons. Registration fees do not include travel or lodging expenses associated with these teams. However, the Executive Board will entertain any written requests for reasonable and necessary financial assistance to ensure participation by a qualified MSC player who has been selected to any of the above listed ODP teams.*

#### ARTICLE IX - Scholarships

MSC will award a \$1,000 Ben Curci and \$1,000 John DeGenito Scholarship annually. Applications will be submitted by candidates by May 31 with scholarship winners selected by independent committee and announced at the June meeting.

The Mike Mascone Scholarship of \$2,000 will be granted to each new U8 Girls teams split proportionally among the new teams. The fund will be replenished annually with donations from Mascone family & friends. MSC will add \$1,000 annually to the fund split proportionally among the new U8 Girls teams.

#### ARTICLE X - TEAMS

The MSC shall hold open tryouts for teams in Divisions II through VI (in June or as approved by the Executive Board) to register players, establish teams and evaluate players to assure that they are placed on a team which is appropriate for the player's skill level. Division I teams will hold tryouts as needed to keep player rosters at appropriate levels. Tryouts for Division I teams will be held at the request of the coaches or as directed by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board will administer all try-outs.

A. Age Groupings. All MSC teams shall be comprised of players of the same age groupings, as determined in accordance with USYSA and NJYSA rules. The following procedure shall be utilized for any player (see exceptions (4), (5) and (6) below) who wishes to play on an MSC team comprised of older players:

1. Any player seeking to play on an older age team shall make a written request to the Executive Board prior to the scheduled tryouts dates. The Executive Board will review all supporting documentation,

including appraisal of the player by the coaches and evaluators of both age groups (see (2) below), and make the final determination. In making this decision, the Executive Board may make its own appraisal of the player's ability to play on the older age team. The Board may review play-up requests between the annual scheduled tryouts in accordance with the player play-up procedure. Play up approval may be contingent upon stipulations or conditions; such as unavailability of players within the age group.

2. The player will attend the tryout sessions for both the appropriate age and older age teams. The coaches and evaluators of both age groups shall evaluate and assess if the player is qualified to play on the older age team. The Board of Directors will select the evaluators for this purpose.

3. In order to be qualified to play on an older age team, the player must qualify to play on the "A" team of the older age group annually. Absent unusual circumstance, a player will not be permitted to play on an older "B" or "C" team.

4. This procedure does not apply to a player who has been previously permitted to play on an older age team. Once a player has been permitted to play on an older age team, he/she will be treated as a member of the older age team.

5. This procedure does not apply to players who wish to play on Division 1 (U17/U19) or Division 2 (U15/U/16) teams. These players may tryout for a team in their own age group or the team in an older age group following the normal tryout procedure. Play up approval may be contingent upon stipulations or conditions such as unavailability of players within the age group.

B. Team Demographics 1. It is the spirit of the Rules and Regulations of the MSC to ensure a place on a team roster for every qualified Middletown player.

2. A player will be considered a Middletown player if he or she resides in Middletown Township or resides in a town that does not have a travel soccer team in their age group. All other players will be considered non-Middletown players.



3. There shall be no more than four (4) non-Middletown players on any Division 3 (U13/U14), Division 4 (U11/U12), Division 5 (U9/U10) or Divisions 6 (U8) team roster

4. The team roster of any Division 1 (U17/U19) or Division 2 (U15/16) team must contain a majority of Middletown players.

5. Based on a written request, the Executive Board may grant an exemption and permit a player to qualify as a Middletown player.

6. A member of an MSC team who qualifies as a Middletown player under the guidelines set forth above will remain a Middletown player notwithstanding any subsequent change in status. For example, a player who initially qualifies as a Middletown player under (2) above, who subsequently moves outside of Middletown Township, will continue to qualify as a Middletown player.

C. Multiple Teams in the Same Age Group 1. In the event that a particular age group has sufficient players to field more than one (1) team, the MSC will form multiple teams in accordance with an A/B system. The A/B system places the better players on the team designated as the "A" team, while the other players are placed on the "B" team (if sufficient players are available, a "C" team may also be formed).

2. Although the primary purpose of the "B" or "C" level team is to develop players to advance to the next appropriate level, no player who is a member of a lower designated team will be forced to move up to the next appropriate level if they do not so desire.

3. In the event that a team believes that a change in its designation (A/B/C) is appropriate, it will provide supporting documentation and request that the Executive Board considers a change. No change of designation will be considered absent a showing that the lower designated team has advanced to a higher level of league play than the higher designated team. In making its decisions, the Executive Board will consider what is in the best interest of the MSC.

## D. Registrations

1. Coaches are responsible for submitting their team's properly completed New Jersey State Roster Pass Packet ("NJ Pass Packet"), to the Second Vice President or Affiliated League Representative who will coordinate team registration with the NJYSA District Commissioner.
2. Players who are transferred (either added or released) after the NJSYA District Commissioner validates rosters will be coordinated with the Second Vice President or Affiliated League Representative. Coaches are responsible to ensure that any player who transfers from another team to an MSC team has executed the appropriate "Player Release/Transfer" forms.
3. Coaches are responsible for submitting a copy of their roster to the Second Vice President or Secretary and assuring that the Association has the most current version, including add/drop forms
4. MSC coaches will follow the guidelines set forth in the NJSYSA Handbook which defines poaching as "an action by a team or club to induce or attempt to induce a rostered player of any other team to leave the player's present team and play for the team of club during the current seasonal year. Poaching does not apply to inducing players to play for a team in the following seasonal year."

E. Termination. Coaches are required to notify the Executive Board, in writing sixty- (60) days prior to the start of any season of their team's possible termination. The Executive Board will make the final decision concerning a team's future.

ARTICLE XI - UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT A. Authorized Uniform. 1. The Executive Board shall designate the manufacturer/brand style and color of the official MSC uniform including both the primary and alternate uniform.

2. No player may wear an unauthorized uniform while representing the MSC without the authorization of the Executive Board.

3. Uniform purchase shall be the responsibility of the individual teams.

B. Game Balls. Each team shall receive one (1) soccer ball supplied by the MSC at the beginning of each season.

#### ARTICLE XII - VIOLATION OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Any person referred to in Article X, Authority of the Constitution who violates any USSF, USYSA, NJYSA, MSC or affiliated league rule or regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, as outlined in Article II, Disciplinary Authority of the Bylaws of this Association.