



MLU Travel Soccer Programs Travel Team Formation and Tryout Guidelines

Club Values: "Participation, Sportsmanship and Development "
"We are here but for the kids"

Participation

MLU promotes participation in the sport of soccer through development, organization, operation and maintenance of youth soccer programs that provide an environment that encourages the learning and enjoyment of the game. The MLU competitive travel soccer program will accommodate participation in the sport of soccer by children and young adults of all levels and at all abilities that desire the increased demands and level of competition that travel soccer offers.

Sportsmanship

MLU promotes and requires the values of sportsmanship and fellowship among all travel soccer players, coaches, trainers and parents through the principles of honesty, respect, discipline and fair play. The MLU, ISS Program will insure a proactive organization-wide approach to placing emphasis on the values of sportsmanship and fair play.

Development

MLU promotes implements and administers competitive travel programs that emphasize the development and education of players, coaches and trainers. MLU will provide competitive travel soccer programs that accommodate development and education in the game of soccer for children and young adults at all skill levels and at all abilities. MLU will actively pursue the development of fields and facilities that enhance the learning of the game that is required for successful competitive travel soccer programs.

MLU Competitive Travel Soccer Programs

MLU will provide competitive travel soccer programs that instill the values of participation, sportsmanship and development. MLU will endeavor to support and sustain travel soccer teams that accommodate the ability of players to enable participation in all levels offered by the soccer leagues and tournaments where MLU teams participate. MLU will strive to attract and retain those qualified and talented coaches and trainers that promote the stated MLU goals and values. MLU will provide and support training and development programs for all travel team coaches and assistant coaches. MLU will support the creation and maintenance of competitive travel soccer teams from age U8 to U19.

MLU Academy Travel Soccer Program

To provide the fullest range of developmental opportunities to all MLU players, effective with the Fall 2002 Travel Soccer season, MLU introduced the MLU Academy Team. The Academy Teams will operate as a unique division of the Mt. Laurel United Soccer Association and compliment the existing Club Travel and Recreational Soccer programs. The Academy Teams expose players selected to participate, to the highest level of soccer development, competition and training expertise available to MLU soccer players, coaches and families. Academy Teams typically train three or more hours per week, play at the top level of the leagues in which they participate, attend tournaments acknowledged as "premier" and receive accredited, professional training by their assigned MLU staff trainer. In addition to the staff trainer, each Academy Team is required to have a qualified, "E" licensed (or higher) Team Head Coach as well as a Team Manager responsible for the teams' administrative and financial matters. Licensed Assistant Coaches can be added in collaboration with the Trainer, Team Head Coach and Team Manager and all should be aligned with the team goals, values and direction and collectively work together as a team. Due to the significant financial and administrative commitments, each Academy Team is required to manage their own money requirements through fundraising, sponsorship or parental assessments. An MLU Academy Team will be offered at each distinct age group beginning at U11. An MLU Academy Team will form only when there is sufficient interest and demand to field a team of this type.

Annual Academy Team Formation Process

In May, tryouts will be held to form the upcoming fall season Academy Teams in age groups where there is sufficient number of capable players. Preliminary Academy Team tryouts will be held at the same date and time as MLU Club Travel Tryouts. Players identified by their present skill and abilities in the tryout process will be invited to attend a separate Academy team specific tryout. All players and families with interest in a competitive program of this type are emphatically and strongly encouraged to participate in the Academy Team Program for their age group. A condition of coaching at MLU requires 100% player communication of the Academy Team program availability, tryout dates and times, and process. Players will be selected to the Academy Team by the MLU Technical Director, Travel Director and assigned MLU trainer to the team with input from MLU coaches that have knowledge of specific players' background and abilities. The Academy Team is intended for the serious youth player wishing to participate and develop their abilities in a program with players of similar ability and interest,

guided by experienced and accredited soccer professionals. The Team Head Coach will be assigned to the Academy Team. The MLU Travel Directors and Training Director of the MLU Board as well as the Technical Director will assign the Academy Team Trainer. Upon completion, the Academy Team Trainer and Team Head Coach will communicate the Academy Team roster to those players and their parents. Players selected to the Academy Team as a result of tryout, must actively participate on the selected Academy Team for the carded year and are not permitted to decline the selection offer and play with another MLU Club Team. If a player is selected for an Academy team and does not play for that team, the player will not be permitted to play in the MLU travel organization for one year. Players not selected will be returned for inclusion into the Club Travel Team process.

MLU Club Travel Soccer Program

The MLU Club Travel Soccer Program will continue to operate as the predominant travel soccer division of Mt. Laurel United Soccer Association. The MLU Club Travel program is the central development body of the organization and is intended to accommodate the majority of player progression and development and their competitive requirements. The MLU Club Travel Teams will accommodate teams at all skill levels offered by the soccer leagues and tournaments where MLU teams participate. MLU will provide and support training and development programs for all Club travel team head coaches and assistant coaches. Club Travel teams will typically train two or more times per week, play competitively at the division level of the league in which they participate, and attend tournaments. All Club Travel Team Head Coaches must possess a minimum of the "F" license and obtain their "E" license within one year of assuming the Head Coaching role. Assistant Coaches must possess the minimum "F" license and attempt to obtain their "E" license within two years of commencing their coaching careers. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches should be aligned with the team goals, values and direction and collectively work as a team. All MLU coaches should work closely with all coaches within their age group to support player development and enjoyment of the game of soccer. Due to the significant financial and administrative commitments of operating a travel soccer team, it is strongly encouraged that a travel team assigns a Team Manager to handle administrative and financial responsibilities. Club Travel Teams will be required to manage their own money requirements through fundraising, sponsorship or parental assessments. MLU will support new Club Travel Teams where there is a sufficient number of players to create a new team, a minimum of 8 for small sided and a minimum of 12 for full-sided teams. MLU Club Travel teams will be supported from U8 through U19. Club Teams will be assigned the rank of A, B, C, D, E etc. MLU Club Travel Team ranking is based upon their final division record/placement in the last completed season segment, i.e., fall or spring. The team ranking will determine the player selection order for the tryout process.

MLU Club Travel Team Tryout Process

MLU will hold advertised player tryouts that are open and fair for MLU Club Travel Teams on at least two separate dates in May for player participation in the upcoming fall soccer season. Additional tryout dates may be offered by MLU or existing Club Travel Teams as required. The soccer season extends from August 1st through July 31st of the following year. (MLU will hold advertised spring tryouts in December or January to accommodate roster additions for existing Academy and Club Travel Teams only.) MLU will validate existing team rosters and form new club travel teams as a result of the May tryout process. **All present and prospective MLU Club Travel soccer players, ages U8-U14, are required to attend a minimum of one MLU sponsored tryout to participate in the new season. In addition, a parent, guardian or authorized adult must complete the online registration paperwork or in person at the day of the tryout in order to participate in the MLU Club Travel Team tryout process.** The MLU Club Team tryouts will be managed by the MLU travel program and the training organization.

Existing MLU Club Teams, U8 through U14

MLU Club Travel Team ranking is based upon the Travel Teams final division record/placement in the last completed season segment, i.e., fall or spring. The team ranking will determine the player selection order for the tryout process. Tryouts are required for players in age groups U8 through U14. All players attending tryouts will be evaluated by accredited MLU trainer and ranked by their present ability. The existing age group Club Travel Team Coaches, MLU Travel Director and MLU Technical Director will review the ranking and collaborate on the development of the recommended Club Travel Team rosters. Mandatory face-to-face coaches meetings will be held after tryouts to review the rankings and finalize the rosters. Once finalized, the A Club team will make offers to player families and finalize their roster, and then the B Club team will make offers and finalize their rosters and so forth until all players have been assigned to a Club Travel Team. *Families may choose to reject the offer of a higher ranked MLU Club Travel team so that they participate on a team that they believe better meets their personal requirements. Families should note that the recommended travel team roster is developed by MLU training staff, Travel Division and existing travel team coaches for their age bracket.* At the end of the process, any player not assigned to a Club Travel Team should be declared to the Boys or Girls Travel Director so that the player's options may be considered and the family contacted. **All players attending tryouts will be notified of the team selection by June 15th.** For the process to work properly, existing travel team coaches must work together closely to insure each player's interests are promoted. At times, the Club Travel Teams existing coach may need to assess their own personal qualifications or child's ranking and make difficult decisions to insure that the best interests of the team and players are promoted. Generally, the more experienced and qualified Coach will work with the higher ranked travel team. **Coaches failing to cooperate and participate in the Club Travel Team tryout process in the spirit of the stated MLU club values will be released from their role as a MLU Coach.** Coaches should consult with the Senior Travel Director if assistance or information is required.

New Club Teams, U8 through U14

New Club Travel teams may be formed only after all existing travel teams have released tryout participants or the tryout participant's family has declined to accept the offer of the existing MLU Club Travel Team. Tryout participants that decline an offer of placement from an existing Club Travel Team will be assigned to the open pool and included in the player rankings to be used to form new travel teams. MLU will support new Club Travel Teams where there is a sufficient number of available players to create a new team, a minimum of 8 for small sided and a minimum of 12 for full-sided teams. Emerging Recreational players and other players attending tryouts will be evaluated by accredited MLU training staff and ranked by their present ability. At the U-8 level, all teams are formed based solely on the performance of the individual player's tryout. Coaches that have been interviewed that meet the MLU's goals will be assigned to those prospective U-8 teams. Additionally, prospective coaches at the other age levels will be interviewed, selected and engaged to adjust and finalize the player roster(s). New Club Travel team Coaches will be selected based upon their current experience and qualifications by the MLU Coaches Selection Committee.. At the end of the process, any player not assigned to a Club Travel Team should be declared to the Boys or Girls Travel Director so that the player's options may be considered and the family contacted. **All players attending tryouts will be notified of the team selection by June 15th. Potential Coaches failing to cooperate and participate in the Club Travel Team tryout process in the spirit of the stated MLU club values will not be selected for the role of MLU Coach** . Coaches should consult with the Senior Travel Director if assistance or information is required.

MLU Club Teams, U15 through U19

MLU Club Travel Team ranking is based upon the Travel Teams final division record/placement in the last completed season segment, i.e., fall, winter or spring. The team ranking will determine the player selection order for open players or new players attending the tryout process. MLU will promote and support the senior age groups by publicizing tryout dates and socializing team player needs to other clubs and leagues. MLU will hold advertised player tryouts for MLU Club Travel Teams on at least two separate dates as required by the existing U15 through U19 Club Travel Teams. The primary purpose of the Club Team tryout is to fill team vacancies to insure continuity and team health. The MLU Club Team tryout will be managed by the MLU travel program and training organization in coordination with the existing Club Travel Team Coaches .