



Manalapan Soccer Club - Travel Program

Manalapan Soccer Club sponsors travel teams from U-8 thru U-19 for both boys and girls. In some age groups we have as many as three teams (A, B and C teams). Our teams play in various travel leagues in New Jersey including MOSA (Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association), Jersey Coast Soccer, MAPS (Mid Atlantic Premier Soccer, a division of Central Jersey Soccer and JAGS (Jersey All Girls Soccer). All of our travel players are registered with New Jersey Youth Soccer (www.NJYouthSoccer.com), which is part of the US Youth Soccer Program (www.USYouthSoccer.org).

Playing on a travel team is a *yearlong commitment* from August 1st thru the following July. Each team is comprised of players born from Aug 1 of one year thru July 31 the following year (i.e. Aug 1 1996 - July 31, 1997 constitutes the age group U-8). There are no residency requirements to be on a travel team with the exception of U-8's (*see below*). All teams must have at least 50% Manalapan residents on their roster (exceptions are made with approval of the Board of Directors). If a non-resident of Manalapan has played in our recreation program for at least 1 year (2 seasons) they are considered a Manalapan resident.

Our club philosophy is a tiered program of the "A" team being the top level team, the "B" team being beneath the A team and the "C" team being below the B team. This philosophy is based on the concept that all of the travel leagues play with, which enables us to offer the most competitive teams we can. When many of our teams go full sided (U11 and up), they compete in the *New Jersey State Cup* tournament. ALL TRAVEL PLAYERS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN OUR RECREATION PROGRAM IF THEY SO CHOOSE.

Recently the club has adopted two new parts to our travel program, the U8 travel teams and the new C team requirements.

Our **U-8** program is a developmental program offering the children who join these teams an earlier chance to develop and then join at the travel level. All U-8 players must be Manalapan residents or have played in our recreation program for the previous two seasons. If there are two teams at this age group we field two "equal" level teams, which promotes development of all the participants and gives them an equal chance to learn and grow together. When these children go to the U-9 level then the "A - B" philosophy comes into affect. Our U8 teams are in the *Jersey Coast Travel League*, and play their games on Saturdays. The Club uses professional trainers (presently UK Elite) once a week to train the teams. Part of the philosophy of this is to have the two boys or girls teams - if there are two - to train together.

Our new C teams, when formed, now also play in the *Jersey Coast League* on Saturdays and must also play in our recreation program on Sundays.

TRYOUT PROCEDURES

The Manalapan Soccer Club holds tryouts in late May/early June for all of its travel teams. With the exception of U8 and U9, the "A" coach holds the first tryout(s). After he/she has chosen their team, the B coach can either chose their team or have another tryout for the remaining players who tried out. A "C" team is picked in the same fashion as the "B" team once the "B" team has been selected. The coaches must give a notification date as to when a player will be contacted about the determination of the tryouts. All players must attend the first tryout - the only exception is for religious reasons or an illness. A member of the *Board of Directors* of the Club or a designated person, neither of whom has any interest or affiliation of any of the children trying out, will attend each tryout.

U8 and U9 tryouts will be run by the Official Club trainer or such other impartial group (i.e. travel coaches, members of the *Board of Directors*, etc.) that have no relation to the children trying out. There will be two tryouts for these age groups and it is strongly suggested that the players attend both tryouts. Each child will be rated on his or her ability at the tryouts held.

Travel Coaches

The *Board of Directors* conducts coaches' selection. All parties interested in coaching need to send a letter to the *Travel Vice President* with his or her intentions to coach. He/she should state their philosophy of coaching, past history, coaching licenses and experience. For the new age travel teams (U8's and U-9's) the coaches will be selected after tryouts.

The Club's philosophy is that the coach's child is to be placed on the appropriate team of the player's ability. For that reason the tryouts and ratings of the kids are taken into account in selecting the coaches. For all other age groups, coaches are approved prior to tryouts. If a Head Coach resigns from a team then the Assistant Coach(es) have the first option to become the Head Coach.

Travel Team Uniforms

All travel teams will wear the Club approved uniform for all league games. The only exceptions will be for tournaments if the team so chooses. The Club colors of red, white and black must be in any alternate uniforms used for tournaments. Effective August 2005 all travel players will purchase their own travel uniforms. This will be coordinated through a team representative in conjunction with the *Travel VP's* of the club. All uniforms will be purchased with the Club specified retailer. Every three years MSC will approve new travel uniforms for all travel teams. This process will be done via a committee of the Club. Each team is required to purchase at least one additional uniform for guest or new players.

Travel Program Management

The *Board of Directors* of MSC and, specifically, the *Travel VP* and the *Small Sided Travel VP* oversee the Travel program. The *Travel VP's* will do all scheduling and rescheduling of games, fields and referees. Furthermore he/she will schedule any training sessions at the Manalapan Rec. Center. Travel uniforms will be coordinated through the *Travel VP's*. Any complaints, questions or team procedures need to be directed to the *Travel VP's* or the MSC President or Vice President.

Travel Team Registration

Registration for travel players will occur before the beginning of the fall season for the entire year (Fall and Spring). The only exception to this is for teams that only play in the Spring will pay the Spring only fee (which is approximately half of the full fee). Manalapan Soccer Club will help in any financial hardships so that no player will be denied playing due to financial restraints.

Travel Team Funding

MSC each year will approve an amount of money to each travel team to be used for training and/or tournaments. In addition, a team may have a separate team bank account to be used for additional funds for the team. This money can be collected through fundraising (approved by the *Travel VP*), donations by a business or organization, or through individual parental contributions. Each travel team should have a specified team *Treasurer* who is NOT a coach of the team.

Memorial Day Tournament

All Manalapan travel teams are required to participate in the annual *Memorial Day Weekend Tournament* hosted by MSC. (The *Board of Directors* must approve exceptions.) Each team is required to collect team advertising for the tournament *Journal* with an amount specified by the *Tournament Committee*. Furthermore, each player must have a family member volunteer a minimum of two hours towards the tournament per travel player playing in the program.

(As amended 2/16/05)