



A Note to Coaches

From the Melrose Youth Soccer Board

Summer 2009

The fall season is still weeks away, but there are a few exciting things that the MYS board would like you to know about. Please read the whole note – it contains information about coaching license courses, pre-season meetings for each league, and some other things we're trying out this year.

Coach Licenses:

As I'm sure you're aware, many of our coaches have hugely varied experience in the world of soccer. Some of our coaches have played college and semi-pro leagues, while others of us have taken up coaching without much prior experience in the game. Our goal is to provide each player with a great experience in our program, and we believe that all players deserve to learn with the best possible techniques we can provide to them.

Because we think that players learn best when they have some consistency from one season to the next, we strongly encourage all coaches to take part in licensing courses. Our policy is to pay for all courses, so take advantage of the opportunity to work on your credentials. To sign up, send your confirmation me at gsmitty@comcast.net and cc: your age group coordinator.

U6 City – Gary Smith – gsmitty@comcast.net

U8 City – Sean O'Brien – obrienmel@comcast.net

U10 City - Bradley Michaels – bradleymichaels@earthlink.net

U10-U14 Girl's Travel Soccer – Heather McSween – heathermcsween@msn.com

U10-U14 Boy's Travel Soccer – Carlos Charry – ccharry@smma.com

This Fall's License Courses are scheduled for the Melrose Middle School Gym.

G License Course: Sunday, 8/30 – 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

The G course is the beginning Mass. Youth Soccer license, and is a prerequisite for all other licenses. We expect all coaches to get their G license before the end of the first year of U8 soccer.

E License Course: Saturday, 8/22 AND Saturday 8/29 – 8:30 am – 5 pm.

The E License is one that many of our coaches are ready for, having completed the G and the F last year. Our expectation is that all coaches who plan to work in U12 or above will attain an E license or better.

Preseason Meetings:

In addition to license courses, we will be running pre-season meetings in each of the age groups this season. The goal of these is different than the license courses – in these, we will spend time talking about Melrose Youth Soccer as coaches. Our goal is to help coaches discuss the needs of the players, and to share strategies for how to succeed as coaches – communicating with parents, running games, planning practices – the whole nine yards. We would like coaches to make every possible effort to participate in these meetings – the quality of our program depends so much on you!

Note: Currently, pre-season courses are tentatively scheduled for the Roosevelt school.

U6: Tuesday 9/1 from 6-7:30 pm
U8: Tuesday 9/1 from 7:30–9 pm
U10: Thursday 9/3 from 6-7:30 pm
U12/U14: Thursday 9/3 from 7:30-9 pm

U8/U10 Skills Patch Program:

Mass Youth Soccer runs a skills program in which kids can qualify for patches for demonstrating mastery of certain parts of the game – especially ball control. Since we know that skill development really takes place during the same ages that kids really like stickers, we think it could be a big hit! Also, we're running this just as a "extra" with no added cost to families. How much we get out of this program depends on how well kids like it, but also how much support our coaches able to give to it.

Logistics:

Currently, we're planning to run a session from 2-3 pm on Sundays or U8 players with another one for U10 players from 3-4 pm. We have recruited a Mass. Youth Soccer to administer the program, but without any support from coaches, we will have to limit the program to the first 16 players who sign up each week. If you would be willing to work with the coach from MAYS, we could expand that number considerably. If you think you might be able to donate another hour per week helping kids develop their mastery of the ball, email me, and we'll go from there.

Finally, please accept the thanks of the MYS board for all of the efforts that you make on behalf of youth soccer. Your commitment to the young players of Melrose forms the heart and substance of our program. If you have questions, issues, or just want to talk about the MYS program, send me an email. I'd love to hear from you.

On behalf of the MYS board,
Gary Smith
gsmitty@comcast.net