



Medina Rangers Boys Travel Program Standing Rules November, 2008

I. Purpose

The mission of the boys travel soccer program is to provide the best possible players for the Medina High School Boys Soccer program. To accomplish this mission, we seek to:

- Provide a high quality competitive soccer program for boys growing up in the Medina City School District.
- Create an environment where every player is provided the opportunity to be the best he can be.
- Use the game of soccer to teach life lessons that will make Medina children better people as well as better soccer players.

II. Structure

The boys travel program will field soccer teams at least two different levels of competitiveness. All teams will be under the direction of the Director of Boys Travel. U8, U9, and U10 teams will have a maximum roster of 12 players, U11 and U12 will have maximum of 14 players, while U13 and U14 teams will have a maximum of 18 players. These levels are:

- Medina Rangers - Travel "A"
This team is for the most talented, committed and competitive players in an age group and it will compete in the American Amateur Soccer League (AASL). Each team will have access to its own full time professional trainer. Team members will be selected via an open tryout.
- Medina Rangers - Travel "B"
The primary purpose of this team is player development...not team development. It is intended to operate as a "farm system" for the A team and a place where players not quite ready for A level competition can build their skills and understanding of the game. These teams will also have their own full time trainer and play in the AASL. Players will be selected by open tryout.

III. Positions

The following positions have been established to provide leadership and direction for the boys travel program:

A. Director of Boys Travel

The boys travel soccer program will be managed by the Director of Boys Travel (the Director) who sits on and will be responsible to the Medina Soccer Association (MSA) Board of Directors on all matters relating to this division. The Director will make all day-to-day and longer-term decisions with the assistance of an advisory board. This person must have at least five years coaching

experience and have a full understanding of premier soccer in Northeast Ohio. If such a person is not available or willing to take the position, the position will be filled by the MSA Board of Directors.

B. Advisory Board

The advisory board will consist of three to five members nominated by the Director and approved by the MSA Board of Directors. Advisory board members must have a solid understanding of travel soccer and how it differs from recreational and premier soccer in Northeast Ohio. The role of the advisory board is to (1) provide advice and counsel to the Director and (2) to help the Director make head coaching appointments.

C. League Representatives

The boys travel program will compete in the American Amateur Soccer League (AASL). Two league representatives, who will be appointed by the Director, will be responsible for player & team registration, team scheduling, field assignments and serving as the liaison between the league and the MSA.

D. Director of Coaching

The Medina High School Boys head varsity soccer coach may serve as the organization's Director of Coaching. In this role, he will (1) provide advice and counsel on soccer matters and (2) work directly with the coaching staff and paid trainers.

E. Coaches

Coaching assignments will be made by the Director, subject to the approval of the MSA Board of Directors. All coaches must have at least a USSF "E" license (or equivalent) or higher and be certified via the OYSAN Risk Management program every two years. All coaches serve at the will of the MSA Board of Directors and the Director for a period of one year (fall and spring). Coaching assignments will be made on the candidate's ability to prove that he or she has:

- A solid understanding of the game as a player and/or coach.
- A proven track record of success coaching kids.
- Agrees with the goals, rules and philosophy of the MSA.
- The ability to serve as a proper role model for the players.

F. Paid Professional Trainers

The boys travel program is committed to providing every team with high quality coaching for both practices and games. This commitment will be fulfilled in one of two ways: (1) By the assignment of a volunteer or parent coach with a proven track record of success at the travel level or above or (2) By hiring a paid soccer professional to train the players. These professionals will work directly with the Director of Coaching and operate within the scope of the organization's coaching curriculum. Professionals will be compensated at a rate of pay determined by the Director and approved by the MSA Board of Directors. This pay level will be based on the professional's level of experience and the rate of pay being offered by competitive organizations.

G. Team Managers

Selected by the coach, the team manager will be responsible for disseminating information from the coaches or league, as well as the collection of all player dues and fees. It is recommended that team managers attend coaches' meetings to stay current with all issues.

IV. Policies

The following policies have been established to deal with certain questions and situations that affect the manner in which the organization runs on a day to day basis:

A. Commitment

When a player accepts a position on a boys travel team, the commitment is for an entire soccer year...fall season, winter indoor, and spring season. This commitment includes attending all practices, league games and tournaments that the team decides to participate in during that soccer year. Also each June, MSA along with the Boys and Girls Travel programs will host a tournament as a way of generating funds to defray the cost of professional instruction. The parents of every travel player, both boys and girls, are required to donate at least four hours of time per year to help run the tournament. Parental support to insist that their sons live up to this commitment is not only expected, but required. The policy of this program is to encourage players to play other sports besides just soccer. Toward this end, coaches will do everything possible to work out scheduling conflicts with players to enable them to play other sports and participate in non-athletic activities. Conflicts that cannot be worked out between the parents, player and the coaching staff will be mediated by the Director.

B. Playing Up

Our policy is that all players must play in their proper age group. The proper age group will be determined by the player's date of birth in relation to the USYSA age grouping; and the player's grade in school. In general, a player's proper age will be that group with whom he will attend high school. The Director will have the final authority for granting any requests for a player to play in an older age group. Requests will, however, be considered for playing an entire team up an age group if the competition in that team's age group is not sufficient to challenge the players.

C. Teams

Teams will be formed for the U-8 through U-14 age groups. Older groups (U-15 through U-19) teams may be formed in the spring season, in accordance with Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines. Teams will be formed based on the availability of talent and coaching. Talent level will be determined by open tryouts.

D. Tryouts and Team Assignments

Travel players will be selected annually from open tryouts held during the 2nd week of June. Once open tryouts are held, any openings that still exist (or those that may develop later during the year) will be filled by the Director and the coaching staff in each age group. Tryouts are open to all Medina area boys, but preference will be given to players in the Medina City School District. Evaluation will be done by a team of up to five people: the Director of the Boys Travel program, the head coaches of the A & B teams, an experienced boys travel coach who has nothing to do with the age group, and a paid professional. Tryout procedures will consist of objective and subjective measurements as defined by the Director of Coaching and the Director of Boys Travel. Players will be notified if they have been selected for a team within 10 days of the tryouts. Tryout results will not be made public. Players who move into the community between tryouts will be placed on the appropriate travel team, when possible, by the Director.

E. Fees

The boys travel program will be self-funded. Fees will be paid to MSA every season and kept in the MSA checking account. The fees for participation in the boys travel program will be determined annually by the Director, subject to the approval by the MSA Board of Directors. A full accounting of the factors used to determine the level of fees will be provided to the parents of all players. The letter of acceptance sent to each player following the June tryouts will include an invoice for a non-refundable deposit of \$100 that must be paid by June 30th. This \$100 deposit will be applied to the player's fees...\$50 in the fall and \$50 in the spring. Players who leave the program before completing both seasons will forfeit this deposit. All such deposits will go to the MSA's general operating fund. Families will be billed in advance of each season and fees must be paid in full by the first game of the season. Hardship cases should be brought to the attention of the Director and arrangements will be made to assist the family whenever possible. All teams will be encouraged to undertake fund-raising activities to further offset costs.

F. Playing Time

Playing time is not guaranteed. It is earned by each player based on his skills, abilities, attitude, coach-ability, and work ethic. In general, players should expect to play a minimum of 30% of the game, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Also, the policy of this organization is that the penalty for missing practices is not necessarily being benched for the next game. The real penalty for missing practices is that the other players on the team who are attending and working hard at practices will eventually become better players than those missing practices and therefore get more playing time accordingly.

G. Uniforms

All players must wear the approved Ranger uniform. Any changes to the uniforms worn by teams in the boys travel program will be determined by the Director, subject to the approval of the MSA Board of Directors. The boys program will continue to wear the traditional red, white and blue striped uniform. The team's second jersey will be a simple red t-shirt with the Ranger logo.

H. Coaching Equipment

Coaching equipment (pennies, cones, practice net, clipboards, etc.) should be purchased by the individual coaches who should then submit a receipt to the MSA Treasurer for reimbursement. All reimbursed fees must be included in the team fees charged to that team's parents.

I. Premier Soccer

Players who possess the skills and desire to play premier soccer should be encouraged to do so. The policy of the boys travel program will be that premier players will be expected to be at least one practice with their travel team and one practice with their premier team each week. It is the responsibility of the head coach of the travel team to try to coordinate the tournament schedules of his team with those of the premier teams, wherever possible. Players will **not** be encouraged to play premier soccer until they complete at least their U-11 soccer year.

J. Tournaments

All boys travel teams are required to play in at least one tournament in the fall and one tournament in the spring, and are encouraged to play in additional tournaments in both the fall and the spring. All tournaments will be selected by the coaching staff and the Director, based on the level of competition expected at the tournament and the level of play being exhibited by individual teams.

K. Travel Player Transfers

OYSAN and the AASL limit the number of player transfers from team-to-team during the playing year. As a result, all requests for player transfers must be submitted to the Director in writing. The Director shall have the final authority for granting any transfers.