

## MASON SOCCER CLUB

### Mission, Goals, Strategies and Tactics (Final Version)

#### Mason Soccer Club (MSC) Mission Statement:

The Mason Soccer Club's mission is to provide a soccer environment such that every Mason youth has the opportunity, through a high level of coaching, to develop a love for the game that embodies fair play, good sportsmanship, a strong understanding of the game, and excellent soccer skills.

#### MSC Goals:

- 1) The Mason Soccer Club will provide a maximum number of opportunities for male and female soccer players of all ages.
- 2) Every player with the Mason Soccer Club will reach their potential; including the development of their technical, tactical, physiological and psychological expertise.
- 3) Every player with the Mason Soccer Club will develop a lifelong passion for, and appreciation of, the game of soccer as modeled by the soccer community of parents, coaches, spectators, and other players.

#### MSC Draft Strategies build on our mission and goals.

1. MSC players and their parents will understand that playing with the Club is a privilege- but that a maximum number of youth will be allowed to enjoy this privilege each year; we will try to have two teams at each age for boys and girls at U12 and under and at least one team at each for boys and girls U13 and above.
2. Players of most similar ability will be encouraged to play together and compete together; but coaches will be encouraged to have all players within an age group practice together.
3. The MSC and its coaches will develop a training strategy and annual training goals for each age group that will allow for sequential development in the four areas of soccer training (technical, tactical, psychological, physiological); this will be used by the coaches within each age group.
4. The MSC will identify opportunities for coaches to continually enhance their understanding of the game of soccer as well as enhanced understanding of coaching youth athletes; MSC coaches will commit to continually enhancing their coaching skills.
5. The MSC will work to increase the 'soccer knowledge' among our non-coaching parents and spectators.
6. The MSC will work to instill in our players an understanding of the relationship between effort and success in soccer and the way that translates to other aspects of their lives.
7. All coaches, parents and players will read, understand and adopt the 'Soccer Player Bill of Rights.'
8. The MSC will not discourage players from playing with premier programs as desired but will work to insure a 'near-premier' experience within the MSC for those who don't or can't.

## MSC Tactics to achieve our Mission, Goals and Strategies (what will we do)

1. MSC will develop a 'coaching application form' that is both simple but requires prospective coaches to think about why they are in coaching and what they would like to accomplish with their teams as they progress; this should include some comment about their willingness to continuously work to improve their coaching ability.
2. Develop a letter to parents at tryouts outlining MSC's policies that each parent agrees to (with some statement at the end about 'by participating in the activities of MSC and CASL you agree to abide by our philosophy and rules'. This will include the process of decision making, an understanding that the decision on team construction will reside with the age/gender division coaches. Upper division teams will have first choice of players. Coaches will be encouraged to use players from the other age/gender team as guest players within the rules of CASL or specific tournament rules.
3. The president, DOC or other designated board member will work with each cohort of age/gender coaches to establish their teams and help insure parents that the tryout process was fair and impartial.
4. Teams will be established each year in a way that helps insure players of like ability, to the extent feasible within CASL rules and regulations, play together.
5. Teams in the same age/gender group will practice jointly at least once per week if at all possible and work to have some joint scrimmages.
6. A common uniform will be established for Mason CASL teams such that they are interchangeable if individuals switch teams or guest roster. Within an age/gender group the two teams will agree when the teams are first formed- one team takes even numbers and one odd so that there are no conflicting numbers across the teams. Uniforms will typically be purchased on a two-year cycle.
7. Teams are strongly encouraged to play in at least one tournament each fall and spring (fall recommendation is the CAC as it doesn't involve travel) and should consider some winter indoor training.
8. MSC will endeavor to identify a progressive training program that can be adopted and/or modified as a basis for continuous development of the youth from U9-U19. In any event, coaches agree to work within the U.S. Youth Soccer age appropriate development guidelines.
9. MSC will put together a 'seasonal newsletter' available online and emailed to parents each fall and spring to help improve the soccer knowledge of parents, distribute key information and as a general communication tool for all Mason CASL parents.
10. MSC will encourage coaches to seek additional courses, licenses, and workshops regarding coaching. MSC Board will encourage appropriate entities to hold courses within the Lansing area that our coaches would be able to attend. MSC will reimburse coaches 50% of the cost of the USSF D and E license tuition cost that the coach passes (coupled with the 50% reimbursement from CASL this will mean no out-of-pocket expenses for the coaches). Other courses/licenses could be reimbursed 50% with prior approval of the board.
11. The 'Soccer Player Bill of Rights' will be forwarded to every parent at the beginning of the fall season.
12. As part of the spring newsletter MSC will publish the tryout times for TNT, Chill and Rush Premier Club tryouts as well as a best estimate of total annual costs and scholarship availability. All players will be encouraged to try out for Premier clubs if they have any interest.
13. MSC will provide extra opportunities for club training such as summer camp, goalie training, high school sponsored events and league and community sponsored events.