

MONTVILLE YOUTH SOCCER CLUB, INC.
TRAVEL TEAM GUIDELINES

SECTION I. PURPOSE

The purpose of fielding district soccer teams is to develop competitive teams of children with skill levels and goals capable of competing with other area towns on an equal basis and to develop talent through the Club which will allow Montville teams to compete with other teams in the area, and provide proper representation of the Town of Montville. These guidelines apply to all levels of district competition unless otherwise noted. District (Travel A)competition is defined, at a minimum, as any team leaving the town of Montville to play another team at an away location, or any team hosting a team from outside the town of Montville, while being sponsored by the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc.

SECTION II. SCOPE OF DISTRICT COMPETITION

The Executive Committee shall determine those district teams, which shall be fielded by the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. Ages and age groupings of players of district teams, which will compete, will be in accordance with MYSC rules and policy. Teams to be fielded annually shall be determined by motion adopted by the Executive Committee of the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. The rules established herein shall apply equally to all district-level teams, which are fielded by the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. Said rules do not apply to competition that is not sponsored by the Southeast District.

SECTION III. COACHES

The Executive Committee shall select coaches for all district teams. The Executive Committee shall require written applications for head coaching positions for each District Level – A team that will be fielded by the Club. In the event that there is more than one application for any coaching position, coaches shall be selected by a majority vote of the Executive Committee by a secret or sealed ballot. Written applications for head coaching positions should be submitted by the regular April meeting of the Club. Any Applicants not chosen shall be considered for a District Level II - B team if such a team will be formed based on available players (ref. Section VI). The Committee reserves the right to accept, but is not required to consider, any application for a head coaching position received after the April meeting date

It is recommended that all applicants for positions of Head Coach of a district travel A team have as a minimum qualification not less than four years of competitive soccer coaching or playing experience, and have sufficient knowledge of necessary techniques and tactics for the age level being coached. Each district travel A team Head Coach shall be responsible for coaching the respective district travel A team for the full season as such season is hereinafter defined.

Each district travel team coach shall be responsible for implementing all rules and regulations promulgated by the district and by the Executive Committee. All communications, conflicts and/or concerns not related to scheduling, between district travel

team coaches and the district shall be conducted through the Club's district representative. The district representative shall communicate all changes in policies or guidelines at the district level and all problems and concerns, in writing to the President of the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. The President shall be responsible for communicating such changes, problems or concerns to the appropriate district team head coaches.

SECTION IV. ASSISTANT COACHES

The number of Assistant Coaches shall be no greater than two and be listed on the league roster. The Head Coach of each district team shall recommend the names of assistant coaches, and each such assistant coach must receive the endorsement of the Executive Committee.

SECTION V. DISTRICT LEVEL I TEAM(S) COMPETITIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Each District Level I travel A team shall compete, at a minimum, in the following:

- A. District Fall outdoor season.
- B. District Fall outdoor tournament if offered.
- C. State indoor tournament.
- D. One competitive non-district tournament.

SECTION VI. TEAMS; PRACTICE AND GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Based upon participant interest in District travel A team competition within each particular age group, the Executive Committee shall determine the number of competitive teams that shall be fielded on an annual basis. If participation warrants and the Executive Committee approves, a District Level II (Recreation Plus – Travel B) team or teams shall be fielded. Participants for District Level I teams shall be selected first from tryout candidates. Those candidates not selected for District Level I teams shall be eligible for District Level II-Travel B teams and/or recreation league teams.

Players selected for district play are expected to attend all practices. Head Coaches should coordinate not less than one practice per week during the Fall competitive season.

District Level I – Travel A - players who comply with the minimum requirements of this section and who are in good standing shall play a minimum of 50% of the game in U10 friendly, league and tournament games, and 20 minutes in U12 and above friendly and league games. There shall be no minimum amount of playing time allotted to or required for any player competing in tournament competitions, any player competing on a District Level II- Travel B team, which is fielded by the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc., shall be required to play a minimum of fifty percent of all games including tournaments. These provisions are intended to foster player development in an appropriate competitive environment.

SECTION VII. TEAM SELECTION

The number of positions on each District Level travel team shall be determined by the following formula: The number of players who will compete on each district travel team for that age group as determined by the district plus four (4) substitutes and three (3) reserves. Reserves may practice with the district travel team to which they are selected and may attend district competition matches at the discretion of the Head Coach or when a member of the team is removed therefrom whether as a result of injury, for disciplinary reasons or otherwise. The maximum number of 3 reserves applies only to competition in league games. Selection of reserves may involve a rotation of more than 3 players during the season to provide opportunities to developing players. Reserves should only be called if the roster, at game time, is anticipated to be below District approved number plus four (4) substitutes and they shall be chosen in the following manner:

- a. The requesting coach contacts their age-appropriate counterpart (i.e. if a District Level I team needs players, they first approach the coach of the District Level II team for the reserves)

OR

The requesting coach contacts their age-appropriate counterpart on teams of the opposite sex, where allowed by district rules (i.e. if a District Level I boys team needs players, they may approach the coach of the District Level I girls team).

Note: A District Level II coach must first contact the District Level I coach for players. A maximum of three (3) players are allowed to play down for any given game. If players are not available from the District Level I team and there are no other District Level II teams within their age group to choose from, the following two options may be implemented in their respective order.

- b. The requesting coach contacts the coach of the next District Level I team to see if there are any age-appropriate players available.
- c. The requesting coach contacts the coach of the next District Level II team to see if there are any players available.
- d. Unlimited players may play up a level, however, any player playing up (District Level II to District Level I) must have participated in that levels tryout. A lower age group player can only play up for the next higher District Level II gender appropriate level. There will be no allowance for any player to play up more than one level.

At no time shall a player be used without contacting that player's current coach or assistant coach if the coach is not available. This is to ensure that the player(s) documentation (player pass) is obtained for the requested game by the requesting coach.

Reserve selection to fill a vacancy on a District Level team shall be at the discretion of the Head Coach of each District Level team so long as the above requirements are met. Under unusual circumstances, the Executive Committee may permit rosters for District Level teams to exceed the above numbers and said circumstance will be explained to the affected coaches.

All candidates for a District Level I travel team shall be selected based upon their performance at a try-out for such district travel team scheduled by the Executive Board.. All tryouts will be for each District Level play based on age appropriateness as determined by the District's July 31st birthday cutoff date. Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. will strictly abide by this date with the following exception;

Any child whose age level is not appropriate for an older level of play but they are in a grade level equal to their peers that are capable of playing in that level, based on age, may play up a level. Any player that has requested to try out for an older District Level I team based on grade level and does not make the roster of the District Level I team will be placed on the same age District Level II team if available. If there is to be a consideration for that child to then play for their age appropriate District Level I team, the child must attend those tryouts as well. Failure to do so and failure to make the requested upper District Level I team and the inability to have a District Level II team for that upper level will create a condition that requires the child to be returned to an age appropriate District Level II team or in it's absence or no opening a recreation level of play within the club. The following reference chart can be used for age/grade level comparisons.

U14 District Travel Players – Grades 7 and 8
U12 District Travel Players – Grades 5 and 6
U10 District Travel Players – Grades 3 and 4

All district travel teams should be selected prior to the first of August and no later than the August meeting of the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. District travel team coaches shall employ the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. competitive evaluation criteria in the district travel team selection process. In the event that a candidate for a district travel team is unable to attend a tryout scheduled by the Club, such candidate shall present, in writing, a request to the Executive Committee for exemption from the try-out process. If the Executive Committee determines that the candidate was unable to attend the tryout for legitimate purposes, the district travel team the Executive Board shall evaluate the candidate to determine whether or not the candidate should qualify for the district travel team. This procedure should be deemed an extraordinary procedure and should only be utilized by the Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. in those situations in which extenuating circumstances prevent the candidate from attending tryouts. At no time shall a player attend a tryout without first registering with Montville Youth Soccer Club, Inc. The club registrar will provide a list of all players that are eligible for tryouts based on current registration data. There will be no exceptions or exemption allowed. In cases where insufficient numbers of players are available, a competitive tryout may not be scheduled. Any player indicating a preference to play on a District Travel team who does not attend a tryout and does not meet these special requirements shall be place on the District Level II team, if offered, or placed back into a recreation team roster.

All players selected for each District Level I travel team shall be evaluated and scored based on a tryout procedure as voted on by the Club. All tryout sheets and documentation shall be delivered to the Executive Committee via the District Coordinator, prior final approval and any player notifications.

It is the responsibility of the selected District Level I coach to ensure that all players are notified after the tryouts have been completed pertaining to their team status. This task may be delegated, in part, to the District Level II team coach, if said coach has been approved by the Executive Committee and for only those players that will be playing District Level II. It is the sole responsibility of the District Level I coach to personally notify all players that will be returning to the clubs recreation program as a result of not being chosen for either the District Level I team or the District Level II team(s). These notifications should be coordinated in such a manner as to ensure that all of the affected players, District Level I and District Level II, will be notified within one week of the final tryout.

SECTION VIII. TEAM ROSTERS

Over the course of the year, it may become difficult to fill team rosters for specific tournaments or district play. Coaches may select players from the pool of other available players in the club within the requirements of Section VII. District Level teams rosters are gender specific. At no time shall an opposite gender tryout for a District Level team unless the club does not offer a team within their specific age group.

SECTION IX. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Executive Committee shall resolve all matters of team discipline or concern. In addition, the Executive Committee shall resolve any questions regarding the interpretation of these guidelines.

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