



Montrose Soccer Club

Policies & Guidelines

Approved by MSC Board 8/24/2013

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1. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1.1. Provide a Viable and Strong Club Team System

The Montrose Soccer Club (MSC) was organized to provide a venue for Montrose youth to play competitive soccer. The Club's intent is to develop boys and girls teams of same-aged players to compete with other youth soccer teams in the region and state. Our teams are organized and coached to raise the level of skills of the players, promote a lasting love for the game, and promote sportsmanship among players, parents and coaches.

1.2. Operate a Competitive Club Team Program

The MSC is intended to provide a bridge in their soccer playing for young boys and girls advancing from Montrose Recreation Department soccer (recreation) to High School soccer (interscholastic) by participating in Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) leagues and tournaments as a competitive level club. The MSC was a founding member of the Western Slope State League (WSSL) and MSC teams may participate in that league when there are competitive divisions available for MSC teams and the WSSL schedule provides adequate and appropriate play to meet team objectives for that season. MSC teams may also compete in other leagues organized and sanctioned by the CSA, such as the Southwest League (SWL), when they provide adequate and appropriate play to meet team objectives.

1.3. Enhance Coaching

The MSC relies on volunteer coaches but recognizes the need for the Club to aid in the education and training of these volunteers to become better versed in soccer techniques, training, and tactics. The Club will support MSC coaches in their efforts to further educate themselves as soccer coaches and will strive to develop programs to assist coaches or provide more structured training through MSC.

1.4. Maintain a Viable and Competent Officiating Cadre

The MSC will strive to maintain an adequate cadre of certified referees to cover all scheduled home soccer matches for all age levels of play. The Club will arrange for local certification training opportunities each year and sponsor new referees in their efforts to become certified referees. The Club will sustain a program to mentor newly certified referees and provide opportunities for all Club referees to referee schedule league matches and gain actual game experience each season.

1.5. Maintain a Strong Financial Position and Operating Plan

MSC will maintain a viable budget to insure the long-term viability of the Club. Expenditures and revenue shall be tracked and accounted for each year and there will be sufficient funds available at the end of each year to carry the Club into the next season. The MSC Board shall continue to manage the Club and take the necessary action to maintain its not for profit status.

The MSC will explore and seek all possible revenue sources to sustain the Club and help to defray the costs to players. MSC fundraising projects shall be consistent with the principles and ideals of youth sports.

MSC will provide for and maintain a scholarship program to benefit those players who, because of financial need or special circumstance, are unable to pay all or part of the seasonal player fees/dues or uniform costs.

1.6. Soccer Facilities and Equipment Program

The MSC will adhere to the terms and conditions of its 50-year lease with the City of Montrose for the use of the Sunset Mesa soccer field complex. The Club will provide and maintain goals and nets on the four Sunset Mesa soccer fields in the spring and fall as well as mark regulation size field lines for those fields during the Club playing season. The City of Montrose, pursuant to our lease, will water, mow and maintain the turf and City facilities at the Sunset Mesa soccer complex. The MSC will coordinate and work with the City to prevent unnecessary damage to the turf that can result from over-use and will manage practice and the placement of goals to sustain healthy turf to the best of its ability while honoring and adhering to our league match schedules during the fall and spring soccer seasons.

All MSC teams will be afforded practice times on the Sunset Mesa soccer fields. Based on the Club's lease with the City of Montrose, all Club teams are given preference and priority over other groups and the public for use of those fields during the regular soccer seasons. Each team will have at least two practice days per week reserved (weekdays) and fields will be available for scheduled matches on weekends.

MSC will provide basic soccer equipment such as balls (practice and game), scrimmage vests, cones, and corner flags for all Club teams.

1.7. Enhance Image of Soccer in Community

The MSC will work to maintain a respected image for youth sports in Montrose by continuing to be a drug-free and tobacco-free program. The members of the MSC will adhere to the Club's Code of Conduct while participating in Club functions, both in town and when traveling to other locations for league or tournament play. MSC teams will strive to maintain an attitude of proper sportsmanship while participating in Club functions and all MSC teams will participate in scheduled matches, whether league or tournament play, wearing Club approved uniforms and warm-up apparel.

The MSC will work with local media to provide coverage of Club events, team results and general information on the Club. The MSC Board will strive to better outreach to the local public on the Club and the soccer opportunities it provides using local media, personal contacts, and electronic media. The MSC Board will maintain an internet website for the Club under the domain name of www.montroseyouthsoccer.org.

2. COACHING

MSC coaches will be volunteers. They will serve at the pleasure of the MSC Board. Each coach or assistant coach must complete a background clearance check and be cleared to participate under CSA provisions. The MSC Board will approve all new coaches by majority vote. All MSC coaches will have a coaching agreement with the organization. Each coaching agreement with the Club is for one year (fall and spring seasons). The President of the MSC must sign all coaching agreements. The MSC Board is responsible for approval of, evaluation of, and dismissal of all MSC coaches. Actions to remove or dismiss a coach or assistant coach must be brought to the MSC Board by a member of the Board and be substantiated with cause. Violations of the Code of Conduct can be considered cause as well as other actions that are not in keeping with the goals, objectives and policies of the MSC.

2.1. Recruiting Coaches

Recruitment and advertising for qualified coaches will be ongoing.

The MSC Board or a subcommittee appointed by the President will interview each technically qualified coaching candidate to determine his or her non-technical qualifications (overall philosophy, coaching philosophy, experience in leadership, disciplinary history, interpersonal skills, etc.). Knowledge of soccer, soccer coaching, training and playing experience are desired, but not required. An interest in and willingness to coach and learn are important attributes considered by MSC. The Board or its subcommittee will recommend to the Board whether to approve or reject each candidate. Past history of physical abuse (e.g. assault) or restraining orders will be a factor that may warrant a potential coaching candidate unsuitable for coaching duties, but such past sanctions shall be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine the applicability to coaching youth soccer.

2.2. Removal of Coaches

All MSC coaches and assistants will sign a Coaching Agreement with the MSC outlining the responsibilities, expectations, and Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct, Board direction or the policies of the Club may be grounds for termination. The MSC Board President removes a coach with written notice.

If a coach is removed, the MSC Board will recruit and appoint an interim coach until the end of the year or a new coach is found. When a coach is removed from the program by Board action, the removed coach is not to have any contact with the team in any coaching capacity after they have been dismissed. A person dismissed as a coach is not banned as a member of the Club and may participate in Club functions. A person dismissed as a coach may re-enter the program in a coaching capacity in a later season provided they follow the procedures for the recruitment of coaches as set forth above.

2.3 Procedures for voicing coaching concerns

The MSC encourages an open forum for parents and players to express their concerns when presented in a manner that is appropriate and constructive. However, there is an appropriate time and place to voice these concerns. When coaches are on the field training teams or coaching matches, it is not appropriate to approach them during those times. Individual concerns do not need to be raised in front of the entire team or voiced via team email lists. In order to help facilitate resolution to coaching concerns in a manner that is fair to both the player and the coach, the following procedure is to be followed:

(1) Speak directly with the coach and try to resolve the problems where they began, face to face with the coach. This should be done at an appropriate time when there are no other players or parents around, and when the coach is finished with training or coaching. If you feel that the problem has not been resolved here, then go to the next step.

(2) Contact the MSC Player Agents (or Director of Coaching) and discuss your coaching concerns. You should be able to demonstrate that you have taken steps to address your concerns with the coach directly. Also include a solution that you would recommend. Contacts made to Player Agents (or Director of Coaching) shall be attempted to be resolved or acted upon within 14 days, but if such recommendations require MSC Board action, then action may take longer in order to schedule a Board meeting. If the parents or players do not feel the problem has been resolved by the Player Agents, then they should go to the next step.

(3) Write a letter addressed to the President of the MSC Board documenting your concerns and all the steps that you have previously taken in attempt to remedy the situation. Send this letter to P.O. Box 604 Montrose, CO 81402. The President then will place the item on the MSC Board agenda for the next meeting of the Board.

2.4. Coaches' Responsibilities

The primary roles of the youth soccer coach are teacher, motivator, and communicator. The coach must fulfill all three roles in order to provide a successful soccer experience for all involved. MSC coaches are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by the CSA Rules and Procedures pertaining to the league or tournament their team is participating in. All MSC coaches are required to follow the MSC Code of Conduct. Failure to adhere to this Code will result in disciplinary action up to and including release from their coaching responsibilities.

Coaches:

- Are expected to attend practices and games and arrive on time. If a coach is unable to attend a practice or game they will notify the Team Manager.
- Treat players with respect, avoid putdowns, sarcasm and ridicule.
- Follow guidelines and direction provided by the Board.
- Are positive and look for positives in players.
- Communicate and administer the playing policy of the MSC.
- Strive to help each player reach his or her potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.
- Know how to properly use a supplied First Aid Kit.
- Will strive to develop the players' appreciation of the game.
- Educate players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their appropriate level.
- Will have reasonable and realistic expectations.
- Know and communicate MSC goals and policies to players and parents.
- Win without gloating.
- Accept the decisions of the official with grace.
- Tolerate defeat without complaining.
- Discourage unfair gamesmanship.
- Will not use profanity, abusive language or negative personal remarks.
- Are responsible for coordinating with parents and players on tournament participation.
- Are responsible for registering and funding tournament play.
- Will be familiar with teams and players and maintain good communication with other head coaches within age group.

- Communicate their expectations for player and parent participation at a pre-season team meeting.

Team Equipment

Coaches will be responsible for and will maintain team equipment provided to them by MSC. At the end of a coach's tenure, they will return to MSC all equipment purchased by MSC for their team. It is understood that over the course of a coach's tenure some equipment will be lost or worn out, but the passing on of team equipment is essential to the sustainability of the Club's equipment program.

Coaches are expected to be respectful of the needs to manage and sustain the turf at the Sunset Mesa soccer fields. They should use portable goals and orient practice away from the goals when possible to prevent undue wear of the turf. Coaches should make every effort to avoid practice when and where there is soggy turf and abide by requests by the City not to practice when there are saturated field conditions.

2.5 Team Manager Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of the team manager are to serve as a communication link between parents and coach and to assist with the administrative details of running the team. She/he also receives information from the Club regarding the MSC Board decisions and policies throughout the year.

Team Managers:

- are expected to assist with tryouts and to enlist parent volunteers as needed. Specific information is disseminated to managers by the Club before tryouts.
- are responsible for overseeing registration procedures for their teams (see Section 5).
- are responsible to work with the coach and assistant coaches to determine what assistance is needed and identify the activities requiring support. They will clarify which duties the coach, the team manager, and parent volunteers will handle. The team manager is responsible for coordinating the various team activities and finding the appropriate help when needed.
- should, early in the season, establish a workable communication system to inform team members and parents of practice and game changes and any other information. This can be done in the form of a phone tree, email list, or a contact person can be designated for team members to call for information. Team managers should also provide a roster with names, emails, phone numbers and a schedule of games, snack assignments, directions to away games, carpool information, etc.
- are responsible for handling deposits and disbursements of team funds with the Club.
- may assist the coach in maintaining appropriate sideline behavior as outlined in the MSC Code of Conduct.

2.5 Trainers

The MSC may hire trainers to provide technical, tactical, and coaching assistance to the Club and its team coaches. The selection of such contract professionals is made by the MSC Board and the contract shall be signed by the MSC President. These trainers are not considered members of the MSC, but will be subject to the MSC Code of Conduct while providing services.

Termination or dismissal of contract trainers will be subject to the terms and conditions of their service contract and would not necessarily be subject to the same rules and policies as MSC team coaches.

3. REFEREES

The MSC shall maintain a sufficient pool of certified referees to provide adequate referee coverage for all MSC home games. MSC will designate a Referee Assignor for the Club and that person can be given a stipend for their services each season. The amount of the stipend is set by the Board and can vary depending upon the workload of the Assignor.

Referee Assignor will:

- assign referees from the MSC pool of referee for all MSC home games.
- try to spread out the assignment of referees equitably so that all referees have ample opportunity to gain experience and pay for their services.

- work to mentor newly certified referees and to develop those referees so that they may cover more levels of play.
- coordinate with CSA on local referee scheduling issues as necessary.
- recruit new referee candidates.
- schedule and organize the annual recertification clinic and new referee certification clinic in Montrose provided there are sufficient applicants to warrant a local clinic.

The MSC Referee Assignor may also assign referees for other soccer clubs in the area. When the MSC Referee Assignor assigns referees for other clubs, MSC will assess an additional administrative fee to those reimbursement charges to cover the burden that this additional work creates for the Assignor and the Club to track and make payments for referee services.

3.1 MSC Members

Local referees working for MSC are members of MSC. As members they are subject to the Club's Code of Conduct and can be on the MSC Board, coach, or service in other capacities.

All referees should be mindful of conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof. The Assignor will make every effort not to place referees in situations where there is the potential for conflict of interest. Referees are expected to be fair, even handed, and level headed when providing their services.

3.2 Complaints

Both the MSC Coaches responsibilities and the Code of Conduct address the respect and behavior that is to be afforded to referees by members of MSC. The Laws of the Game, CSA policies and the certification process provide the rules and procedures the referees are to follow.

In the event that a coach or member of MSC has an issue or complaint regarding the officiating of a referee in the MSC pool of referees, those concerns should first be presented to the MSC Player Agent (or Director of Coaching). MSC Player Agents (or Director of Coaching) may then forward complaints to the Referee Assignor if they believe there is merit to the complaint. The MSC Referee Assignor shall review all complaints. The Assignor may opt to take any one of several courses of action to address the complaint. The Assignor may bring the issue before the Board if it is deemed a violation of the Code of Conduct. Otherwise, the Assignor should address complaints appropriately with the subject official either through consultation, training, oversight, or warning.

Complaints received from parents, coaches or players from other teams about MSC pool referees shall be forwarded to the MSC President. The President will respond to such complaints in writing when possible. The President will consult with the Referee Assignor before responding to any outside complaints. All complaints received from CSA regarding MSC pool referees will be addressed by the Referee Assignor and the MSC President and will be responded to in writing.

3.3 Dismissal

MSC pool referees, those referees that receive payments directly from MSC, can be subject to dismissal from our Club for cause. MSC recognizes soccer referees are certified by larger State and national organizations and their certifications cannot be revoked or suspended by MSC, but MSC can opt not to assign a certified referee to MSC home games for cause.

Cause for dismissal would involve criminal convictions for actions that could put the public or youth in danger or jeopardy. Cause for dismissal would also involve violations of the Code of Conduct that warrant suspension or expulsion from the Club pursuant to that Code of Conduct. Poor judgment by officials in the course of officiating games or repeated complaints regarding the officiating is not cause for dismissal. Such issues are to be addressed by the Referee Assignor and the MSC President.

3.4. Payment

Certified referees officiating CSA league games will be paid per CSA rules at the time, which may include being paid by CSA or by through the Club with reimbursement by CSA. MSC pool referees officiating tournaments are paid by tournament officials. MSC pool referees officiating MSC games or games of other Clubs that MSC is

providing referee assignment services to will be paid by MSC. MSC referee pay scales will mirror CSA referee pay scales. Payments by MSC will come after the season has ended.

MSC will reimburse newly certified referees for their registration fees provided those new referees provide their services to the Club for at least two games in the following season. The new referees would need to submit a written request to the Board for reimbursement.

4. TEAMS

All teams will have a Coach and a Team manager. Each team may have assistant coaches. It is encouraged that teams with more than 13 players have at least one assistant coach. Coaches may recruit and recommend to the MSC Board possible assistant coaches, but they must go through the procedures for coach recruiting set forth above. Team managers are selected by the Coach and do not require Board approval. Team managers are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct, Board directions, and MSC policies. The Board does reserve the authority to dismiss Team managers for cause.

4.1. Tryouts

Overall responsibility for tryouts rests with the Coaches. Tryouts for each age group are conducted, under the guidance of the MSC Board, with the help of the age group Team Coaches.

Tryouts are open to any eligible and age appropriate players. Boys and girls residing in and around Montrose, Colorado, either in the city or county are given first priority as players on MSC teams. Players for other area towns such as Olathe, Ridgway, Delta, Telluride are considered part of the residence area for the Club. MSC teams may sign up players residing in other towns but should only do so when there are fewer than the maximum allowable Montrose area players available for the MSC team roster. MSC does not want to take players from other areas teams if there are opportunities for them to play in their town or their local soccer club, but in the event those local organizations cannot provide playing opportunities locally, then MSC should consider allowing those players on MSC teams if there the team roster is not full. All players are expected to participate in tryouts if they are residing the immediate area at the time of tryouts.

MSC will provide all appropriate equipment to run tryouts including first aid kits, balls, cones, vests/bibs, tryout numbers, goals, etc. The MSC Board will organize player check-in, and review player birthdates. Team managers and/or board members will be available to explain basic MSC policies to parents.

All returning MSC players are expected to attend tryouts. No player has a guaranteed position from year to year.

- 4.1.1. *Player Identification and Evaluation:* Players will be evaluated and placed on teams based on the evaluation process of the MSC coaches. As a general guideline, MSC coaches evaluate players based on the four pillars of player development: technical, tactical, physical and psychological observation.
- 4.1.2. Returning MSC players, the evaluation will also be based their **prior soccer year performance**. Tryouts are essentially season long process. MSC coaches are to communicate throughout the year regarding the development of players.

If more players' tryout than there are roster spaces available, then some players may be placed on a wait list or be assigned to a taxi squad. The MSC President shall designate the coaches or team managers that are responsible for contacting players who do not make a team or are wait-listed prior to announcing the placement results. If a current MSC player is dropped from a team, the coach making the decision must contact the player individually prior to announcing the placement results. **It is the responsibility of the coaches overseeing each age group to ensure that all players are notified about tryout results.**

- 4.1.3 The decision whether there are enough players for a team will be based on the number of registered players. The MSC will not register a competitive team with fewer than 13 players on the roster.
- 4.1.4 Teams are not final until players have registered. The MSC Board has final authority to make adjustments to teams at their discretion. Players may be added to a team roster that did not participate in try outs, but must either have not been living in the area at the time of try outs or were not able to try out because of injury or illness. There may be other extenuating

circumstances for a player to miss tryouts, but those will be judged on a case-by-case basis by the MSC Board.

4.2. Team Roster Limit Guidelines

Team rosters are filled at the Board discretion up to the CSA roster limit (18) and the MSC roster minimum (13). The Board has the final say on roster size and may exceed CSA roster limit with taxi squad players.

4.3. Practice Guidelines

- 4.3.1** All MSC teams are expected to practice twice a week and may exceed that schedule provided there are fields available and players and parents are agreeable to such a practice schedule.
- 4.3.2** Fields are never to be used when conditions may cause damage to the playing surface.
- 4.3.3.** Player conflicts involving practices and games should be worked out between players and coaches.

4.4. Playing Time Guidelines

- 4.4.1.** Poor attitude or effort may result in reduced playing time along with poor attitude or performance in previous games may affect playing time.
- 4.4.2.** Missing practice or game may result in reduced playing time.
- 4.4.3.** Playing time may be restricted due to player discipline issues. Players should never be penalized for the actions of their parents.
- 4.4.4.** Coaches are expected to outline playing time policies and guidelines prior to the beginning of the season.
- 4.4.5.** Players that have regularly attended practice, put forth good effort during practice, and are not being disciplined for poor attitude shall play a minimum of 1/3 of the time each period.

4.5. Roster Changes and Player Movement Guidelines

When a player is registered with the MSC, they make a commitment first and foremost to the club and second to a specific team. MSC discourages moving players from one team to another during a season. However, after team rosters are set subsequent additions may occur (see 3.1.4). In all cases, CSA roster limits are to be followed, and the MSC Club Administrator must be notified of any roster changes throughout the playing season.

- 4.5.1.** Player Movement after Tryouts: Player movement after tryouts from one team to another should be restricted to the period between fall and spring seasons and should occur only as noted below:
 - Coaches of both affected teams must communicate with each other clearly about the possibility of player movement and reach agreement prior to talking to any player.
 - Movement must involve prior communication with players and parents, as well as approval of the Board.
- 4.5.2.** Players are to play on teams in their age bracket. Players shall not “play up” if there is a MSC team with an open roster in their age bracket. Exceptions to this restriction on “playing up” are the eighth- grade rule in the WSSL and SWL for girls in the fall and boys in the spring, and players who are approved to do so pursuant to 4.5.3 below. U15 players in eighth grade should play on a U15 or U16 team in the spring if such a team has an open roster.
- 4.5.3.** Parents of players may request the Board to allow their player to “play up” for a particular year but they must submit in writing the reasons or rationale for playing up and there must be an agreement of coaches involved. Such requests must be approved by the MSC Board.
- 4.5.4.** Under CSA Rules for WSSL and SWL, U12 teams may roster no more than three U10 players in a season. This is considered “playing up” and the rules regarding “playing up” will be followed. Since MSC typically starts with U12 teams and has not typically fielded U10 teams because those teams are typically part of Montrose Recreation Department soccer this “playing up” exception is expected to be reserved for more advanced younger players.

- 4.5.4.** Players who “play up” due to the unavailability of a team in their age bracket must move back to their age appropriate team the next full season that an age appropriate team has an open roster and the team they have played on has met its minimum roster. Continuing to “play up” creates problems for the Club and players as they progress through the MSC system.

4.6. Tournament Rosters

MSC players may move from team to team within the Club or to other Clubs as guest players for tournaments. The MSC rules regarding “playing up” will not apply for guest tournament players. Coaches must agree upon player movement for tournament teams. If there are conflicts between coaches on guest player movement the MSC Board will resolve such conflicts through the Player Agents (or Director of Coaching) or Board action.

4.7 Elite or Academy Teams

Players who are selected for a MSC team at the beginning of the year are tied to that team for the season. Movement off of that team to another team mid-year is restricted by rules (3.5) set forth above. MSC players wishing to move to an elite team, an academy team, or club team sponsored by another Club under CSA or any other nationally sanctioned soccer organization at mid-season must be released by MSC and their coach to the other team. MSC players cannot play on two different Club teams in the same season during the year except as tournament guest players.

5. REGISTRATION

5.1. Procedures

The Colorado Soccer Association (CSA) for WSSL require MSC to identify the teams it will be fielding for the next year in late June or early July. For this reason try outs and registration must begin at the end of the spring soccer season and essentially be completed by the end of June each year. Once the MSC Board has approved tryout results in each age group, each player needs to commit to a spot on the team roster by registering online through the Club website at www.montroseavalanche.org. Any player that does not have access to internet shall submit the USYSA registration form and CSA Medical Release form so the Registrar can manually register them.

Team Managers or Coaches must collect copies of state-issued birth certificates for their players and provide a digital photo for use in preparing player cards. Once the birth certificates and photos are collected, the Team Manager, or Coach will submit the materials to the MSC registrar. Players not properly registered with CSA will not be allowed to practice or play. CSA registration is for the entire year, both fall and spring seasons.

5.2. Fees

The MSC Board sets registration fees on an annual basis. Fees are collected for each season of the soccer year because some teams only play in one season.

Fees go to cover costs incurred by MSC for some of the following:

- CSA league fees
- Club Referee fees
- Limited insurance coverage through USYSA
- Operational overhead
- Equipment
- Scholarships
- Restrooms

Fees do not include:

- Uniforms
- Special team parties or events
- Players cost to travel
- Indoor soccer
- Tournaments or Soccer Camps

Full payment of fees or commitment to an approved Payment Plan shall be made before the start of league play for each team. Players who have not paid their fees in full (unless they have been granted a scholarship or are current in

an approved Payment Plan) before the first scheduled match of the fall or spring season will not be allowed to play. Failure to comply with payment terms may be cause to remove your child from participation in any future MSC events.

5.2.1. Uniforms

The MSC Board will determine the uniform set for the Club. The Club will order the uniform sets for all players and the players will be required to purchase those uniforms from the Club through their Team Manager or Coach. The Club will sell those uniforms at cost. Purchasing uniforms as a Club gives us better pricing, supply and service which the Club then can pass on to players. All players are required to play in MSC authorized uniform sets.

5.2.2. Refunds

It is the policy of MSC to refund registration fees ONLY if you move out of town prior to the start of the season, or if the child is unable to participate due to injury or illness. If MSC is unable to place a player on a team, a full refund will be issued. If a player has registered and made partial payment of fees then decides to drop out of the program, there will be no refund of partial payment fees. Players who have participated in three or more scheduled matches would not be considered eligible for an injury refund of fees.

If there are special circumstances that parents who have paid registration fees believe warrant refunding fees paid, those requests must be made, in writing, to the MSC Board. Conflicts with practice schedules, personality issues between players or coaches, loss of interest, or conflicts with other elective after-school programs are generally not considered special circumstances.

MSC will buy back uniforms, if a complete set in good condition, at a used uniform rate. Typically used uniforms are bought back at 50% of purchase price. Exceptions can be made depending upon the circumstance and use of the uniform. Socks will not be purchased back from players.

5.3. Scholarships

Applications for scholarships are available through the MSC secretary and the MSC website: www.montroseavalanche.org. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need. Scholarships are awarded to cover only registration fees. Families that submit a scholarship application for a player with the appropriate documentation, such as proof that the player is eligible for free or reduced lunch or has Medicaid coverage, shall pay a minimum of \$40 for a fall or spring season. If a family requires additional aid they must request the additional scholarship directly from the MSC Board. This minimum amount is set in order that the player's family demonstrates a minimum level of commitment to the Club.

MSC scholarships are not available for team travel or tournament expenses.

MSC Scholarship Committee, which at a minimum includes the Registrar, Treasurer, and President, will review and make the final decision on all scholarship requests. All requests and personal income information will be kept confidential and available only to the Scholarship Committee. The Registrar is authorized by the Scholarship Committee to approve scholarships when the family is paying the minimum \$40 as stated above and has submitted the appropriate application form and documentation to the Registrar.

There will be no MSC scholarships available for uniform purchases, but the Club will sell used uniforms (if available) at reduced prices for those MSC members requesting them. Scholarships are not awarded for MSC uniform or for items such as: team bags, warm ups, gloves, compression shirts or training shirts. Scholarships are not awarded for alternative color jerseys, shorts, and socks. Scholarships do not include extra or replacement uniform items.

6. UNIFORMS

Uniform Policy

The Club maintains a two-year purchase policy for our boys' and girls' competitive teams, but may extend that two-year cycle provided uniform styles are available. All competitive teams are required to purchase a new uniform to

match club or upon the adoption of a new style by the MSC. Uniforms must be purchased and used in league/tournament play for each team's representative CSA season immediately following the uniform launch.

All MSC players must wear the official MSC uniform kit during all league and tournament game play, including all national and international games and tournaments.

6.1 Shin guards

All players must wear shin guards at practice and in games. No exceptions. These are CSA regulations and international soccer requirements. At this time those shin guards do not need to be NOCSAE certified, but possible state and national rule changes may require such certification in the future.

6.2 Cost

Competitive program registration fees do not cover the cost of uniforms. Individual players must purchase their uniform.

PAYMENT IS DUE PRIOR TO TAKING DELIVERY OF THE REQUIRED UNIFORM.

6.3 Uniform Recycling

MSC uniforms, if a complete set and in good conditions, will be bought back from players (see 5.2 Fees, Refunds). These uniforms must be less than 2 years old. Older uniforms or partial uniforms sets are encouraged to be recycled back to the Club. This voluntary recycling process will be handled through the Team manager and organized by the MSC equipment director.

7. GAMES

MSC teams registered in WSSL or SWL will receive game schedules shortly before the beginning of each season. MSC teams not participating in WSSL or SWL will have to develop their own schedule. Team managers are responsible for distributing the season schedule to players. The WSSL schedules can be accessed through links on the Club website at www.montroseavalanche.org.

MSC teams are expected to honor the WSSL or SWL schedule and any other games they commit to play. All coaches are expected to schedule other games only if they are reasonably certain they can play.

MSC players should plan on coming to the field or traveling to an away game if those games are on the schedule. Players should not assume postponements or cancellations due to weather, as they will be notified by the Team manager or coach either on the Thursday prior to the weekend game or at the latest Friday evening (see 6.1 and 6.2 below).

7.1 Game Postponement

Policies regarding game postponement will be adhered to for CSA league games. If coaches wish to reschedule or postpone a game, they must make arrangements with the coach of the opposing team before Wednesday night of a Saturday game. The deadline for weekend game changes in the WSSL and SWL is 3:00 PM (MST) on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled weekend game. Coaches are urged not to reschedule or postpone CSA league games unless it is absolutely necessary. Coaches who fail to abide by the postponement or rescheduling policies for CSA leagues will cause their Club to be financially penalized.

For home games, the MSC coach must contact the MSC Referee Assignor as early as possible regarding game changes. For rescheduled games, the Referee Assignor is to be notified at least 3 days in advance if a game will not be played for reasons other than weather. When weather conditions become a factor in possible postponement of weekend games, the MSC home team coach should make a determination by Friday night whether or not field conditions will warrant postponement of a Saturday or Sunday game. The MSC coach must contact the MSC Referee Assignor and the opposing coach on Friday night if the MSC coach has decided to postpone due to weather conditions. Only adverse weather conditions that make travel hazardous or field conditions such as soggy turf or snow covered fields allow coaches to wait until Friday for game postponement.

Determinations that MSC home fields are unplayable due to weather conditions can be made by the MSC President or from direction by the City of Montrose. Such decisions will be made on the Friday before a Saturday game or

earlier if possible. The President will notify MSC coaches if the fields are determined to be unplayable. Coaches should consult with the MSC President before they make such a decision to postpone games due to weather conditions so that there is consistency with all MSC teams who have scheduled home games on the same day.

7.2 Game Cancellations

MSC coaches cannot cancel CSA league games. Failure to play a scheduled game may result in forfeiture and can involve financial sanctions against the Club by CSA. Coaches may cancel other games scheduled that are not part of their CSA league schedule.

Cancellations must be coordinated with the opposing coach at least 3 days prior to the scheduled game. The home team Coach must call the opposing coach to confirm cancellations and the MSC Referee Assignor 3 days prior to the scheduled game that is being cancelled. Cancellation of a WSSL or SWL game typically constitutes a forfeit and a resulting 0-3 loss.

7.3. Lightning Postponements or Unsafe Conditions

If the fields are cleared due to lightning, all players, coaches, referees and spectators must leave the fields and wait in their cars or other safe locations near the fields until the center referee or other Club official who has made the decision to clear the fields, has determined it is safe to resume play. The delay will be no longer than 45 minutes and all players and coaches are expected to stay until 45 minutes has expired. Generally, fields will be cleared for 30 minutes when thunder follows an observed lightning strike in less than 30 seconds. This time restarts each time a strike meeting this criteria is observed.

The CSA criteria and policy on lightning threats will be adhered to for MSC events. Lightning is a serious threat to soccer players and precautionary measures taken by referees and MSC officials shall be adhered to by all MSC members --- parents and players.

In the event there is a need to cancel or delay games due to lightning or adverse weather conditions that render the playing field unsafe, the outcome of the game will be determined based on the Laws of the Game or CSA regulations.

At any time, the center referee can make the decision to clear their field if they feel that the conditions are unsafe. Determinations whether to end the game or restart should be done in consultation with coaches and MSC Board members if they are available. In all situations, the coaches will abide by the final decision of the center referee or the MSC official in charge.

If the game is not one requiring referees or is a practice session, the decision regarding unsafe conditions must be made by the coaches. If at any time a parent feels that their child is endangered due to weather during a scrimmage (game with no referees) or practice session, we recommend that they take their child to the nearest shelter. MSC would ask parents to respect the authority of the center referee during games regarding unsafe conditions, but parents should always take any action they deem appropriate for the safety of their children.

7.4 Make-up and “tba” Games

Each MSC team is responsible for rescheduling home games that have been postponed. Rescheduling should be coordinated with the opposing coaches and the Referee Assignor and MSC President so that an available field and referee can be reserved.

CSA league games shown on the schedule as “tba” should be scheduled by the coaches involved. If the “tba” game is to be played on MSC fields, the MSC coach must make the arrangements with the MSC Referee Assignor and MSC President to get referees and a field assignment.

7.5 Penalties for Cancelled Games

Any team refusing to take the field at a scheduled league game or with a history of repeated cancellations, or refusing to travel may face Club disciplinary action. MSC teams that cancel CSA league games can subject the Club to monetary sanctions by the league. In the event MSC is sanctioned by CSA for failure to play a scheduled game, the Club will assess the team the monetary fine.

8. FIELDS

MSC Sunset Mesa fields are property of the City of Montrose and are used under the provisions set forth in the Club's 1998 lease with the City. MSC must schedule with the City Clerk's office for use of the fields prior to the beginning of the soccer seasons in the fall and spring.

MSC will paint lines on the fields prior to the start of league play each season and will re-paint during the season as needed. MSC will also provide and maintain the goals and nets for the Sunset Mesa soccer fields. The MSC will provide corner flags, but MSC coaches will be responsible for setting and removing corner flags for their team's home games.

Along with the City of Montrose, maintaining the turf in good condition is the responsibility of all MSC members. Good judgment should be used by coaches when practicing on the fields so that their actions do not unnecessarily damage the turf.

9. TEAM/CLUB FUNDS

9.1. Team Fundraising

Individual teams are encouraged to explore options for team fundraising. The team manager is responsible for overseeing team fundraising activities using parent volunteers as needed. Each team may decide on the types of fundraising activities they want to engage in, but if those activities involve use of the MSC logo in exchange for monetary payment, such agreements must be approved by the MSC Board. MSC retains ownership, copyrights and control of usage of the MSC logo. The MSC President must sign for the Club related to issues regarding the use of the Club logo.

Fundraising for tournaments is the responsibility of each team. MSC will hold and manage the funds raised by MSC teams and make those funds available upon request to pay entrance fees or other tournament or team related expenses. While the Club encourages teams to compete at tournaments, the Club cannot, however, commit financial resources to support travel for any of its teams.

MSC reserves the right to forbid or terminate any fundraising activity deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with the image and goals of the club. MSC may approve the use of the MSC name on appropriate merchandise or other items. Approval requires advance notice to the MSC President of the nature of the merchandise and an information copy of the artwork. All sales promotions must contain a disclaimer to the effect that the MSC provides no express or implied warranty.

9.2. Team Sponsorship

Individual MSC teams may solicit or accept corporate sponsorship or corporate donations for tournament or league play, but the team players may not attach the sponsor's logo or other reference to the sponsor on their MSC uniforms or cover their MSC uniforms with vests displaying the sponsor's logo. Wearing of T-shirts, hats, pins, warm-ups, and/or like apparel displaying sponsor's logos by MSC players after or before games is allowed.

MSC teams receiving sponsorship shall notify and disclose to the MSC Board of those financial arrangements. The MSC Board reserves the right to forbid or terminate sponsorship deals for MSC teams if they are deemed to be inappropriate or inconsistent with the Club's image or goals.

9.3 Club Fundraising and Sponsorship

The MSC Board may engage in the solicitation for and the acceptance of corporate sponsorship or to receive corporate donations. Such actions must be approved by a majority of the Board before any agreements or contracts for sponsorship can be entered into by the President or any MSC Board member.

10. CLUB EVENTS

The MSC By-Laws call for an annual meeting of the Club members. At the annual meeting there will be a state of the Club report given by the MSC President as well as financial and referee reports. Typically that annual meeting should be in the fall of each year. Club members are comprised of Board members, certified referees, players and parents or guardians of players.

MSC Board memberships can be filled upon vacancy by a vote of the sitting Board at a regular Board meeting. Board meetings are open to all members of the Club and the public, but are not considered public meetings requiring public notice. Any Club member may nominate persons to the Board to fill vacancies. There are a minimum of 7 and maximum of 9 Board members pursuant to the Club By-Laws. The MSC President may appoint volunteers or members to various committees or positions as needed to manage and operate the MSC.

Code of Conduct

The Montrose Soccer Club is a not-for-profit organization operated by member volunteers who work to promote soccer as a competitive youth sport on a local, regional and statewide basis. With competitive play, there is a need to promote and maintain basic levels of sportsmanship and camaraderie between players, parents, and coaches. Being part of the Montrose Soccer Club, either as an official, parent member, player, coach or referee (i.e. members), should be considered a privilege. It is understood that with such privilege comes responsibility. It is the responsibility of all Montrose Soccer Club members to conduct themselves in a manner that is courteous, friendly, and sporting while participating in or observing Club functions. Adherence to this code of conduct will promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, and friendship among Montrose Soccer Club members.

In an effort to better define and educate members on what are the responsibilities of its members while participating in Club soccer functions the following Rules are to be adhered to by all participants.

Rules for Players, Parents and Coaches

First, and foremost, Montrose Soccer Club is a drug, tobacco, and alcohol free organization. Any use of illegal drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by a member of the soccer Club during a soccer function or in an illegal manner is strictly forbidden and is a violation of the Code of Conduct. Sunset Mesa is a City Park and the City's rules for its recreational facilities must be obeyed. Smoking is not allowed by anyone at the soccer fields on Sunset Mesa. Smoking by adults (i.e. 18 years of age or older) at other soccer fields and facilities is discouraged, but is subject to local field rules and regulations.

The Laws of the Game as defined by the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association** (FIFA) shall be followed while playing soccer. Other laws, rules and regulations enacted by the Colorado Youth Soccer, as our state sanctioning body, shall be adhered to (go to www.coyouthsoccer.org for rules and bylaws).

Players

All players shall compete in a sporting manner. Good sportsmanship shall be demonstrated by players at all times when participating in Club functions (e.g. matches, practice, and tournaments).

Language --- use of foul language, profanity, or insulting remarks at practice or on the sidelines is unsportsmanlike behavior. Harassing others by word or action (e.g. bullying), or knowingly making false accusations against other players, coaches, or Club members is unsporting behavior. Dissent (e.g. argumentatively challenging a referee or coach), is unsportsmanlike behavior.

Fighting --- physically striking, pretending to, or attempting to strike a teammate, opponent, official, coach or member with a fist, hand, foot, head or body with the intent to inflict pain or intimidation, not within the laws of the game, is prohibited. Bullying, either physically or verbally, is prohibited. Such actions are considered violations of the Code of Conduct.

Apparel --- appropriate sports apparel is expected to be worn during soccer functions. Clothing not intended as sports apparel shall not be worn at soccer functions. Apparel that expresses foul language, insults, gang affiliation, or derogatory racial comments are not to be worn and are considered unsportsmanlike behavior. Reasonable levels of modesty should be adhered to when choosing and wearing sports apparel at soccer club practices and matches. Shorts must cover undergarments (this is a FIFA law of the game) and female tops should cover and support as intended. Club team uniforms are to be worn at all scheduled and organized soccer matches.

Coaches

Coaches shall manage play within the Laws of the Game. Sportsmanship shall be demonstrated by the coaches (i.e. managers, coaches, assistant coaches and trainers) during all Club soccer functions. Coaches should be a voice of encouragement, support, and guidance. Coaches are expected to be leaders of their teams and as such should set the tone and example for play. Players should feel that they can trust and confide in their coaches. Coaches are expected to look out for the physical and mental well-being of their players while under their supervision at Club soccer functions.

Language --- It is understood that coaches must instruct and discipline players all of which may occur at elevated voice levels depending upon the situation, but it must not be done in a demeaning or degrading manner. Coaches should not use profanity and refrain from insulting or derogatory remarks during games or practices. All coaches will experience times when there will be disagreements with officials, parents, or even players that will lead to frustration and anger, but it is important not to resort to addressing players with profane or insulting language. Such use of profanity or insulting language is considered a violation of the Code of Conduct. Addressing officials using profane and insulting language shall be subject to the Laws of the Game. Addressing other Club members using profanity or insulting/derogatory language is considered unsportsmanlike behavior.

Fighting --- No coach shall strike any player. Striking a player is a violation of the Code of Conduct. Coaches shall not engage in any form of physical intimidation or fighting with other coaches, referees, or Club members during Club soccer functions. Such actions are also violations of the Code of Conduct.

Discipline --- Coaches are expected to maintain discipline and promote adherence to the Code of Conduct as well as strive to play in a sporting manner. Coaches are the on-the-field representatives of the Club for their teams and are to manage players and parents to the best of their ability under the Laws of the Game and under the Code of Conduct. Coaches may

institute specific team rules¹ regarding player conduct, practice attendance, playing time, parent involvement, and sportsmanship that are more extensive than the Code of Conduct, but never shall such team rules be in conflict with this Code of Conduct. Coaches are expected to treat all players fairly. Application of all team rules and procedures must be uniform and unbiased, no player or group of players shall be targeted with special rules.

Members

Club members generally refer to parents of players or those volunteers working with the Club as Board members, coaches, referees, or Club officials. As members, there is an expectation that sportsmanship will be demonstrated when participating in Club soccer functions. Parents are reminded that as members it is also their responsibility to help other family and friends that participate in Club soccer functions to promote and maintain a demeanor of good sportsmanship. Members should provide support and encouragement to players and coaches at soccer games and practices and strive to demonstrate exemplary actions of sportsmanship while participating in Club soccer functions.

Language --- use of profanity should be avoided. The use of profanity, insulting or derogatory remarks regarding Club players, Club members, players on opposing teams, officials is generally considered unsportsmanlike behavior. Cheering for the Club teams is encouraged but criticism of officials, coaching by parents from the sidelines, use of inappropriate language, and similar intrusive behavior will not be tolerated. Over indulgence of any of these discouraged forms of behavior is cause for disciplinary action.

Fighting --- Club members shall not engage in any form of physical or verbal intimidation or fighting with coaches, referees, Club members or opposing team members during Club soccer functions. Such actions are violations of the Code of Conduct.

Violations and Disciplinary Actions

All violations of the Laws of the Game or the Colorado Youth Soccer rules that occur during the course of a scheduled soccer match are determined by the referees and the disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the referees according to the FIFA laws of the Game and the Colorado Youth Soccer rules or Western Slope State League.

The Montrose Soccer Club Board will make the final determination of violations of the Club Code of Conduct and the Board shall be the make the final determinations on disciplinary actions related to the Club Code of Conduct. Disciplinary actions may be in addition to those actions prescribed by a referee or the league for offenses committed during games.

Reports of violations of the Code of Conduct can be submitted by any member of the Club at any time. Such reports should be made to a Player Agent or a Board member

¹ The Montrose Soccer Club Board may, if it deems necessary, amend or resend specific team rules imposed by Coaches if there is sufficient cause to do so.

(www.montroseyouthsoccer.org) and should be submitted in writing or in person at a Board meeting. If they are to be verbal reports to the Board, they must be as an agenda item. Club Referees are expected to report all red card incidents to the Club Board in a timely manner. Those reports can be made to the Referee Assignor or directly to a Player Agent.

Members of the Montrose Soccer Club that violate the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions. All disciplinary actions are to be commensurate to the severity of the infraction.

Drugs and Alcohol

Illegal use of drugs or alcohol by a player would be justification for suspension for the season or remainder thereof. Illegal use of drugs or alcohol by a coach, referee or official of the Club while participating in a Club soccer function would be justification for suspension for the season or remainder thereof. Use of alcohol by a Club member while participating in a Club soccer function could warrant disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, season suspension, a “red card” (i.e. one match suspension), or a “yellow card” (i.e. warning).

Violations of the Code of Conduct

Actions that can be described as violations of the Code of Conduct are generally those type of actions that display a complete disregard of the principles of good sportsmanship. Violations that involve fighting are generally “red card” offenses and the member involved in such an incidence would be required to “sit out” a match or a week of practice and a match. Violations of abusive language may warrant a “yellow card” warning from the Board. Depending on the circumstance, persons involved, and the nature of the language abuse, a “red card” offense may appropriate and the disciplinary action would require the member involved to “sit out” a week and/or miss a match.

A coach striking a player would generally warrant suspension or expulsion from the Club. The severity or circumstances of the infraction would determine the severity of the disciplinary action. Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct by a Club member may warrant possible suspension from Club soccer functions for a season. This would include players or coaches receiving multiple red card violations pursuant to the Laws of the Game during the course of a season. If such violations are so flagrant or often repeated it may warrant banishment from the Club. Banishment is considered to be extreme and uncommon.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior

Actions that can be described as unsportsmanlike behavior should be avoided. When such actions are overt, repeated, or deliberate, they should involve some form of discipline. Often the most appropriate form of discipline is a “yellow card” warning. Such warnings can come from a Club official, referee, or coach. If the unsportsmanlike behavior is reported to the Board, the Board shall issue a formal warning to the member to cease such actions in the future or risk expulsion from the Club.

Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior implies the same disregard for the Code of Conduct and should be involve disciplinary actions that involve suspension. Such suspensions may be a “red card” type suspension of “sitting out” one game or if those unsportsmanlike behavior offenses continue after warnings or short-term suspensions then there would be cause for consideration of a suspension for the season or remainder thereof.