



Marlton Soccer Program – Rules and Regulations

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the organizational structure, responsibilities, rules and regulations, for the Marlton Soccer Program (the “Soccer Program”) of the Marlton Recreation Council (“MRC”).

2. Scope

This document governs soccer activities for both the recreational in-town soccer program (“In-Town Program”) and the travel soccer program (“Travel Program”). If any provision of this document is determined to be in conflict with regulations of the MRC and/or regulations of the State of New Jersey and/or New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association (“NJYSA”), that provision becomes invalid.

3. Soccer Committee

3.1 The Marlton Soccer Committee (the “Soccer Committee”) is the governing body for the Soccer Program and has direct responsibility for all soccer activities; including but not limited to: budget, conduct of participants, fundraising, league rules, personnel, and safety.

3.2 The Marlton Soccer Commissioner (the “Soccer Commissioner”) serves as the chairperson of the Soccer Committee. The Soccer Commissioner will appoint one or more deputy commissioners, the Director of Travel (“Travel Director”), the In-Town Program coordinators and assistant coordinators, and honorary members to serve a one (1) year term. These individuals, together with the Travel Program coordinators and assistant coordinators appointed by the Travel Director, shall be voting members of the Soccer Committee (the “Soccer Committee Members”).

3.2.1 The coordinators shall include, but not be limited to:

3.2.1.1 Boys Travel – all ages

3.2.1.2 Girls Travel – all ages

3.2.1.3 Tot Program

3.2.1.4 Boys 4/5 (U6) Girls 4/5 (U6)

3.2.1.5 Boys 6/7 (U8) Girls 6/7 (U8)

3.2.1.6 Boys 8/9 (U10) Girls 8/9 (U10)

3.2.1.7 Boys 10/11 (U12) Girls 10/11 (U12)

3.2.1.8 Boys 12/13 (U14) Girls 12/13 (U14)

3.2.1.9 Boys 14-17 (U18) Girls 14-17 (U18)¹

3.2.1.10 Referee coordinator(s)

3.2.2 Each coordinator appointment must have the approval of both the Soccer Committee and MRC Executive Board (the “Executive Board”).

3.2.3 Each In-Town coordinator may recommend an assistant coordinator, subject to approval and appointment by the Soccer Commissioner.

3.3 The Soccer Committee should meet once each calendar month, excluding December; the date and time for each meeting will be determined by the Soccer Commissioner.

3.4 Each Soccer Committee Member shall have one (1) vote in deciding matters brought before the Soccer Committee.

3.5 All matters voted upon require a quorum of a minimum of eight (8) voting members of the Soccer Committee. A simple majority of voting Soccer Committee Members shall carry any decision of the Soccer Committee.

4. Coordinators

4.1 Each coordinator is responsible for appointing, and obtaining approval for, all team coaches in their part of the Soccer Program.

4.2 Each coordinator is responsible for ensuring that their coaches hold current certification in the MRC Coaches Course.

4.3 Each coordinator is responsible for ensuring that their coaches complete the appropriate background check form and turn in the completed forms to the MRC Safety Director.

4.4 Each coordinator is responsible for conducting any required draft to assign players to teams. The coordinator must supply the coach for each team with a player registration form for each player assigned to the coach accepting the player.

4.5 Each coordinator is responsible for having each coach prepare, before the start of the season, a team roster which includes, as a minimum; team identification (age group, number and name), and the full name and phone number of all coaches and players. The respective Travel Program coordinator must provide a copy of the Travel Program team rosters within seven days after the travel players have been selected to the age-appropriate In-Town Program coordinators so they can conduct their In-Town Program drafts.

4.6 Each coordinator is responsible for preparing the schedule of games, and for giving that information to each coach, to the referee coordinator, to the Marlton Soccer Scheduler and to the Soccer Commissioner not less than three (3) weeks before the start of the season.

4.7 Each coordinator is responsible for providing written and/or verbal instruction to coaches concerning program objectives; skill improvement, team play, and sportsmanship. They will instruct

¹ Note: A participant who has turned eighteen (18) years of age after the July 31 FIFA cut-off date and is currently enrolled in high school during the fall soccer season, shall be eligible to play on a Marlton Soccer 14 though 17 year old recreational team. If a participant does not turn eighteen (18) years of age by the July 31 FIFA cut-off date and is enrolled in college and continues to reside in Evesham, that person is eligible to participate on a Marlton Soccer 14 through 17 year old recreational team.

coaches as to the list of infractions and penalties, as listed in the Code of Conduct, and have all coaches sign the list of infractions and penalties. This written documentation shall be maintained in a manual that should be consistent with other MRC manuals. These manuals will be referenced in grievance proceedings.

4.8 Each coordinator is responsible for first stage resolution of any disputes having to do with improper conduct by players, coaches, or spectators during a game. Any incident shall be discussed with the referee coordinator and the Soccer Commissioner.

4.9 Any grievance shall follow the rules set forth and established by the Soccer Committee.

5. Coaches – General Requirements

5.1 Each coach, in both the Travel Program and the In-Town Program, is required to hold current certification in the MRC Coaches Course and to provide, annually, a signed Volunteer Disclosure Statement.

5.2 In-Town Program and Travel Program coaches are responsible for obtaining the yellow copy (or substitute) of the registration form for each player on the team; and for ensuring that parents/guardians have completed and signed the medical history section of the form. Each coach must have these forms in their possession at all team meetings, practices, scrimmages, and games. Travel Program coaches are also required to carry the appropriate league medical release.

5.3 Coaches for the In-Town Program are appointed for the current season only and must have the approval of both the Soccer Committee and the Executive Board.

5.4 Incumbent Travel Program coaches may continue from year to year, with the recommendation of the Travel Committee and the approval of both the Soccer Committee and the Executive Board.

6. Referee Coordinator(s)

6.1 The referee coordinator(s) is responsible for recruiting, instruction, training and assigning referees for the In-Town Program.

6.2 The referee coordinator, In-Town Program coordinators and Travel Program coordinators will mutually communicate the specifics regarding game schedules, game coverage needs and provide special instructions and resolutions of problems regarding application and interpretation of the Laws of Soccer.

7. Safety

7.1 Player safety is assigned the highest priority throughout the Soccer Program. Interpretation of the Laws of Soccer may be amended as necessary, with such determinations to be made by the Soccer Committee based on MRC needs.

7.2 All players must wear shin guards during tryouts, ratings, practices, scrimmages, and games. No exceptions are allowed. Only molded cleats are acceptable. No jewelry or piercing of any kind is permitted. Exposed piercing cannot be covered by Band-Aids. No metal objects of any kind are permitted. No player shall be permitted to wear a “hooded sweatshirt” during any game activities as these are deemed to be dangerous. The referee has final determination of what is permitted.

7.3 Any child who wears corrective eyeglasses while participating in the Soccer Program shall be required to wear protective eyewear that meets the frames standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F803 and lens standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1

as per New Jersey State Law. This law has been amended to include any eyewear, not just corrective lenses.

7.4 If any player is reported as being unable to play because of medical treatment (such as laceration, sprain or fracture), a written release from the doctor and written parent authorization must be given to the coach for that player to resume soccer activities. Verbal approval is not allowed. Proper padding is required on any cast. The referee has final determination of what is permitted.

7.5 For In-Town Program play, slide tackling is prohibited below age group U14/17. An infraction will be penalized as a "Dangerous Play."

7.6 For In-Town Program play, heading the ball is discouraged at or below age group U10/11.

7.7 Any player injured in such a manner that bleeding occurs must be removed from the game, and may not return until the wound is treated and bandaged and bleeding has stopped. The team may substitute for the player removed. A player cannot return to the field of play if their uniform continues to have remnants of blood. A uniform must be completely free of blood to allow a player to return to the field of play.

7.8 Any player who is struck in the chest must be checked by the coach. If there is any indication of difficulty breathing, the player must be removed from the game. The team may substitute for the player removed.

7.9 If a player falls to the ground, and remains down due to an apparent injury, the referee shall provide a stoppage of play based upon severity of the injury whereby the player can be checked by the coach. If a player is checked by a coach on the field the player must leave the field of play and the team may substitute a player for the player removed. The opposing team may also substitute any player at this time even if not injured. The timing of the stoppage is in the referee's control and play can be stopped immediately based on apparent severity of the injury.

7.10 If a player is injured and needs to leave the field of play, the coach is required to generate an MRC Incident Report and notify his league coordinator via an email or phone call. In addition the coach shall follow up with the injured player's parent to obtain a status on the player's condition.

7.11 There must be at least two (2) adults, one (1) must be certified, at all games and practices.

7.12 Smoking is prohibited within twenty (20) yards of any township or MRC field or any child that is in the vicinity of a sanctioned Soccer Program event. A sanctioned event can be a game, scrimmage, practice or gathering of any kind. Smoking is banned on all Evesham School property and/or grounds.

7.13 Alcoholic beverages are prohibited from being consumed on any field or in the presence of a minor. MRC and township rules that prohibit drinking shall also apply.

7.14 All adults shall refrain from drinking any alcoholic beverages prior to the start of a sanctioned Soccer Program event or activity.

7.15 All coaches and parents shall provide every means at their disposal to provide a safe playing environment during all sanctioned Soccer Program events. All MRC safety guidelines shall be followed.

7.16 All coaches, administrators, parents and referees are required to examine all playing areas and pick up and remove any loose debris or objects on the playing areas.

7.17 All coaches, administrators and referees are required to examine each soccer goal post to ensure that the proper stakes and/or ground anchors are in place on each goal. No one is authorized to participate in Soccer Program activity where a goal is not properly secured.

7.18 At no time shall a coach be allowed to leave a child unattended or abandoned during an authorized Soccer Program event. All soccer coaches shall be required to stay with their team until the last child has been picked up by their parent, legal guardian or authorized adult. No coach shall be allowed to leave a child unattended or with someone other than their parent, legal guardian or authorized adult.

7.19 A coach may call a parent or legal guardian and obtain authorization to leave a child with another team coach, but with specific instructions to the parent or legal guardian informing them of the specific location of the team; name of coach and phone number of the coach. If another coach agrees to allow the player to wait for a parent, then that coach accepts full responsibility over that child and is responsible for the safety of that child. If a coach refuses to accept the responsibility over a child from another team, then the coach of that child must stay and wait for the parent or legal guardian to arrive. If the a coach accepts the responsibility over a child left in their procession, that coach shall be responsible to keep that child within twenty (20) yards of their field of activity or team. At no time shall a coach leave a child unattended on a street corner or a street sidewalk.

7.20 No cars shall be allowed on the MRC grounds when a baseball game or other event is taking place and when children are seen playing in the area immediately around the MRC building.

8. Spring Soccer

8.1 The Soccer Committee shall authorize only established Travel Program teams and select In-Town Program teams to participate in spring soccer in Marlton or out of town.

8.2 As spring soccer is not the sport of the season, all participants should follow the MRC Sport of Season Rules for participation (attendance) of all in-season sports.

9. Infractions

9.1 Any flagrant violation of the Laws of Soccer, these Rules and Regulations, State of New Jersey, or the MRC list of infractions, by a player, coach, parent or spectator, will be reported to the Soccer Committee and considered for disciplinary action through the grievance procedure.

9.2 During an In-Town Program game, giving a yellow card (caution) or a red card (sent off) to a player or coach must be reported by the referee to the referee coordinator. They will in turn, inform the appropriate coordinator and Soccer Commissioner of the incident.

9.3 The Soccer Committee or a Soccer Committee Member may issue either a “Technical Red Card” and/or a “Technical Yellow Card” for an infraction which may have occurred while no referee was present, or an infraction that is determined, upon review, to have justified a red or yellow card at the time it occurred.

9.4 A Technical Red Card may also be issued by the Soccer Committee or a Soccer Committee Member for any infraction which may have occurred with a referee present.

9.5 In accordance with MRC By-Laws any player parent or coach suspended by the Soccer Committee shall be reported to the MRC President in writing.

10. In-Town Program

10.1 In-Town Program teams are limited to three (3) events per week. An “event” is considered a practice, game or scrimmage. This number may be reduced as warranted by determination of the Soccer Committee.

10.2 Some parameters of the In-Town program may differ by age groups. Each coordinator is responsible for maintaining an accurate outline of the parameters of their age group.

10.3 In-Town Program coaches must notify each player selected not later than seven (7) days following the draft or other method by which players are assigned to the team. All players participating in age categories from U8 through U18 shall be contacted by no-later-than July 31. All players participating in age categories in ages U6 and U7 shall be contacted by no-later-than August 31.

10.4 In-Town Program coaches must provide a written roster to their coordinator not later than the date determined by that coordinator; the date must be prior to the start of the season.

10.5 Coaches in the In-Town Program shall make reasonable efforts to have all U8 through U14 players participate in a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of playing time during each game. This requirement is waived if the roster size of a team increases in size so as to prohibit players from playing the above noted minimum. All U15 through U18 players shall participate in substantially equal playing time.

11. Travel Program

11.1 Scope of Program

11.1.1 The Travel Program is for those with advanced skills in ages from 7 years (U8) to 18 years (U19) to compete with other teams from outside Marlton.

11.1.2 The Travel Program is a highly competitive enhanced skills program primarily governed by the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (“NJYSA”), South Jersey Soccer League (“SJSLS”) for boys and the South Jersey Girls Soccer League (“SJGSL”) for girls.

11.2 Administration

11.2.1 The Travel Committee of the Travel Program (the “Travel Committee”) shall have primary responsibility for all Travel Program activities as further outlined herein.

11.2.2 The Soccer Commissioner shall appoint a Director of Travel (“Travel Director”). The Travel Director shall serve as the chairperson of the Travel Committee and shall be a Deputy Commissioner of the Soccer Committee. The Travel Director will appoint the Girls Travel Program Coordinator, the Boys Travel Program Coordinator, one or more assistant coordinators, a Travel Program Finance Director and such other members to serve a one (1) year term, each of whom will be a voting member of the Travel Committee (each a “Travel Committee Member”).

11.2.3 Each Travel Program coordinator may recommend an assistant coordinator, subject to approval and appointment by the Travel Director.

11.3 Team Selection

11.3.1 Lead Travel Program Team Selection. Players are selected based on several factors – team effort, determination, intensity, skill level. A total of 12-14 players are typically selected for the lead U8, U9 and U10 travel teams. A total of 15-18 players are typically selected for the lead U11 and above travel teams.

11.3.2 Additional Travel Program Team(s). These teams are made up of those players not slated for the lead team but have shown the same outstanding factors; and will follow the same format as above.

11.3.3 Number of teams. In order to maintain program integrity, there will be no more than a total of two (2) teams per age group within the Travel Program. A third team per age group could be added, through the recommendation of the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator, subject to approval of the Soccer Committee.

11.3.4 Player age groups for the Travel Program will be determined by FIFA year (August 1 – July 31). Players in the Travel Program must play age-appropriate.

11.3.5 All potential Travel Program players must attend at least one tryout in order to be eligible to play (if selected) and to participate in the Travel Program.

11.3.6 Tryouts will be held on an annual basis in the spring for the up-coming fall season. Additional tryouts may be held on an as needed basis if a team requires additional players to fill vacant spots on the roster. If an additional tryout is required, all coaches at the particular age group will be involved in the tryout and conduct the player ratings. A third-party independent trainer may be utilized by authorization of the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator in order to assist in the player ratings.

11.3.7 If prior to or during the fall season, a vacancy on a Travel Program team needs to be filled, the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator shall be authorized to petition a written request to the age-appropriate In-Town Program coordinator for a player to fill a Travel Program vacancy. The In-Town Program coordinator will be required to notify parents within the age group of a potential vacancy to solicit interest. If a player is chosen from a In-Town Program team to fill a Travel Program vacancy after the In-Town Program draft the player shall make the In-Town Program team a priority over the Travel Program team for the remainder of the soccer season. Note: this is the only exception to a player participating in two competitive programs at the same time.

11.3.8 Any newly formed team(s) in the U8 or U9 age category shall not have an existing coach at their disposal to perform the ratings, therefore, existing Travel Program coaches shall participate in the rating session that chooses the players for this age group. A third-party independent trainer may be substituted by authorization of the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator in order to assist in the player ratings.

11.3.9 During the tryouts, all coaches of an age group will rate each player in attendance. The ratings will be added then averaged and sorted to obtain an average rating. Independent raters may be used to assist the coaches, or be substituted for the coaches in their rating and selection process. These ratings will be used as a guideline in the selection process and the coaches will use their best judgment on player selection based on the requirements of the team.

11.3.10 When two or more teams exist in the same age group, all coaches will be available to evaluate players. However, each coach may announce to players that individual team tryouts will be conducted (at a later date) for the lead or additional teams. At no time should a player be pressured into attending or not attending said tryout.

11.3.11 The head coach of the lead Travel Program team will have first choice of players during the team selection process, followed by the head coach of the first additional Travel Program team and then the head coach of the second additional Travel Program team in the event that a third team has been formed in a particular age group.

11.3.12 The coaches for the newly formed team(s) in the U8 or U9 category may elect to practice together prior to the time that players are rostered to the lead or additional teams.

11.3.13 Once a player is selected to a Travel Program team, that player must play for that team for a period of one (1) year from the date of selection. That player must then tryout again during the open tryouts for the upcoming year.

11.3.14 Any player on a roster to a particular Travel Program team is bound to that team for a seasonal year unless the player requests a transfer and is released as specified in Section XXI of the NJYS Constitution, SJSL and SJGSL rules.

11.3.15 Since these are selected teams, coaches may keep the same players year after year as the team moves from one age group to the next. However, all players currently on Travel Program teams must attend at least one tryout to be eligible to play (if selected).

11.3.16 Players trying out for the Travel Program must go to the age appropriate coach(s) running the tryout.

11.3.17 If a player that has been selected to a particular Travel Program team refuses to play for that team, the parent of that player must provide a written explanation to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator explaining the reason(s) why that player is refusing to play for the team. The reasons for not playing for a team will be reviewed by the Travel Committee. A final determination shall be rendered within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written notice.

11.3.18 Each head Travel Program coach must notify each player selected not later than the latest to occur of: 1) two (2) weeks after the date of the final tryout ; 2) June 15th of each year; or 3) within one (1) week of the team's last tournament of the spring season.

11.3.19 The maximum number of players rostered to a Travel Program team at any one time shall not exceed fifteen (15) for 8v8 play or eighteen (18) for 11v11 play.

11.4 Out of Town Players

11.4.1 Newly formed Travel Program teams in the U8, U9 and U10 categories participating in the Travel Program shall be comprised of 100% Marlton children.

11.4.2 Travel Program teams in the U11 and older age groups may include a percentage of out of town players, subject to the following percentage criteria, as per MRC by laws:

Age Group	% of Marlton Residents	% of Out of Town Players
U11	78%	22%
U12	72%	28%
U13	61%	39%
U14	50%	50%
U15	No minimum	No maximum

11.4.3 When two (2) or more teams in any age group from U11 and above, the percentage of non-Marlton players may be combined between the two (2) or three (3) teams. The number of out of town players may be distributed in any amount between the two (2) or three (3) teams as long as the total number of players does not exceed the combined total of non-resident players listed above.

11.4.4 When a third Travel Program team is formed within an age group, the percentage of out of town players shall be no more than 20% of a team, as per MRC by laws.

11.4.5 All non-Marlton players must be reviewed and approved by the Soccer Committee by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Soccer Committee Members present at the meeting where such approval is sought.

11.4.6 The Executive Board must approve the addition of each non-Marlton player.

11.4.7 The Soccer Committee has the right to recommend a player from the In-Town Program in the appropriate age and talent level. The head Travel Program coach requesting approval of a non-Marlton player must evaluate this player in a tryout. The head Travel Program coach's decision as to the evaluation of this player's talent with respect to his or her team is final.

11.4.8 A player that was rostered to a Travel Program team in the prior season and is still interested in playing for that Travel Program team will not be replaced by a non-Marlton player.

11.4.9 The respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator shall submit a written request for any exception to the above noted requirements to the Travel Committee. If approved by the Travel Committee, the request will be forwarded to the Soccer Committee and to the Executive Board. No exception to the aforementioned standards is allowed unless approved by the Executive Board.

11.5 Team Names

11.5.1 Each new girls team being formed in the Travel Program shall have the right to develop their own team name.

11.5.2 Any new boys team being formed in the Travel Program shall utilize the name "Marlton Lightning" followed by either "Red," "White," or "Blue," where "Red" shall refer to the lead team; "White" shall refer to the first additional Travel Program team, and "Blue" shall refer to any second additional Travel Program team.

11.6 Team Abandonment

Should an existing lead Travel Program team face abandonment of the team in a particular age category, the remaining members of the lead Travel Program team would then be combined with the existing first additional Travel Program team members in the appropriate age category. The top players from the combined group shall then be chosen and the coaches selected by the respective girls or boys Travel Program coordinator and Travel Director in order to fill the vacancy left by the departing lead Travel Program team. A third-party independent trainer may be utilized by authorization of the respective girls or boys Travel Program coordinator in order to assist in the selection process.

11.7 Coaches

11.7.1 All individuals interested in coaching, whether as a head coach or an assistant coach, a Travel Program team must submit a written application to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator.

11.7.2 The respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator shall interview and investigate all applicants for Travel Program coaching positions to determine whether the applicants have the requisite skills to coach teams playing within the Travel Program and shall forward his/her recommendation of Travel Program coaches to the Travel Committee for its review.

11.7.3 The Travel Committee shall then receive, review and investigate as necessary the recommendation of the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator and make a final recommendation to the Soccer Committee. The Travel Committee shall have the right to conduct an interview of the recommended coaches, if necessary prior to forwarding its final recommendation to the Soccer Committee.

11.7.4 The Soccer Committee shall either accept the Travel Committee's recommendation and forward to the Executive Board for final approval or reject the Travel Committee's recommendation and remand it back to the Travel Committee with direction for further analysis or identification of alternate recommendations.

11.7.5 Final approval by the Executive Board must be granted before any formal coaching duties can begin

11.7.6 The respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator will designate the lead and additional Travel Program coaches based on applicant qualifications.

11.7.7 All Travel Program coaches must have attended the Sports Injury Prevention classes of the Red Cross and hold a minimum of an "F" license, as mandated by SJSL or SJGSL by-laws. In addition each Travel Program coach is required to attend the mandatory MRC Coaches Certification class referenced above.

11.7.8 The Travel Committee encourages Travel Program coaches for the U11 and older age groups obtain a minimum of an 'E' license.

11.7.9 All fees and/or expenses required to obtain any certified coaching license shall be the responsibility of the Travel Program coach to absorb.

11.7.10 After a Travel Program coach has been approved and selected to coach a Travel Program team, those individuals shall continue to coach their respective Travel Program teams for a period of one (1) year, beginning August 1st of each year and ending on July 31st of the following year.

11.7.11 At a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the spring tryouts, or by no-later-than April 15th of each year, each Travel Program coach must submit a letter of interest to continue to coach in the Travel Program for the upcoming year. Each Travel Program coach shall submit their request for continuation to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator(s) and Travel Director. Each coaching application shall be reviewed to determine performance and eligibility for another term.

11.7.12 Each Travel Program coach is required to submit, annually, a Volunteer Disclosure Statement as required by the MRC.

11.7.13 Each head Travel Program coach must provide a written team roster to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator by the later of June 15th or the last spring travel tournament in which the Travel Program team will participate. The contents of the roster shall contain, at a minimum, team identification (age group, number and name), and the full name and phone number of all coaches and players. The head Travel Program coach must also send a copy of the roster to the age-appropriate In-Town Program coordinator.

11.7.14 The MRC is an all volunteer, nonprofit program that does not pay its' volunteer coaches, whether or not they are also assisting in the capacity of trainer for their specific team. Therefore, under no circumstances shall a Travel Program coach be a paid stipend of any kind for coaching and/or training their Travel Program team. This would be a violation of MRC by-laws.

11.8 Team Funding

11.8.1 Each Travel Program team will be self-funding and must deposit obtain enough funds in an authorized MRC Escrow Account to pay all team expenses as they are incurred. This independent account shall be, maintained by MRC and shall handle all expenses relating to SJSL or SJGSL season registrations, referee fees, uniforms, equipment (i.e. player bags, sweats, etc.), tournament fees, trainer fees and any other expenses that the team may incur.

11.8.2 Any Travel Program team that has completed a minimum of five (5) consecutive years participating in the Travel Program and is playing in their last official team event that occurs out of the country or at a minimum of 500 miles away, shall be eligible for a one-time team stipend of not-to-exceed \$750. The amount shall be transferred from the Soccer Program general fund to the appropriate Travel Program team. The stipend shall only be used to help defer player travel costs and shall not be used for any inappropriate means or individual coaches' expenses.

11.8.2.1 Stipends will only be available to Travel Program teams reaching the U17 or U18 age group and that will not have players participating in any organized youth club teams outside of Marlton during the upcoming year.

11.8.2.2 Each request for stipend shall be requested by the appropriate team coach; submitted to the league coordinator, then forwarded to the Marlton Soccer committee for final approval.

11.9 Trainers

11.9.1 A trainer shall be assigned to each Travel Program team by the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator with input from each head Travel Program coach. The head Travel Program coach shall have the right to interview potential trainers/individuals from organizations chosen by the coordinator in order to determine the best value and fit for the team.

11.9.2 Any trainer in the Travel Program must supply the necessary IRS documentation to be kept on file by the MRC to ensure IRS audit compliance.

11.9.3 Any trainer in the Travel Program must provide a valid and up to date certificate of insurance to the respective girls or boys Travel Program coordinator. The coordinator shall then forward a copy of the specific insurance certificate to the Travel Director and the MRC Safety Director.

11.9.4 It will be the responsibility of the respective boys or girl Travel Program coordinator to secure the services of a qualified goal keeper trainer which will conduct goal keeper training during the fall season. Each Travel Program team may, or may not, send at least one (1) goal keeper to the training sessions in order to ensure the goal keeper is getting the proper training necessary to perform at their peak performance. A nominal fee will be collected from each Travel Program team for this training session for each player attending. If a team chooses not to send at least one (1) goal keeper to the training, they must obtain comparable training for its goal keepers at their own expense.

11.9.5 Each Travel Program team shall be encouraged to utilize an independent trainer for practice at a minimum of once per week. The cost of the trainer shall be absorbed by the each Travel Program team.

11.10 Equipment

11.10.1 Uniforms. The uniform for each player on a Travel Program team shall include shorts, two (2) jerseys, one (1) pair of socks and one (1) warm up suit. Goalie jerseys will not be provided.

11.10.2 The Travel Program colors shall be red and white and all uniform components, with the exception of the warm-up suits, shall conform to these colors. The boys Travel Program teams shall wear black warm-up suits and the girls Travel Program teams shall wear blue warm-up suits.

11.10.3 Each player will be responsible for providing shin guards during practice and games and conform to FIFA and / or SJSL and SJGSL rules.

11.10.4 Practice balls will be provided to each newly formed team in the U7 or U8 categories. The cost of any additional balls shall be absorbed by the specific Travel Program team.

11.10.5 Corner flags will be provided by the Travel Program for use during league games. All corner flags and must be returned to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator at the end of each playing season.

11.10.6 All Travel Program teams may participate in national, regional or statewide tournaments. Travel Program coordinators must be advised of location and dates. Applicable paperwork must be filed with the NJ State Office to request play outside of New Jersey.

11.10.7 All Travel Program teams will be given a designated number of patches for the fall season and tournament play. Any additional patches must be purchased by the Travel Program teams at a cost to be determined by the Soccer Commissioner.

11.11 Fouls and Misconducts

11.11.1 The Table of Standard Penalties for Unacceptable Conduct, as found in the SJSL and SJGSL rules and regulations will apply to the Travel Program for all coaches, players and parents.

11.11.2 Any Travel Program coach who knowingly and willfully violates the rules and regulations of the SJSL or SJGSL will be personally responsible for fines (if imposed) associated with said infraction.

11.11.3 Constant infractions by a Travel Program coach may result in his/her dismissal and possible future actions by the Travel Committee to keep him/her from participation in future seasons.

11.12 Finances

11.12.1 Each Travel Program coordinator shall submit a budget to the Travel Program Finance Director at least one (1) month prior to the start of the fall season.

11.12.2 Each Travel Program team will be responsible for all costs in excess of the MRC registration fees that are passed through to the Travel Program team. The Travel Program Finance Director will work with the respective boys and girls Travel Program coordinators to establish a

Travel Program team surcharge necessary to pay any non-team Travel Program expenses (e.g. SJSL or SJGSL registration fees, field or maintenance expenses, team patches, field paint, insurance, etc.).

11.12.3 Each Travel Program team shall establish an escrow account with the MRC to hold monies collected from fundraiser activities, sponsors, tournaments, etc. At no time may a Travel Program team request more money than is available in their account.

11.12.4 All fundraising activities for Travel Program teams must be pre-approved by the MRC Director of Finance. A copy of the fundraising request shall be provided to the respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator and to the Travel Director.

11.13 General

11.13.1 All games are played under the auspices of the NJYSA. All applicable rules and regulations of NJYSA, SJSL and SJGSL shall take precedence over any conflicting provisions in these Rules and Regulations with regard to number of players, fields, equipment and pass requirements, etc.

11.13.2 The SJSL and SJGSL League Administrator will assign all referees.

11.13.3 Protests concerning this Section 11 or the Travel Program must first be brought to the Travel Committee. Following a ruling by the Travel Committee, any further protest may be made to the Soccer Committee pursuant to the Grievance Procedures outlined herein.

11.13.4 A carded Travel Program player may not participate on an In-Town Program team during the fall or spring seasons unless granted a waiver by the Soccer Commissioner and respective boys or girls Travel Program coordinator for the following exceptions:

11.13.4.1 Injured Travel Program player playing on an In-Town Program team to rehab an injury;

11.13.4.2 A Travel Program player is participating in a “non-competitive” In-Town Program league that does not maintain standings or hold a play-off;

11.13.4.3 An In-Town Program player filling a Travel Program vacancy pursuant to Section 11.3.7; or

11.13.4.4 A carded Travel Program tournament-only player may participate on an In-Town Program team in either the fall or spring seasons. A tournament-only team is classified as a team that participates in a nominal number of weekend travel tournaments and does not actively participate in weekly Travel Program league play.

12. Fields

12.1 The Soccer Program Scheduler shall assign specific field locations to the In-Town Program coordinators and the Travel Program coordinators. Travel Program teams are prohibited from practicing at the In-Town Program assigned field from August 1 through November 30 of each year.

12.2 A permit will be obtained by the Soccer Program Scheduler and made available to each Travel Program coach upon request. The Soccer Program Scheduler shall maintain possession of the permits at all times.

12.3 The In-Town Program and Travel Program coordinators will inform each head coach of their specific field locations for practice and games. Coaches who are found practicing in areas other than their designated area will receive an initial warning for possible disciplinary actions (suspension) if they do not adhere to permitted location(s) beyond initial warning.

13. Exceptions to Rules and Regulations.

13.1 Any request for an exception to any of the provisions of this Rules and Regulations shall be directed to the Soccer Committee to the attention of the Soccer Commissioner with a copy to the applicable In-Town Program or Travel Program coordinator.

13.2 Except as otherwise provided herein, the decision of the Soccer Committee shall be final. No exception to the aforementioned Rules and Regulations is allowed unless approved by the Soccer Committee.

14. Grievances.

14.1 Protests shall be brought before a grievance committee (the “Soccer Grievance Committee”) authorized by the Soccer Committee. The Soccer Grievance Committee will be made up of a chairperson and at least two (2) other members. The Soccer Grievance Committee will rule on the appropriateness of the protest and will respond directly to the complainant or through the appropriate coordinator back to the coach/coaches involved. The rulings of the Soccer Grievance Committee are considered the final rulings of the Soccer Committee.

14.2 A person may appeal a ruling by the Soccer Grievance Committee to the MRC grievance committee (the “MRC Grievance Committee”). The MRC Grievance Committee decision shall be rendered as final.

14.3 Protests which are directly in violation of the NJYSA, SJSL or SJGSL Rules and Regulations will not be appealable to the Soccer Committee.

14.4 Should there be a grievous infringement of the by-laws, rules and regulations of the MRC and/or these Rules and Regulations, the Soccer Committee may refer the matter to the Executive Board for its review.

15. Amendments

15.1 Any proposed amendments, additions or changes to the provisions of these Rules and Regulations must first be submitted to the Soccer Committee for approval.

15.2 If approved, the amendment must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for final approval. The change becomes effective immediately following approval by the Executive Board.