



# LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

## 2007 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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### SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

LMSC will run their Spring Intramural Program for boys and girls **born between 1997 and 2002**. The program will **start on April 15th** and run every **Sunday** through June 17th, except for Memorial Day Weekend.

Players do NOT need to have prior soccer experience to play in the Spring Intramural Program. There are ten different age groups to choose from in the Spring Program, based on age and gender.

Unlike the Fall Intramural Program, the Spring Intramural Program does not have separate days scheduled for practices. Players will only practice and have games on Sunday afternoons.

All activities are scheduled inside of Lower Merion Township. More information on the Spring Intramural Program can be found on page three of this newsletter.

### 2007 - 2008 TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Tryouts for our 2007 - 2008 Travel Team Program will be held in late April and May. Teams will be formed in age groups from Under 9 (birth dates August 1998 through July 31, 1999) up through Under 15 (birth dates August 1, 1992 through July 31, 1993).

LMSC will field as many as four travel teams in each age group, depending on the number of players trying out and the number of qualified coaches available.

More information on our Travel Team Tryouts is available on page 2.

Tryouts for the LMSC Under 8 Developmental Travel Team Academy will be held in late May and early June. Information on this program can be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

### 2007 LMSC SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

LMSC will again run a variety of soccer camps during the summer and fall. Some camps will be geared for intramural players, other camps will be available only to travel team players. LMSC will once again run their PeeWee soccer camp for 3 and 4 year olds.

Information on our Summer Soccer Camps can be found on page six.

# LMSC 2007 - 2008 TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT INFORMATION

Each spring, LMSC holds tryouts in the spring for their fall season travel teams. The 2007 - 2008 fall season will feature boys teams and girls teams in age groups from Under 9 up through Under 15. The Under 9 age group will be open to players born between August 1, 1998 and July 31, 1999. Underage players will not be allowed to tryout. Unlike the intramural program, overage players (even players one day too old) are ineligible to play by rule of the United States Youth Soccer Association.

The number of teams formed in each age group will be dependent on the number of players trying out, as well as the number of qualified coaches that we can identify for that particular age group. There will be a maximum of four teams in each age group.

To be considered for the Travel Team Program, players will be expected to be at all tryout dates for their age group. Each tryout session will last approximately two hours. Players **MUST** tryout for the age group corresponding to their birth date, as listed in the tryout schedule. **Our tryout schedule will be posted on our web page, [www.lmsc.net](http://www.lmsc.net)** after March 1st. Players may **NOT** play "UP" in an older age group.

## SHOULD MY CHILD PLAY TRAVEL TEAM SOCCER OR INTRAMURAL SOCCER?

Each year, we have people ask about the difference between playing in the travel team program and the intramural program. They are often confused about which program is more appropriate for their child. Parents of many children ages eight and older are faced with the decision of having their child play in the intramural program (which runs through age 13 in the fall season and age 10 in the spring season) or having their child try out for the Travel Team Program. One of the main factors to consider in making this decision is that the Travel Team Program is geared for players who want to work harder to eventually play at higher levels of play in the future. Players who play for local varsity high school teams almost all played travel team soccer when they were younger. Other factors to consider are that the Travel Team Program offers a more competitive environment and has a more experienced coaching staff. As a result, player development takes place at a much faster rate in the Travel Team Program. It has been found over the years that friendships and team bonding is much stronger, and more long lasting, at the travel team level. Many travel team players become life long friends over the years.

The intramural program is geared more for recreational players who simply want to have fun playing soccer and are not looking to play at higher levels in future years. The primary emphasis of all intramural programs is to ensure that all players have a fun-filled experience in a soccer environment. Standings are not kept and championships are not held, except at the oldest divisions in the Fall Intramural Program (the Cosmos Division for 11-13 year old girls and the Majors Division for 11-13 year old boys).

Families trying to decide which program is more appropriate for their child should remember that almost all of the top athletes ages 8 and up are playing in the Travel Team Program. We have as many as four travel teams in the Under 9 age group so about 50 of the top athletes in each age group are no longer playing in the intramural program. The level of play is not nearly as high in the older intramural age groups.

LMSC does encourage travel team players to play other sports. The Travel Team Program does not want players to limit themselves to playing only one sport during the year. The Travel Team Program does insist that soccer be each child's primary activity during the fall season. Intramural teams practice once a week in the fall and play a game each weekend. Travel teams practice once or twice a week during the fall and play a game each weekend (occasionally two games). Most travel teams also play a limited amount of indoor soccer in the winter. Almost all of our 'A' travel teams will compete in the EPYSA state cups in the spring.

As stated, many of the coaches in the Travel Team Program coach at higher levels and have much more experience coaching soccer. Our Travel Team Program currently has coaches who are coaching at the high school varsity level at numerous schools, including The Episcopal Academy, Harriton, The Haverford School, Conestoga, Chestnut Hill Academy, Lower Merion and Akiba. The Travel Team Program has had a LOT of success. Two former LMSC players are playing in the MLS, our country's top professional league. One of those players played in the 2006 World Cup. Since 1989, LMSC travel teams have won a total of 19 State Championships.

For many other players, staying in the intramural program is best. LMSC recommends that the stronger athletes who have a desire to play at higher levels of play in the future tryout for the Travel Team Program. Hopefully, the parents of all players ages 8 and older will be able to decide which is the more appropriate program for them.

# 2007 LMSC SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

The Lower Merion Soccer Club is now accepting registrations for their Spring Intramural Program, which will be open to boys and girls born between 1997 and 2002. Players born before 1997 are not eligible to play. Previous soccer experience is not needed to play in the Spring Intramural Program. The program will start on Sunday, April 15th and run every Sunday through June 17th, except for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day Weekend.

**Cost for the season:** For registrations postmarked on or before March 20th, the cost is \$85. The fee for registrations postmarked after March 20th is \$120 (except for the Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns Divisions which will remain at \$85). Please note that all divisions have limited openings. Once these divisions are filled, we will not be able to take any more players, even if they sign up before March 20.

The different programs that will be offered this spring are listed below. Players are not required to follow the age division guidelines. Parents may select whichever program they feel their child is best suited for. Players may request to switch to a different division during the season if they feel they are in the wrong division. We will make every attempt to accommodate such requests, but cannot guarantee it. The LMSC Officers reserve the right to move a player to a different division if necessary.

Division	Gender	Birth Year	Ball Size	Times
Atoms	Boys	2002 births	3	12:45 - 2:00
Bantams	Boys	2001 births	3	3:15 - 4:30
Juniors	Boys	2000 births	3	Afternoon
Intermediates	Boys	1999 births	4	Afternoon
Seniors	Boys	1997 and 1998	4	Afternoon
Neutrons	Girls	2002 births	3	2:00 - 3:15
Microns	Girls	2001 births	3	4:30 - 5:45
Quasars	Girls	2000	3	Afternoon
Protons	Girls	1999	4	Afternoon
Electrons	Girls	1997 and 1998	4	Afternoon

## FORMATS OF THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

**ATOMS, BANTAMS, NEUTRONS and MICRONS** - Each week, players in these age groups will be led through a 25-30 minute skills clinic, led by a member of the LMSC coaching staff. During that time, each child will have his or her own size 3 soccer ball to work with. The primary emphasis of the skills clinic will be for the players to develop soccer skills, as well as develop their coordination and agility as related to the game of soccer.

After each skills clinic, the players will be divided into teams of 4-6 players. Each team will play a 30-40 minute game, playing four players against four. Players in these age groups will NOT be placed on set teams for the year. This is done so that players will be able to enjoy themselves in a non-pressure soccer environment and so that their parents will not have an incentive to worry about having a "winning season," "undefeated season," etc. All players are strongly encouraged to bring a size 3 soccer ball, with their name clearly written on it in magic marker, to each session. All players will receive an LMSC game shirt at their first practice. These divisions will all play at Penn Wynne Playground.

**JUNIORS, INTERMEDIATES, QUASARS AND PROTONS** - Each player in these divisions will be assigned to a team of 11-14 players for the season. Each team will have it's own coach. Each week, the players will meet for 90 minutes. The first 30 minutes will be devoted to working on soccer skills. Each player will be expected to bring a soccer ball (size 3 for Juniors and Quasars, size 4 for Intermediates and Protons) each week. During this 30 minute period, the coach will lead the players through various skill development activities.

This will be followed by a 50 minute soccer game where each team will play against one of the other teams in their division. There will be two simultaneous games of 5 vs. 5, similar to the format used in the Fall Program.

Team records and standings will NOT be kept, there will be no championships and no all star games. The emphasis of the program will be on enjoying the game of soccer itself.

**ELECTRONS AND SENIORS** - Each player in these divisions will be assigned to a team of 11-14 players for the season. Each team will have it's own coach. Each week, the players will meet for 90 minutes. The first 30 minutes will be devoted to working on soccer skills. Each player will be expected to bring a size 4 soccer ball. During this 30 minute period, the coach will lead the players through various skill development activities.

This will be followed by a 50 minute soccer game where each team will play against one of the other teams in their division. Games will be played 8 vs. 8. Team records and standings will NOT be kept, there will be no championships and no all star games. The emphasis of the program will be on enjoying the game of soccer itself.

## OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

**FIELD LOCATIONS** - The Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns will all play at Penn Wynne Playground. Field assignments for all other divisions are not yet set. The exact field location for each division will be posted on our web site well before the start of the season.

**TIME COMMITMENT** - Players in the 7 - 10 year old divisions are placed on teams. As a courtesy to teammates, coaches and the LMSC program, players in these divisions will need to make a **strong commitment** to being at all games during the season. There are no games over Easter Weekend or over Memorial Day Weekend.

**EQUIPMENT** - By rule of the United States Soccer Federation, ALL players MUST wear shin guards to games and practices. For safety reasons, soccer shoes are strongly recommended instead of sneakers. Players should wear dark soccer shorts (navy or black) and white soccer socks. These items are available at most sporting goods stores including Sneaky Pete's Discount Sneakers in Ardmore, which carries our full line of LMSC items.

**FINANCIAL AID** - Our club is not-for-profit. Our objective is to provide all soccer loving youngsters with a chance to play. Players who are in need of financial assistance in order to play should state this on their registration form. One of the primary goals of LMSC is to not have any child be unable to play soccer due to financial reasons.

**COACHING VOLUNTEERS** - Our program is dependent on having parents of players volunteer as coaches. PLEASE give consideration to volunteering as a coach. We provide head coaches with ample coaching material (both written and video) in order to make the program a success. You do not need to have played the game, you only need to have an interest in working with a small group of children and an ability to stay one or two steps ahead of them in learning the game.

**REFUND POLICY** - Requests for refunds will only be honored through April 1st. There will be a \$20 service charge for refund requests made before then. We will NOT issue refunds for any reason after April 1st.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE LMSC SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

**Atoms, Neutrons, Bantams and Microns Divisions:** The cost to register is \$85. Registrations should be received no later than March 20th although we will accept late registrations for these divisions if there are still openings. We will accept on-site registrations in these divisions ONLY IF there are still openings in the desired division.

**Juniors, Intermediates, Quasars, Protons, Seniors and Electrons Divisions:** The cost to register is \$85 if the registration is postmarked on or before March 20th. After March 20th, the registration fee is \$120 and we cannot guarantee a spot in the program. Once a division is filled, we will NOT be able to accept additional registrants, no matter when the registration is received. Be sure to register early, before the division that you requested becomes filled. Our web page will be updated regularly to reflect which divisions still have openings. Since the players in the older divisions will need to be assigned to teams, we will need to receive all registrations by April 1st.

To register, please fill out a Spring Intramural Registration Form (found on page 7) and mail it, along with your check (payable to LMSC) to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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Team assignments, field locations and game times for the older divisions will be posted on our LMSC Web Site on April 1st. All players will need to visit our web site ([www.lmsc.net](http://www.lmsc.net)) on or after April 1st for this information. You will **NOT** receive a confirmation notice in the mail.

Players in these divisions may request to be on a team with friends playing in the same division. We will make every effort to honor these requests but we cannot guarantee honoring such requests. Since we make team assignments starting March 20th, we will not be able to honor any car pool / teammate requests for registrations received after that date even if there are still openings in the specified division.

**Team assignments, field locations and game times for the older divisions will be posted on our LMSC web site, [www.lmsc.net](http://www.lmsc.net) on April 4th. All players will need to visit our web site on or after April 4th for this information. You will **NOT** receive a confirmation notice in the mail.**

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## SPRING INTRAMURAL REFEREES AND FIELD CREW

Experienced soccer players ages 11 and up are invited to apply for positions in the Spring Intramural Program as referees and / or field crew workers. You do not need to have prior reffing experience. The program will run on Sunday afternoons starting on April 15th and continue every Sunday through June 17th except for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day Weekend.

**Level 1 Referees** must be at least 11 years of age with at least two years of playing experience. Level 1 referees will work with our 5 and 6 year old divisions. Referees at these fields will be paid \$10 per session (each session lasts 75 minutes).

In addition to reffing games, Level 1 referees will be expected to help coach the players and teach them the rules of the game as they go along. Referees will be expected to ACTIVELY participate in the 20 minute skills clinic at the beginning of each session. They will be expected to work with the program commissioners in teaching the players the fundamental skills of dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting, goalkeeping, etc. Referees will be expected to help with field setup and to help put equipment away at the end of the day.

**Level 2 Referees** will be responsible for officiating the 7-8 year old divisions. To qualify as a Level 2 referee, you must be at least 13 years of age OR be 11 years of age and have at least one season of reffing experience. Level 2 referees will be paid \$12 per game. Each game lasts one hour.

**Level 3 Referees** will be responsible for officiating the 9-10 year old divisions. To qualify as a Level 3 referee, you must be at least 15 years of age OR be 13 years of age and have at least two seasons of reffing experience. Level 3 referees will be paid \$14 per game. Each game lasts one hour.

Each Wednesday, the LMSC Referee Assignor will call people on the referee list until enough referees have been identified to cover all games for the upcoming Sunday. If called, you will need to let the Referee Assignor know if you are available to work that weekend. There is no penalty for not being available to referee. If you do commit to reffing and then fail to show up, you will be removed from the referee list for the remainder of the season and all of the next Fall Intramural Season.

All referees will be expected to wear soccer attire including a soccer shirt, soccer flats and soccer shorts. Basketball sneakers, heavy metal tee shirts, etc. will not be tolerated. Referees will be expected to provide their own whistle each time that they referee.

**Field Crew** workers will be responsible for setting up the goals, taking down the goals, loading and unloading equipment, etc. Field crew workers will also be responsible for lining the fields. Field Crew workers must be at least 13 years of age. They will be paid \$12 per hour.

If you are interested in reffing or working on a field crew, fill out the application form on page 9 and return the form to our Gladwyne address by March 20th. If you require additional information, please e-mail us or call us.

# 2007 SUMMER AND FALL SOCCER CAMPS

## TRAVEL TEAM CAMPS, INTRAMURAL CAMPS AND PEEWEE CAMPS

LMSC is now accepting registrations for their 17th Annual Summer Soccer Camps. The LMSC Summer and Fall Soccer Camps will offer three different programs in June, including a travel team camp, an intramural camp and a PeeWee camp for 3 and 4 year olds. The travel team camps will be geared towards advanced players and will be open only to LMSC travel team players. Advanced technical skills and tactical work will be stressed at these camps. Small-sided games will be played at the end of each session.

The highly popular PeeWees program will return. This 90 minute per day program is open to 3 and 4 year olds.

There will be five separate camps offered this summer and fall:

June 18 - June 22	4:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Summer Travel Team Camp
June 25 - June 29	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Summer Intramural Camp (ages 5 - 11)
June 25 - June 29	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Summer PeeWees Camp (ages 3 - 4)
August 20 - August 23	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Fall Boys Pre-Season Travel Team Camp
August 27 - August 30	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Fall Girls Pre-Season Travel Team Camp

Due to the construction of the two public high schools in the township and the closing of some athletic fields, the location of these camps is not yet known. Please check our web site later for the exact location of each camp.

**The Summer Travel Team Camp** will run from 4:30 PM until 8:00 PM each day. This camp is only open to players currently playing in the LMSC Travel Team Program. Intramural players and non-LMSC travel team players will not be accepted into these camps. The camps will focus on more advanced technical and tactical training. Skill development and tactical field awareness will be the top priority at these advanced camps. Each camper will receive an LMSC Summer Soccer Camp tee-shirt as well as a camp soccer ball.

**The Intramural Camp** will run from 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM each day. The first part of each session will focus on individual skill development and small group tactics in a fun, enjoyable environment. Players will spend a significant amount of time with their own soccer ball, developing their technical skills. The second part of each session will focus on small-sided games where the children will learn to apply their skills in game situations. Each camper will receive an LMSC Summer Soccer Camp tee-shirt as well as a camp soccer ball.

**PeeWees Soccer Camp** - LMSC will again run a special 90 minute per day PeeWees camp for 3 and 4 year olds. The emphasis of this camp will be on teaching the basic skills of the game to youngsters as well as learning to enjoy the game of soccer. Our staff will offer a variety of fun soccer activities to the players, all with the primary emphasis of having a "fun-filled experience in a soccer environment."

**Fall Pre-Season Travel Team Camps:** LMSC will again run their Pre-Season Travel Team camps before Labor Day. These camps will ONLY be open to current LMSC travel team players. Non-LMSC players, and non-travel team players will not be accepted to these camps. The Fall camps will again be run by the U.K. Elite Soccer Camps organization.

**How To Register** - The cost of each of the above camps is \$140, except for the PeeWees camp which is \$80. Checks should be made out to the Lower Merion Soccer Club. The registration form (found on page 11 of this newsletter) and check should be mailed to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. Registrations for the summer camps should be received by June 1st at the latest. Registrations for the fall camps should be received no later than August 1st.

**For More Information** about the any of these camps, please send an e-mail to: [lmisc@netreach.net](mailto:lmisc@netreach.net) or call the LMSC Hotline: 610-527-3940.





# 2007 SPRING INTRAMURAL REFEREE AND FIELD CREW APPLICATION FORM

**This form must be returned by mail no later than March 20th**

I am interested in the following position(s) for the LMSC Spring Intramural Program:

Level 3 Referee - Must be at least 15 years of age OR be at least 13 years of age with at least two seasons of reffing experience.

Level 2 Referee - Must be at least 13 years of age OR be at least 11 years of age with at least one season of reffing experience.

Level 1 Referee - Must be at least 11 years of age with at least two years of playing experience.

Field Crew - Must be at least 13 years of age.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town+Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

List Previous Soccer Playing Experience:

List Previous Soccer Referee Experience (if any):

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Please return this form no later than March 20th to: LMSC, Box 360, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010







# THE LMSC UNDER 8 DEVELOPMENTAL ACADEMY

Each year, LMSC identifies a pool of Under 8 boys players and a pool of Under 8 girls players to train together during the fall and winter. The purpose of this program is to develop our top younger players for the Travel Team Program, starting the following fall season.

The players train together under the direction of the LMSC Under 8 Coaching Staff, which is comprised of experienced youth soccer coaches and high level soccer players, most of whom played at the college level. The coaching staff does NOT include parents of U-8 players. All coaches in the Under 8 Developmental Academy are non-parent coaches.

**TRYOUTS AND PLAYER SELECTION** - LMSC will have two or three tryouts for each Under 8 team. Tryouts are held in late May or early June. Players wishing to be a part of the Under 8 program must be at tryouts. Players should make every effort to be at all tryouts listed. LMSC will post tryout dates for all age groups in on their web page (in the Travel Team Tryout section) in March. LMSC will pick a team of up to 30 boys and a team of up to 30 girls.

To be eligible for the 2007 - 2008 season, players **MUST** be born between August 1, 1999 and July 31, 2000, no exceptions!!!. Per United States Soccer Federation policy, all players making a team will be required to submit a copy of their birth certificate to show they are of the proper age.

While tryouts are held in the spring, the official Under 8 season will not start until the fall, after Labor Day. Players making the Under 8 Academy are eligible to sign up for the LMSC Summer Travel Team Camps if they desire.

**FALL SEASON** - Each pool of players trains twice a week during the fall (one weeknight practice and one Saturday practice) and plays one game a week (Sunday afternoons). The players also participate in a tournament in mid-November against other Under 8 teams in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

**WINTER SEASON** - Both Under 8 groups participate in indoor soccer leagues at a local indoor facility and train on occasion in local area school gymnasiums, pending gym availability. The indoor leagues and training are under the supervision of the LMSC U-8 Coaching staff. It is anticipated that the boys teams will have their league games on Mondays (late afternoon and early evening) while the girls leagues will run on Tuesdays (late afternoon and early evening).

**SPRING SEASON** - The U-8s will play a limited amount of spring soccer outdoors, in advance of the Under 9 travel team tryouts which will be held in late April and early May. At that time, players move on to the regular Travel Team Program and will compete regularly against teams from other local area soccer clubs. Teams at the Under 9 and Under 10 travel team level consist of 11 - 13 players. LMSC will field up to four travel teams in each age group. All Under 8 program activities are informal and does not take precedent over any other sporting activities that the players have. Players are encouraged to play other sports in the spring season.

Please note that this program is geared to our most talented and committed soccer players. All players in this program must have a high commitment to the game of soccer and to developing their skills. The program runs in the fall and the winter. This is a much more extensive program than the Fall Intramural Program. Players who would not be able to commit to training and playing in the fall and winter should instead play in the Fall Intramural Program. Again, this program is geared for players who wish to eventually move on to the LMSC Travel Team Program.

**THE LMSC UNDER 8 COACHING STAFF** - The Under 8 Travel Team Academy will be run by a very experienced staff of LMSC Coaches, with very extensive soccer backgrounds. The 2007 - 2008 staff will include:

- Danielle Fagan, Head Coach For Conestoga High School Girls Varsity, 10 year head coach at LMSC
- Grant Myers, Assistant Boys Varsity Coach at Lower Merion HS, former semi-pro player, 10 year youth coach
- Biff Sturla, President of LMSC, 25 years coaching in LMSC, head coach for Harriton High School Boys Varsity

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LMSC TRAVEL TEAM PROGRAM?**

People who want more information about the Under 8 Developmental Academy should e-mail LMSC President Biff Sturla at [lmisc@netreach.net](mailto:lmisc@netreach.net).

## GRANT MYERS NAMED NEWEST LMSC OFFICER

LMSC would like to welcome Grant Myers as its newest Officer. Grant has been coaching at LMSC for four years now and also is the assistant coach for the Lower Merion High School Boys Varsity. Before that, Grant was the head coach for the Harriton High School Junior Varsity. Grant played semi-professional soccer in his younger days and still plays in several adult men's leagues.

Grant is currently a member of our Under 8 Developmental Academy coaching staff and will be the head coach for next year's Under 9A boys travel team. Grant is currently the head coach for the Under 10 Rage travel team and is trainer for the Under 12 Blue Devils team.

Grant will be in charge of our Summer Soccer Program for travel team players this year and will also take over as our liaison to the Delco Soccer League and girls PAGS League. We are very excited to have Grant join the list of Officers at LMSC.

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## LMSC OFFICERS FOR 2007 - 2008

There are currently nine LMSC Officers. Their job is to make sure that all programs run in a smooth, effective manner throughout the year. The LMSC Officers are also responsible for making sure that the club is run as a not-for-profit organization conforming to the regulations of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The following people will serve as officers in LMSC for the upcoming season:

Biff Sturla	President, Club Director	Dan Sutton
Marty Rubenstein	Club Director, Vice President	Casey Ichniowski
Nancy Worby	Vice President, Registrar	Justin Ceccarelli
Jay Dubow	Club Director, Secretary	Grant Myers
Nikki Posillico	Treasurer	

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## LMSC CANNIBALS AND LMSC VELEZ BOTH WIN FUTSAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the winter months, many of our travel teams play in various indoor soccer programs. Leagues and tournaments are organized in various indoor programs using a wide range of playing formats. One type of indoor program that has emerged in recent years is futsal. This type of indoor soccer is very popular in Brazil and many other countries throughout the world. Games are played on a gym floor or other type of hard floor using a specially designed ball that feels similar to a regular soccer ball but does not bounce much, allowing players to play the ball on the ground and use their individual foot skills.

Two of our LMSC boys travel teams won the Futsal state championships this year and will advance to Regional competition later in the year. Our Under 12A boys team, the LMSC Cannibals, and our Under 15A boys team, the LMSC Velez were both crowned futsal state champions.



## **STURLA NAMED EPYSA COACH OF THE YEAR AND NSCAA REGIONAL COACHING OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to LMSC President Biff Sturla who was honored by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA) as their 2006 Coach of the Year and by the National Soccer Coaches Association of American (NSCAA) as their 2006 Regional Coach of the Year. Biff received his NSCAA award in January at the annual NSCAA convention, held this year in Indianapolis. He will be receiving the EPYSA award at their Annual General Meeting later this year.

Biff has been coaching in LMSC for 25 years now. Before that, he played in the club's travel team program for many years when the club was known as Gladwyne Soccer Club.

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## **EQUIPMENT RECYCLING FOR INNER CITY SOCCER**

Over the past ten years, LMSC has made major contributions of soccer balls, soccer clothing and used equipment to various soccer programs for underprivileged children. We collect used soccer balls, used soccer shoes (as long as they are not ripped), shin guards, etc. and donate them to an inner city program.

PLEASE save any and all outgrown or discarded soccer items for these programs.

**UPCOMING COLLECTION DATE:** We will accept donations to this effort at Travel Team Registration Night, which will be held in late May. Please bring any items that you wish to donate. Intramural players are welcome to help out and join the travel team players in this very worthwhile event. Parents wishing to donate are asked to contact LMSC to find the exact location and date in June of Travel Team Registration Night.

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## **KENDALL, McLAUGHLIN, KURTZMAN, DUBOW, PONTECORVO SELECTED FOR ODP REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TEAMS**

Congratulations to several former LMSC travel team players who have been selected to train with the USA Olympic Development Program (ODP) Regional and National Youth Soccer teams. These players all played in the LMSC intramural program before moving over to the LMSC Travel Team Program at Under 9.

Max Kurtzman and Jimmy McLaughlin both play for the Under 14 FC Delco Roadkill (formerly the LMSC Roadkill), coached by John Hingley and Andy Kelly. They were selected for the Under 14 National Team pool this past year. Earlier this year, Max traveled with the National team to Mexico.

Harrison Kendall plays for the Under 14 FC Delco Pink Panthers coached by Charlie Dodds. He is currently in the USA Region One player pool. This past summer he was also picked to train with the Under 14 US National Team. Kendall's teammate Matt Pontecorvo is also in the Under 14 US Region One player pool.

David Dubow plays for the Under 16 FC Delco Hammerheads (formerly LMSC Hammerheads) and was picked for the Under 16 Region One player pool. He will be playing with the Region One team in a tournament in Argentina in late February.

Last year, former LMSC player Ben Olsen played with the USA Men's National Team in the World Cup, held in Germany. In 2000, Ben started for the USA Olympic team which competed in the Sydney Olympics. Several years ago, former LMSC player Suzie Grech was selected for Spain's Under 17 Women's Team and competed internationally with them. She also trained with Spain's full women's national team. This year, former LMSC player Jon Conway will begin his eighth year playing in Major League Soccer, our country's top professional league. Jon is a goalkeeper for New York Red Bull.

Hopefully Kurtzman, McLaughlin, Kendall, Pontecorvo, Dubow and other LMSC players past and present will have the same opportunities as Olsen, Grech and Conway. LMSC wishes the best of luck to all of these players in their upcoming soccer adventures. Hopefully we'll someday see them in the Olympics or World Cup someday.



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## **2007 Lower Merion Soccer Club Spring Newsletter**

Spring Intramural Program Information

2007 / 2008 Travel Team Tryout Information

Summer And Fall Soccer Camp Information

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