

“Making a positive impact on the lives of young athletes is the force that drives our organization. Winning's great, but the lessons and skills learned while training and competing are the seeds for future success in sports and in life.”

MAITLAND SOCCER CLUB PROGRAM

Maitland Soccer Club (MSC) is a unique alternative to the various soccer organizations located throughout Central Florida. For nearly 30 years, MSC has been providing quality soccer instruction and programs to young athletes through a network of passionate volunteers and dedicated professionals. Since 1982, MSC has provided the most successful developmental soccer program in the area producing players that have excelled at the high school level, college level and even the US National Team level. Regardless of this success, we recognize that the “special” athlete is a rare breed and therefore provide training and developmental opportunities for **all levels** of players. At MSC, there is a place for every child – regardless of skills and abilities.

However, it is not our rich history that separates MSC from other clubs:

- First and foremost, MSC is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the development of youth soccer. Our focus is on soccer with a proper sports perspective. Other clubs run “academy style” systems which focus both on developing premier teams and making money. Analyze the fee structures of our club versus other soccer organizations and this fact is readily apparent. Yet, even though there is a disparity in financial commitments between MSC and other clubs, our training and developmental opportunities equal or exceed those offered at other clubs.
- The majority of our club’s leadership positions are held by volunteers who are passionate about the game of soccer and youth development. Our leadership team is driven to create the right training environment and developmental opportunities for our athletes so that they can succeed both on and off the field.
- MSC is a “federation style” soccer club instead of a traditional “academy style” soccer club. Both styles of clubs offer competitive training, but there are differences. Academy style clubs have one set program and one set style of teaching. All players at all age groups are grouped together, ranked and separated into like player groups, and developed according to their skill levels. Players are given opportunities based on abilities and are moved from team to team during the season as needed. Team concepts and the sense of belonging are often lost. Federation style clubs offer more options and a different (and, we feel, better) opportunity for the athlete’s growth and development. Players are on one team for the year and all players, regardless of skill, are given the same developmental opportunities. Once a year for our older levels, players are provided tryouts where they are given the opportunity to perform and then

can be placed on a team that meets their skill level, time commitment and developmental opportunities.

- MSC is dedicated to developing players first in character, then teamwork, skill, and ability. Winning is important and encouraged. However, character, team, and individual player development are most important. Winning is accomplished by emphasizing character, team, and individual development through coaching leadership and instruction at practice and clinics. In addition, players get the opportunity to put these concepts into play at games.
- MSC offers both free and paid developmental opportunities during and outside the soccer seasons. Free clinics offering both general and position specific training opportunities, Summer Camps and access to our certified training professionals for one-on-one training sessions help keep our athletes progressing at a rate that is congruent with their goals.
- In addition to our licensed volunteer coaches and trainers, MSC has paid professional coaches on staff with Coach Licenses as high as “A” from USSA. This is the same coach certification held by Bob Bradley, coach of the US National Team.

Maitland Soccer Club Program Vision and Philosophy

Because MSC is not a “one-size-fits-all club”, we believe that there should be different focuses and developmental opportunities at different age groups. By using age-appropriate training and education, we help young athletes build strong soccer skills, a strong foundation for good sportsmanship and a proper sports perspective.

Players 5 to 8 years old.

At U5-U8, the focus is on fun, friendship and technical skills. Players are placed on teams with their friends and classmates – regardless of skills or abilities. Occasionally, a child without a team preference will be placed on a team based on team needing additional players. This creates a unique team environment that fosters the young athlete’s fun and friendship first mentality while building a strong fundamental soccer foundation. Passing, receiving, dribbling, shooting and teamwork are the focus of the soccer technical skills, while respect and inclusion are the focus of the values. All of these teams play in our in-house league consisting of other MSC teams.

In addition to the player’s normal team practices, MSC provides other developmental opportunities for the U5-U8 players. Weekly instructional clinics are held on Saturdays for U5-U7 players and Sundays for U8 players. Our XCEL program, which is held in between soccer seasons, helps keep our younger players progressing in the off-season. All clinics and our XCEL program are provided at no additional charge by our licensed professional trainers and coaches.

Players 9 years old

At U9, the focus shifts to a little more competitive in nature, but is still grounded with a proper sports perspective. It is at this age group where MSC introduces the concept of separating players into different skill levels. All players at this age will try out for Red, White and Blue teams. The three colors each represent a skill level with Red being the highest and Blue being those needing additional development. Teams at this age bracket start to compete in the Greater Central Florida league which plays teams from various Central Florida clubs in addition to the MSC in-house league, which plays MSC teams against each other. One of the major aspects at the U9 level is the introduction and development of tactical skills.

Each team at this level has their own requirements for time and financial commitments for being part of the team. Each player will be matched to a team that is appropriate for his or her skill level as well as his or her commitment level. For example, a child athlete may have high skill levels but choose to be on a lower skill level team due to time, scheduling or financial reasons. Once an athlete chooses a team, he or she is on the team for the remainder of the year.

The focus continues to build on the strong fundamental technical soccer skills, reinforces the core values taught at our younger levels, and introduces and develops tactical soccer skills. Additional core values such as diversity, persistence and leadership are gradually introduced.

Players 10-12 years old

For U10-U12 players, the program is a continuation of the U9 philosophies. Teams continue to be separated into Red, White and Blue skill levels. Team rosters maintain their continuity from year to year (including U9 as they move up) with the exception of the yearly tryouts when players can move between the different level teams based on the assessments of our professional staff. By staying on the same teams, the athletes foster a better team concept and form bonds with their teammates. The focus is still competitive with a proper sports perspective. Teams at this age bracket will continue to compete in the Greater Central Florida league as well as in-house leagues.

Each team at this level has their own requirements for time and financial commitments for being part of the team. Each player will be matched to a team that is appropriate for their skill level as well as their commitment level.

Since this level of soccer is a continuation of the athlete's developmental phase, the focuses at this level are to reinforce the fundamental technical soccer skills, progress to intermediate team/position tactical skills and to continue to educate our players on such topics as respect, inclusion, diversity, persistence, initiative, loyalty, cooperation, and leadership.

Players 13-18 years old

For our U13-U18 players, the teams and our program shifts to the next competitive level. It is at this level where the athletes are groomed to compete at the highest level. If the athlete intends to play high school or collegiate-level soccer, your child athlete will be taught the skills and techniques he or she will need to succeed. While the emphasis shifts to the next level with training and competition, our players are still held to the highest standards for good sportsmanship and proper sports perspective.

Teams consist of Red, White and Blue skill levels and compete in the Greater Central Florida (GCF) league with other clubs throughout Central Florida. Year-round training and off-season tournament play is highly encouraged.

Each team at this level has their own visions and requirements for time/financial commitments for being part of the team. During our team tryouts, each player will be matched to a team that is appropriate for their skill level as well as their commitment level.

The focuses at this level are competing at advanced levels and teaching advanced team and positional tactics and skills. Age appropriate, progressive training and conditioning techniques are employed to develop strength, athleticism, speed, agility, and soccer skills.

All Players in MSC

In MSC, regardless of your child athlete's skills or abilities, our "federated style" club can match the player to the right developmental opportunities to meet his or her goals within the time and financial parameters that meet the parent's goals.

As you have read above for ages U10-U18, the individual teams help determine the time and financial commitments of its players. These are variables that are decided by the team. For example, some teams are coached and trained by volunteers and have no additional fees, while other teams will charge monthly fees as they utilize paid trainers. The additional fees for these trainers are above and beyond our low club seasonal fees and are clearly outlined by each team.

Just as the financial commitments vary from team to team, time commitments also vary from team to team. Some teams practice 3-4 times a week, other teams practice less often. Some teams will hold longer practices while other teams will hold shorter practices. This is a team decision and is clearly outlined for each team.

While there are a couple things that vary from team to team and in the different age groups, there is consistency throughout our club in that our athletes will be challenged and provided the skills and opportunities to compete at a high level both on and off the field.

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At MSC, we understand the importance of selecting the right soccer club. We invite you to talk to our club, our leadership team, our coaches, trainers and our members. We are confident that once you look into our club, understand our philosophy and meet our team, you will find that MSC can provide your child the proper training and developmental opportunities to acquire the right skills to succeed at the highest levels both on and off the field.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Maitland Soccer Club Family and entrusting us with the development of your child.

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