

By-Laws



**MCSA's
Middle School Program
5-23-09**

**MCSA
MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS**

Article I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be designated as the "The Montgomery County Soccer Association's (MCSA) Middle School Soccer Athletic Association", hereafter referred to as the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association shall be to prepare Middle School aged soccer players for the more competitive High School programs. To provide a playing environment by organizing Middle School soccer teams in the Montgomery County and surrounding areas. The Middle School Soccer Athletic Association shall be a subordinate structure to the Montgomery County Soccer Association (MCSA)

Article III - Members

Section 1 Middle School Soccer Teams are the only authorized members of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association.

Section 2 Montgomery County Soccer Association (MCSA) sponsored teams are automatically members of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association.

Section 3 Teams wishing to become members of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association must be affiliated with a parent structure and approved by the Director of The Middle School Soccer Athletic Association with the advice and consent of the MCSA Oversight Director.

Section 4 Membership may be terminated by a two-thirds majority of the MCSA's Board of Directors.

Article IV –Board of Control

Section 1 The Middle School Soccer Athletic Association Board of Control shall be appointed as follows:

MCSA Appointments:

- A. Director – Two thirds majority vote of the MCSA BOD
- B. MCSA Oversight Director (MOD) – Two thirds majority vote of the MCSA BOD

Members

- C. Coach – Each team approved under Article III will have one officer who will be the Coach unless an alternate is requested and approved by the Director with advice and consent of the Oversight Director.

Section 2 The duties of the Board of Control shall be as follows:

- A. Director:
 - a. Set and preside at all meetings.
 - b. Responsible for all equipment.
 - c. Function as General Manager of Middle School Program.
 - d. Select and appoint Coaches to the MCSA Oversight Director for approval to the Board of Control.
 - e. Make final selection of all-star team from team appointments with advice and consent of the Oversight Director.
- B. MCSA Oversight Director (MOD):
 - a. Act in the absence of the Director with the same authority.
 - b. Responsible for all fields.

- c. Approve Coaching appointments.
 - d. Referee assignor for the Middle School Program.
- C. Team Representative/Coach:
- a. Shall function as a member of the Board of Control.
 - b. Coaches will select players from qualified applicants to form the most competitive team possible for their assigned Middle School.
 - c. Provide a list of all-star team candidates to the Director at the conclusion of the regular season.

Article V - Meetings

Section 1 The Board of Control shall meet twice before each season and once after each season. Scheduled meetings will be for the minimum topics listed here;

- A. Preseason Meeting One: scheduled a minimum of 25 days before the season's first match. Topics will include but are not limited to; dealing with complaints, roster deadline, playing rules, game schedule conflicts, game day conduct, approved teams and field location.
- B. Preseason Meeting Two: final approved teams, final schedule, team rosters, game day conduct, police officer duties, post season tournament format and playing rules adjustments.
- C. Post Season Meeting: what went badly, what went well; define By-Laws changes for next season.

Section 2 Any three members of the Board of Control can call an emergency meeting for any reason. Notice of meeting must be given 72 hours prior to the called meeting in written form or by email.

Section 3 A quorum of Officers is required at all meetings to conduct business. A quorum is defined as three or more Officers present one of which must be the Director or Oversight Director.

Article VI - Committees

Committees may be appointed as needed by the Director with advice and consent of the Oversight Director for an active life to be specified in the appointment.

Article VII - Voting

Section 1 Each Officer shall have one vote with the Director voting only to break a tie.

Section 2 Members must be present to vote.

Article VIII - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the MCSA's BOD after the second reading at scheduled BOD meetings where a quorum is present.

Article IX

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Middle School meetings in all cases in which they are applicable and do not conflict with these bylaws.

Article X

The first issue of these bylaws shall be in effect at the initial approval of the MCSA BOD with a majority vote. Subsequent amendments approved by the MCSA will simply carry the latest revision date on the cover.

MCSA Handbook
POLICIES OF THE MCSA SPONSORED MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Affiliation

RULE 1 – The Middle School Soccer Athletic Association is an affiliate of the Montgomery County Soccer Association (MCSA), the Tennessee state Soccer Association (TSSA), The Kentucky Youth Soccer Association (KYSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Membership

RULE 2 – Membership in the MCSA Middle School Soccer Athletic Association shall be open to any school with a 6th, 7th and/or 8th grade, both for boys and girls. Schools with any combination of grades 6-8 will hold only one membership in the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association in any season. Membership is valid for the current playing season only.

Grade Participation

RULE 3 – No student in a grade below the 6th grade or above the 8th grade can compete as a member of a team in the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association.

Age

RULE 4 – No student shall be eligible to compete in the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association during any school year if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1 of that official registration year, which is current from August 1 through July 31.

Participation / School

RULE 5 – All students participating on a team registered in the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association must be enrolled in the same school.

Sponsored and Independent Teams

RULE 6 – There shall be two types of teams allowed to participate in the MCSA sponsored Middle School Soccer Athletic Association, Sponsored teams and Independent teams.

I. Sponsored Teams: Those teams within Montgomery County where the MCSA forms the team, provides uniforms, coaches and oversight. The MCSA bears all cost associated with sponsored teams.

II. Independent Teams: Those teams not sponsored by the MCSA who apply and are accepted as members for the playing season. Independent teams are subject to the provisions of this document.

Independent teams will bear the financial responsibilities of participation articulated before each season.

Academic

RULE 7 – While there are no academic rules restricting participation in athletic contests at this time the MCSA wishes to stress academic success as a policy of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association. Administrators of this program are encouraged to reward academic achievement when possible.

Fees & Registration

RULE 8 – Each player shall be registered with USSF through their local association. Independent teams will pay a per-game fee at the end of each season which will be billed by the Director. MCSA sponsored teams will collect a per-player fee from each player that makes the team.

Finances

RULE 9 – All expenses associated with the formation and operation of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association shall be borne by the MCSA

Coaches

RULE 10 Coaches

RULE 10.1 Sponsored Teams – All coaches must be approved by the Director and Oversight Director. Coaches will not be appointed to coach a Middle School Team where they have a child attending, exceptions are granted to Coaches with an academic license and employed by the Board of Education.

RULE 10.2 Independent Teams – Appointed by their local associations.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

RULE 11 – The Middle School Soccer Athletic Association and its members believe strongly that the major purpose of athletics at the middle school level is to be a part of the total educational program. A major part of this purpose is to stress to coaches, players, officials, and fans the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that all people in each of these categories understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others. Recognizing this principle, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any of these groups cannot be accepted. As a result, the following actions will be taken when unsportsmanlike conduct occurs:

I. Student Athletes Ejected “Red Card”

- A. In contests in which officials are involved, the officials will immediately notify the Director with both a telephone call and a misconduct report.
- B. The minimum penalty will be the suspension of the student athlete from participation in the next contest(s) at that level of competition.
- C. If a player is ejected for a second time, a more severe punishment shall be imposed.
- D. Misconduct ejections of a more serious nature may have additional punishment at the discretion of the Director.

II. Substitutes Leaving Bench Area in an Incident or Fans Coming Onto the Field

- A. The officials will immediately notify the Director with both a telephone call and a misconduct report.
- B. For substitutes leaving the bench area; each player shall be judged individually and disciplined according to his/her involvement in the incident.
- C. For an incident involving fans coming onto the field, the team may be subject to disciplinary action including expulsion from the league.

III. Coaches Ejected For Irresponsible Behavior

- A. In contests in which officials are involved, the officials will immediately notify the Director with both a telephone call and a misconduct report.
- B. The coach will be required to submit a written report of the incident to the Director within 48 hours.
- C. The coach will be removed for a specified number of contest(s) or face further disciplinary action. The suspended coach shall not attend games while under suspension.
- D. In addition to the suspensions, when a coach is ejected for irresponsible behavior, a meeting of the Board of Control shall be held with the coach to determine his/her further activities with the league.
- E. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Director based on the facts.

IV. Appeals

All appeals must be submitted in writing within 10 days of the incident to the Director of the Middle School Athletic Association. Any appeal request from an Independent team must also include an endorsement from the local administrative body that was responsible for registration of the member team.

Eligibility

RULE 12 Rosters – A roster of players shall be submitted to the Director prior to the first contest. If a student athlete whose name does not appear on the original roster wishes to become a member of the team at a later date it must be approved by the Director before the student is allowed to participate.

Playing Rules

Rule 13 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) – The NFHS rules that govern local High School Soccer playing are the foundation that the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association will follow. Amendments to these rules will be made prior to each season by the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association Board of Control and published in the preseason newsletter.

Uniforms

Rule 14 Uniforms – I/A/W (NFHS). Team Uniforms must match; amendments must be approved by the director. Basic laws apply; Shoes, Shinguards, Stockings (must cover the Shinguard), Shorts (sliding shorts I/A/W NFHS are

ok) and Shirt. No dangerous equipment & goalkeeper must dress distinctively. Gloves, soft head coverings (watch caps) and warm upper body attire under the jersey without a hood are approved. No long pants or any adjustments below the waist to the standard uniform.

Preamble

The member schools of the Middle School Soccer Athletic Association have adopted, through their elected representatives, an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements which establish the threshold for participation for all students within the program and which work together to define and preserve the fundamental nature of the program. These sections are extracted from the highly evolved procedures found in the TSSAA By-Laws and modified for use in these policies.

Enrollment and Attendance

Section 1. To be eligible, student athletes shall be enrolled in the Middle School that they are participating in. A student is eligible to participate in soccer if the student is enrolled at the school and meets all other eligibility requirements of this document.

A student shall not participate in athletics during any season unless he/she is duly enrolled on or before the first game of the season. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the transfer requirements in this section.

Section 2. A student who returns to a member school after attendance at a school of correction or alternative school is eligible for athletic participation provided the return to the member school occurs prior to the first game.

Section 3. For Future Use

Section 4. A student who, for any reason is not attending the middle school that he/she is a registered player of shall not continue to be a registered player of that team from the last day of attendance at the appropriate member school, including temporary suspensions.

Age Limit

Section 5. No student shall be eligible to participate in any athletic contest during any school year if he/she becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1 of the Registered season (August through July).

Section 6-10. For Future Use

Students Changing Schools

Section 11. General Provisions.

Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), unless:

- (a) the student is moving to a boarding school and has no athletic record the previous twelve months in any sport;
- (b) the student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student's home due to death;
- (c) the student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student's parents; or
- (d) the student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student's parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant the divorce.

"Transfer Student" Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

Director Approval Required. A school may not allow a transfer student to participate in athletics until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Director. The **person submitting the report** is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Director for this purpose.

Participation While Ineligible. If a student who is ineligible, under these provisions regarding students changing schools, competes in a contest while ineligible, then the student upon becoming eligible under these provisions will nonetheless be ineligible to participate in twice the number of contests in which he/she participated as an ineligible student or will be ineligible for the remainder of the season, whichever is less.

Section 12. Eligible Transfer Students.

Except as otherwise provided in Section 13 below, the following transfer students are eligible:

- a. **For Future Use**
- b. There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student's parents or guardian. If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or (4) at the close of the school year;
- c. The student changes schools as a direct result of re-zoning or reassignment of students by the local school system;
- d. The student is moving from a boarding school to the school serving the territory where his/her parents live, or vice versa, provided the student has attended the school he/she is leaving for a minimum of twelve months and provided **the Director can determine** that the move is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons. The move must be at the beginning of the school year. (Note: The school must be outside the day school territory of the boarding school.);
- e. **For Future Use**
- f. The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residences and schools as a result of a Court order;
- g. The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as **the Director can determine** that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons; or
- h. The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as **the Director can determine** that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
- i. The student is attending school where the student's parent works as a full-time employee that parent takes a full-time job at a different school, and the student transfers to the school where the parent takes the new job. The transfer must take place when the parent takes the job or, if the job change occurs during the school year, the transfer must be made at the beginning of the following school year;
- j. The student who transfers from school A to school B and then returns to school A without **participating in the middle school program at school B.**

Section 13. Ineligible Transfer Students.

The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date (these provisions do not apply to students who have no athletic record for the previous or current school year):

- a. A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents;
- b. A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless (1) the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, and (2) the new residence is both outside the territory of the old school and inside the territory of the new school;
- c. If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;
- d. If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less.

Field Conditions / Weather

Section 14. Determining appropriate playing conditions.

Generally speaking there are two considerations that determine if a scheduled match may play, field conditions and hazardous weather.

- a. Game Day Cancellations: Week Day Games where weather or field condition decisions are required will be discussed by the Director / Oversight Director / and City Parks by 1:00 pm on game day with a cancellation decision posted on the web site by 2:30 pm to ensure timely notification for players/teams that must travel to play.
- b. Field Conditions: Field conditions are generally determined by the city and the director well before game time. The referee may make a game time decision if the fields are considered dangerous.
- c. Weather: When field conditions permit games will play in all weather conditions unless considered dangerous, i.e. lightning or hail. Forecast for serious weather like tornado watches and hail may be cause for cancellation.



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