



# MERCED YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

A non-profit 501(c) corporation for organized youth soccer – EIN: 94-2626228

P.O. BOX 703, Merced, CA 95341

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www.mercedyouthsoccer.com



WELCOME TO MYSA. PLEASE READ THIS "REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET" TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND BE AWARE OF SOME OUR RULES AND HOW THE LEAGUE IS ORGANIZED.

**Please take note: NO pets on any MYSA fields!**

## PHILOSOPHY OF MYSA:

**Our purpose is to offer an opportunity for youth to have fun and to learn about the game of soccer by playing it. ALL recreational players are guaranteed to play at least half the game.** While the playing is up to the players, having fun is not restricted to them. Coaches, referees, parents, and other family members are also invited to focus on having fun and learning more about soccer! A certain level of competitive spirit is good, but it is everyone's responsibility to keep the focus on learning and having fun.

Over 1,400 players from the Merced area play in the MYSA soccer program. Our rules and procedures are designed to help run this large organization as smoothly as possible. These rules keep everyone focused on our philosophy and keep us in compliance with our parent organizations: California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and Federacion Internacional de Football Asociacion (FIFA).

## FEES & WHAT THEY PAY FOR:

\$75.00 for Under 8 – Under 15 Divisions

\$80.00 for Under 18 Division

\$55.00 for Co-Ed Under 6

~~-\$65.00 for Early Bird Registration in the u8-u15 divisions (\$55.00 for additional family in same household); \$50.00 for Co-Ed Under 6~~

- UNIFORMS: Includes a Jersey Shirt, Shorts and Socks. Shin guards and soccer shoes are required personal equipment items, but they are not provided.
- GAME REFEREES: Provided for scheduled league games. Approximately 8-10 league games and the Jamboree and Tournament games at end of season.
- PLAYER PICTURES: Includes a Team Photo, Player Button Photo, and individual photos. PICTURE DAY is scheduled for the either the second or third Saturday of play.
- TROPHIES: Team trophies are not included in the fee. Trophies are very popular with all players and are typically ordered by a Team Parent and paid through contributions from all team parents. Team Sponsors are not obligated to provide trophies. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in the MYSA CUP end of season tournament receive trophies.
- EQUIPMENT & FIELD MAINTENANCE: Team soccer balls, field nets & corner flags, portable toilets, field painting, field rentals, and field improvement projects. Soccer balls: Size 3 for U6 & U8, Size 4 for U10 & U12, Size 5 for all other divisions.
- ADMINISTRATION & LEAGUE AFFILIATION: CYSA Fees, Insurance, office supplies & equipment, office space rental, office assistant, postage, telephone, and coach training & development.

The direct cost of these items averages \$70.00-\$90.00 per player, over all age groups. We are able to provide this soccer program at this inexpensive rate through the generous support of our Team Sponsors and Donors, yearly Fundraising activities by players & parent volunteers, and Facility & Equipment support provided through Merced City Parks & Recreation and the Merced City Schools.

## PROOF OF BIRTH:

Per CYSA By-laws, the following documents only can be used to validate a player's date of birth:

- 1) Birth Certificate
- 2) Passport
- 3) Alien registration card issued by the US Government

## REFUNDS:

A lot of effort, time, and money are put into operations months before games start. **As with some of the local soccer leagues, there is a NO REFUND policy.** The commitment to play is made at time of registration.

## TEAM FORMATION:

Players are placed on age-based teams. Team Formation: Age Group Coordinators roster teams balanced to the extent possible by age, experience, and ability. Older aged players are placed on teams by a coach-conducted draft. **NO Special Requests**, other than to play with siblings in same age group. If you are dependent on being placed with a particular child or coach, please consider not registering your child this season. Please accept our apologies and understand that MYSA is a volunteer managed non-profit organization that does not have the resources to facilitate the growing number of requests each year.

Players are placed in teams according to needs. Coaches cannot Add, Drop, or Transfer players. Only the Age Group Coordinators, overseen by the Recreational Coordinator, may make these changes on a very limited basis.

GAME RULES: All game rules are posted on our website.

SEASON AND GAMES:

- Teams begin practice after the coach meetings in mid-August. The coach will contact each player.
- Games are on Saturdays starting the Saturday after Labor Day. Each team is scheduled Saturdays between 8:00 am & 3:30 pm through early November. Occasionally, a team is scheduled to play two games if their division has an odd number of teams.
- Game schedules are distributed to coaches and posted on the MYSA website the Tuesday before the first game.
- Games are played at the Youth Sports Complex, Joe Herb Park, Ada Givens Park, Merced College, and Merced High School. Other venues may be added as needed. Teams may play in McSwain and Atwater.
- Jamboree/MYSA Cup weekends are the two weekends after the regular season games. 2-4 games per team are scheduled for the U8 and U10 Jamboree. The MYSA Cup for the older age groups schedules 2-5 games per team depending on number of teams per age bracket. The U-6 Division does not play a Jamboree.

***The MYSA CUP (tournament for elders) and Jamboree (u8 & u10 teams) are for those teams and players in good standing only.***

COACHES AND PRACTICES:

- Coach Meetings for the various age groups are held during the first week of August to distribute team rosters. You can expect a call from your team coach during the first two weeks of August. Please do not call the soccer office for team information until after August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Teams practice on a number of fields throughout Merced. Each team is assigned a guaranteed spot on half a field on two days Monday to Thursday afternoon/evening each week. Many coaches prefer to drop to one practice after games start.

Team practice is a key component of any effective soccer program and parents are encouraged to make a strong commitment to getting their child to and from practice sessions on time.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION:

We have three levels of competition: Recreation and Competitive (Travel Soccer). Merced United F.C. administers the Competitive level of competition. We offer Premier/Competitive Soccer for boys and girls U9 and up.

Recreational competition teams make up more than 90% of all teams and are newly formed each year. Players on recreation teams are guaranteed to play at least half of each game (a coach can make exceptions under League guidelines). No standings are maintained in all divisions.

Competitive teams are selected during open tryouts. These are valuable programs for the player U9 and above who is interested in a higher level of development and competition. These teams play other Competitive teams; traveling distance depends on how many Competitive teams other cities field. Teams typically play in 2-3 tournaments each season. Teams are eligible to travel to local, state, national, and international tournaments. Teams are usually already formed by the time Recreational Registrations are held, but if you are interested in playing for MYSA's Merced United F.C., please visit our website [www.mercedyouthsoccer.com](http://www.mercedyouthsoccer.com) for coach contact information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/VOLUNTEERS:

Our program is governed by a Board of Directors that operate on a volunteer basis only. There is no compensation for their time. Recreational coaches are also volunteers. Our program would not be successful without the help of volunteers.

MANDATORY FUNDRAISING:

Fundraising is an important part of our program which allows us to keep the cost of registration low. If you do not wish to participate in our fundraising, you may "Buy-Out" at the time of registration. Fundraising monies covers the balance of each player's fees and is required to your coach before deadline given to the coach. Playing privileges may be revoked if fundraising money is not turned in.

RETURNED CHECKS:

Checks returned by the bank are the responsibility of the signer. All costs incurred as a result of the returned check(s) are the responsibility of the signer. This includes all bank fees, as well as a \$20.00 processing fee that will cover all administrative costs on behalf of Merced Youth Soccer Association. The total amount owed must be paid in full by cash before the child can participate in further league activities.

**PLAYING HALF THE GAME:**

Coaches from time to time forget to play all their players half the game or, unfortunately, sometimes deliberately do not play a player at least half the game. Coaches are reminded to play their players equally, as this is a developmental league. Parents are encouraged to ask their coach to make sure their player plays at least half the game, but not tell coaches what position the player should play. If problems arise, please call the soccer office regarding your concern. The Age Group Coordinator will be advised and will make sure the concern is rectified in a manner that benefits the player.

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Player #** \_\_\_\_\_ **of** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check#** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Paid: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Fees Received by Signature** \_\_\_\_\_