

MISSOULA STRIKERS SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Operating Guidelines

Approved 3/8/2000

Revised 7/12/2000, 9/27/2004, 12/8/2004, 11/01/06, 03/14/07, 09/12/07

INTRODUCTION

The Missoula Strikers Soccer Association (the Association or MSSA) is a member of the Montana Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and will adhere to the MYSA policies and regulations. To the extent MYSA policies and regulations require compliance with the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), MSSA also will adhere to USYSA rules. Strikers does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or any other criterion made unlawful under applicable federal or state laws. MSSA sponsors two programs: the Strikers competitive/travel program (Strikers) and the recreational program MicroStrikers/Strikers Developmental League (Micro).

These operating guidelines were adopted by the Association's Board of Directors (Board) at its March 8, 2000 Board meeting and revised at its September 8, 2004, December 8, 2004, November 1, 2006, March 14, 2007, and September 12, 2007 Board meetings.

I. MODIFICATIONS

All changes, additions, or deletions to these operating guidelines must be presented in writing to the Board at any scheduled meeting. A quorum is not necessary at this meeting. The board may accept or reject the policy as proposed or with amendments at the next Board meeting that a quorum is present.

II. CLUB ADMINISTRATION

A. MSSA Director. The Board will appoint a MSSA Director (Director) by July 1 of each year. The Director is responsible for the general management of the organization. Each year the Board will decide whether the position will be paid or volunteer. The Board also will provide a list of duties for the Director. If the Director is paid, the Director may not be a Board member. If the Director is not paid, the Director may serve on the Board.

B. Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for the overall operation of the club, as more particularly described in the MSSA bylaws and Montana law governing non-profit corporations.

C. Standing Committees. The Board shall maintain the following standing committees from year to year: (1) Competition Committee, (2) Executive Committee, (3) Fundraising Committee, (4) Long-Range Planning Committee, and (5) Discipline Committee. Each committee will be chaired by a Board member. Except for the

Executive Committee, each standing committee may be comprised of Board members and non-board members. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

D. Parent Volunteers. Strikers encourages the use of parent volunteers to fulfill as many of the day to day functions of the Association as are practical. The Director shall oversee parent volunteers. The Board at its discretion may agree to provide a credit against player fees for volunteer time.

III. MSSA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND COACH SELECTION

A. MSSA Technical Director. The Board will appoint a Technical Director by July 1 of each year. The Board will decide each year if the position will be paid or volunteer. The Technical Director will facilitate the recruitment and selection of the coaches. The Technical Director will oversee tryout organization and coaching development (clinics). Technical Director will report coach selection, team formation, player selection, and Competition Committee activities to the Board at each Board Meeting.

B. Competition Committee. The Board will appoint a Competition Committee to assist with coach recruitment and selection by July 1 of each year. The Competition Committee will be comprised of the Technical Director, at least one Board member, and at least one coach. The Competition Committee is responsible for coach recruitment and nominations, including Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Tryout Coaches.

C. Team Coaches. The Board shall approve the appointment of all coaches. Only the board can release a coach from their duties for disciplinary reasons. All coaches shall submit a coaching application and agree to sign a Strikers Coach's Agreement before being considered. Parents and players are welcome to submit recommendations for coaches at a particular age level. Technical Director, Competition Committee, and Board will carefully consider these recommendations when selecting coaches for a particular team.

D. Team Formation Coaches. The Tryout Coaches for specific age level will consist of the coaches of that age group, the coaches for the age group immediately above that given age group and the Technical Director. Generally the head coach will be included in the tryout process. However it is understood that it may not be possible to appoint all head coaches prior to tryouts. Two or three age groups may be combined into a single group for tryouts at the discretion of the Technical Director. Tryout Coaches appointed to specific tryout age level groups are responsible for player evaluation and placement on specific teams in consultation with the Technical Director. The Tryout Coaches shall hold a pre-tryout parent meeting to explain the tryout schedule and anticipated team formation process. A copy of the Strikers Operating Guidelines will be made available at that meeting for those who wish to review its provisions.

E. MicroStrikers Director. The MicroStrikers Director shall complete all administrative responsibilities for the Micro program including, but not limited to, the following: player registration, coach assignment, field arrangements and setup, game schedules, and Micro tournament organization. The MicroStrikers Director shall report to the MSSA Director. Compensation for the position shall be determined by the Board by July 1 of each year.

IV. STRIKERS TEAM FORMATION AND PLAYER SELECTION

A. Registration. Player registration must follow MYSA rules and regulations. Registration for the spring season will begin August 1 and continue through the last day of tryouts. Complete registration includes the completed registration form, payment of full registration fee or acceptance of fee waiver, signature of player agreement, and submittal of proof of age. The registration fee is non-refundable. A player may not participate in Strikers practices without the completed registration.

B. Team Selection. Strikers seeks to provide a quality soccer environment for as many players as possible recognizing that as players advance in age the playing environment will become more competitive. Strikers also recognize that players within the club have different skill levels and develop at different rates.

While Strikers will attempt to form as many teams as possible there is no assurance that every player trying out will be placed on a team, nor that any player will be placed on a team with any specific group of peers. Strikers encourages players to recognize that team formation decisions are made in an attempt to provide the maximum development potential for the maximum number of players.

Subject to the parameters set out in these guidelines, team formation decisions are the responsibility of the Technical Director based on input from the Tryout Coaches evaluating players at the ages involved and the Competition Committee. The Technical Director shall report the basis of team formation decisions to the players as soon as possible after the Competition Committee approves team formation.

Strikers will seek to place players on teams according to their birth dates, as provided by D, below, according to the following guidelines:

1. **U-11 through U-13.** Players will be placed on teams within single age groups according to their birth dates.
2. **U-10 Players.** Until such time as MYSA sanctions a U-10 age group, U-10 or younger players who desire to play with Strikers will be considered to be members of the U-11 age group until they reach the U-12 age criteria.

3. **U-14 through U-19.** Beginning at U-14, players may be placed on teams within single or double age groups. U-17, U-18 and U-19 may be combined into a single age group.

4. **Multiple Teams at U-11 and U-12 Age Groups.** If more than one team is formed at either the U-11 or U-12 age levels, the Technical Director will attempt to create teams of equal strength.

5. **Multiple Teams at U-13 and Older Age Groups.** If more than one team is formed at one age or combined age level at U-13 or older, the Technical Director will form teams based upon an evaluation of players during competitive tryouts. A single "AA" team will be formed from the strongest players. One or more "A" teams will be formed from the remaining players. If more than one "A" team is formed an attempt will be made to balance the "A" teams relatively equally.

Once a player is notified of placement to a specific team, that placement will not be revoked except for disciplinary reasons or for non-payment of fees. The head coach may add players, with approval of the Technical Director, between the time of tryouts and submission of the roster to the state.

Strikers will set a tryout and team formation schedule for each season. In general, tryouts and team formation will be held in November.

C. Multiple Rostering. Any player may be rostered on more than one team during each seasonal year to the extent consistent with MYSA rules and with the permission of the Technical Director.

D. Player Age Group Placement. MYSA and USYSA policies set the maximum age for players for team formation. Except as otherwise provided by F, below, age groups will be comprised of players who are, before July 31 of the immediately prior seasonal year,

- (1) under 19 years of age.
- (2) under 18 years of age.
- (3) under 17 years of age.
- (4) under 16 years of age.
- (5) under 15 years of age.
- (6) under 14 years of age.
- (7) under 13 years of age.
- (8) under 12 years of age.
- (9) under 11 years of age.

E. Player Age Group Advancement. The MYSA Technical Director, with assistance from the Competition Committee, will identify players who may be

evaluated for “playing up” or age group advancement. Before placement, the player will be asked to participate in the tryout sessions for the older age group. The player and player’s parent/guardians must consent to the advancement. The decision to advance the player will reviewed each year.

F. Grade Play Up. Due to the MYSA and USYSA policies of a July 31 cut off date, there will a few players whose birthdates technically place them in an age group below that of their classmates or peers. These players, born between August 1 and September 11, may request a “grade play up”. An effort will be made to allow players to play with their school class peers, assuming the player is capable of playing at the higher age group.

G. Modifications. This section of the guidelines may not be significantly modified without approval of the Board following notice to the entire membership with an opportunity to comment on the proposed modifications.

V. DISCIPLINE

The Missoula Strikers Soccer Association shall follow the rules and regulations of MYSA, and to the extent required by MYSA, the rules of FIFA and USYSA. Any violations of these rules and regulations that require discipline at the club level will be submitted to the Discipline Committee of the Board. The Discipline Committee shall make recommendations for discipline to the Board. The Board shall have ultimate responsibility for any disciplinary action.

Complaints may not receive action unless they are submitted to the Board in writing. Complaints received by the Board or any staff person will be submitted to the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee shall receive and consider any complaints and make a proposed determination that shall be considered by the Board at its next regular meeting. The procedure applies to any complaint against any member, player, coach, assistant coach, and officer or staff member of MSSA. If the complaint involves a member of the Discipline Committee, that member shall recuse him or herself from consideration of the complaint.

Each coach will report each incident where a player receives a red card in writing to the Discipline Committee. If a player receives more than one red card in the current season (January 1 through December 31) the Discipline Committee may recommend that that the Board revoke playing privileges for any number of games for the current or following season.

The coach will report in writing and in person each incident where a head coach of assistant coach is ejected from a game (red card) by a referee to the Discipline Committee. If a coach receives more than one red card in the current season (January 1 though December 31) the Disciplinary Committee may recommend that the Board revoke coaching privileges for any number of games for the current or following season. The

standard for behavior for coaches as a role model for players is to be at a much higher level than for players. Repeated profane, disrespectful or discourteous behavior will not be tolerated from coaches.

VI. STRIKERS UNIFORMS

The uniforms of the Missoula Strikers Soccer Association players will be in accordance with FIFA and MYSA regulations; be worn during all club sanctioned games; be in Strikers' colors of red, white and/or black; will bear the approved Strikers' logo; bear no other logos other than that of the club or club approved corporate sponsor. The Board must approve all corporate logos. The team may also include a board approved team name or logo that is no longer than four inches by six inches and in keeping with the Strikers color theme.

The Board will establish a standard uniform for teams in age division U-16 and under. An approved uniform for teams in age divisions U-17 and above may be selected by the team but must comply with the color and insignia conditions stated in the preceding paragraph. The Board of Directors must approve the uniform prior to purchase. Each player is responsible for the cost of his or her uniform.

VII. STRIKERS FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A. Strikers Player Fees. Player fees are a fee set by the Board each year. A player fee shall be paid by each player registered with the Association. The fee may not vary from player to player; provided that the Board may agree to set lower fees for younger age groups. The player fees are used by the Association for administrative expenses including field rentals, coaches and paid staff, insurance, MYSA dues, and administrative costs necessary to operating the Association.

B. Individual Team Fees. Team fees are set by individual teams and may vary from team to team. Team fees should not vary from player to player within a team. Team fees are used to fund items such as coaching staff travel and tournaments.

C. Financial Assistance. MSSA may award financial assistance to players each year based on the need of the players and the funds available. All players who have been selected for a team are eligible to apply for assistance. The deadline for application is February 1st, or before team practices begin.

The MSSA treasurer, in consultation with the Director of Strikers, will make financial assistance recommendations to the Board. Financial need will be based on the family income. The family support of the player to play soccer will also be considered. The MSSA will approve the amount of financial assistance. Applicants will remain confidential.

VIII. FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee will be established each year. The Fundraising Committee will coordinate all Strikers fundraising. MSSA is currently recognized as not-for-profit organization under the 501(c)(3) section of the Tax Code. The treasurer is an ex-officio member.

The Committee will develop a fundraising goal, develop a fundraising plan each year that meets that goal, coordinate all fund raising, sales, and events that generate income for Strikers, provide donor/supporter recognition. Individual team fundraising will be allowed with prior notification of the Director of Strikers.

IX. MICROSTRIKERS

MicroStrikers/Strikers Developmental league is MSSA's recreational soccer program. Micro's intent is to foster an understanding of soccer, develop technical skills, learn cooperative social skills, and promote fair play and fun. There are two Micro seasons per year, in the fall and spring. Rules of play, number of players, and size of field shall be within USYSA amended rules and guidance for U12 recreational soccer. The MicroStrikers Director shall form teams based on a locale within the Missoula area and strive to have the teams balanced in strength.

All parents of players shall sign and submit a code of conduct form prior to league play. Any parent that fails to comply with the code of conduct shall be reported as a complaint to the MSSA Disciplinary Committee (see Section V.)