**Frequently Asked Questions 2019**

**What is the Midland Park Soccer Association?**

The MPSA is a non-profit volunteer run organization committed to developing the soccer knowledge and ability of all the children of Midland Park, regardless of ability.

**When are games?**

Clinic begins the weekend after Labor Day. Games in the Travel program (NWBSA), Division 3, 4 & 5 girls play at either 9am or 11am on Saturday mornings. Division 2 (co-ed), along with Div 3, 4 & 5 boys play on Sunday afternoons at either 1pm or 3pm. Games begin the weekend after Labor Day, September 12-13. Ajax begins the week following Labor Day and play predominantly Saturday for boys and Sunday for girls. Practices begin in August for both.

|  |
| --- |
| In-town play begins Saturday September 7 on Sunset Fields next to MPHS. New schedule this year: Squirts (Pre-K):    9-10 AM Clinic (K-1):        10:30-11:30 AM PeeWee (2):     12-1 PM |

**Does my child need cleats?**

Soccer cleats are recommended for all Clinic players, especially when the fields are wet. All Travel players must wear soccer cleats and will not be permitted to play in baseball, football or softball cleats.

**Are children required to wear "safety glasses"?**

According to the State of New Jersey "Any child who wears corrective eyeglasses while participating in Soccer, sponsored by a school, community or government agency, shall be required to wear protective eyewear that meets the frames standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F803 and lens standards of the [American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1."](http://www.midlandparksoccer.com/Safety%20Glasses%20Law.pdf)

**What other equipment do we need?**

Just shin pads. Shirts are supplied for clinic players. Travel and Ajax players Divisions 3-5 will purchase uniforms from Farrier Sporting Goods in Wyckoff. If you should need any additional equipment the MPSA recommends our friends at Farrier Sporting Goods in Wyckoff and The Soccer Post in Franklin Lakes for your soccer equipment needs.

**What is Travel?**

Midland Park participates in the North West Bergen Soccer Association (www.nwbsa.org) league. This is non-competitive recreation league designed for players of all abilities. The league designates that each player participate in half the game unless there is extenuating circumstances (disciplinary, poor grade, etc). The number of teams in each Division is determined by the number of total players and coaching volunteers.

Players are grouped:

Division 5 includes 8 or 9 years old as of July 31 but not older than 10 AND be in third grade;

Division 4 includes 10 or 11 years old players as of July 31 but not older than 12;

Division 3 includes 12 or 13 years old players as of July 31 but under 14; and

Division 2 includes co-ed players 14 to 18 years old as of December 31 but not older than 19 years.

**What is Ajax?**

Ajax club soccer plays in NCSA. This is a more competitive league. Ajax reserves the right to assign players as practice players if there are to many registrants or players abilities do not meet the expectations for a competitive team

**Are there tryouts for the Midland Park Soccer?**

There are no try-outs for the Clinic and Travel Programs. All children who are residents of Midland Park or students at a school in Midland Park are eligible to play in either the Clinic or Travel Programs.

**Can my child be on a team with his/her friends/classmates?**

The MPSA feels that part of the positive experience of playing soccer includes being able to meet and make new friends. We would prefer not to receive requests for specific teammates and may not be able to honor the requests that do come in.

**Do I need to bring in a picture at registration?**

Only Players participating in Travel Soccer need to submit a picture. Please have a picture ready to give to the coach in August.

**How do I volunteer?** -The MPSA is always looking for volunteers in whatever capacity you might be able to assist.  We often have open positions on our board and there are many smaller ways you can assist for short periods of time during the year.  Our meetings are always open to whoever would like to attend or you can contact any of our board members to offer your help or make suggestions.

**I would like to help coach. Do I need experience?**

No. The MPSA is committed to improving the soccer knowledge of not only our players, but of our volunteer parent coaches as well. Indoor and outdoor classes and training are held throughout the year. The beauty of the game is that it is a simple one to learn to play and coach even with no experience. We are happy to help anyone get started.

**Do I need to be Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Certified to coach or help coach?**

Yes, all coaches and assistant coaches are required to have their Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Training. This is a one-time only class that allows volunteers to be protected under the "Little League Law" in New Jersey.

**How do I get the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Certification?**

MPSA on occasion will host a class, and other classes are held regularly at Valley Hospital and throughout the state. Please check with the [Youth Sports Research Council](http://youthsports.rutgers.edu/) for more information. Please also check our Home Page for information on classes held by the MPSA.

**How much playing time will my child get in a games?**

By rule, all children on teams in either the Clinic and Travel Programs play at least 1/2 of every game.

**Is there a conflict with "select" club games?**

There are no conflicts between MPSA games and regularly scheduled games for the Midland Park-based Ajax or other Club teams as they play opposite days.

**When are practices?**

Teams in the travel program, typically practice one or two nights per week as long as daylight permits.  The Clinic programs do not practice during the week.

**When does the season begin?**

For 2019, the Season begins September 8th. The travel program season begins September 7th (Division 3, 4 & 5 girls) or September 8th (Div 3, 4 & 5 boys & Div 2 Co-ed) with practices starting in August (Time and Division alignments are subject to change, based on registration).