

## **PCSC CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES AND PARENTS**

It is the responsibility of each Coach, Assistant Coach and each Parent to:

Realize that the purpose of youth soccer is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual players.

Emphasize the proper ideals of, and lead by example in demonstrating sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment. Always place the emotional and physical well being of players ahead of any personal desire to win. Never ridicule or yell at children for making mistakes or losing a game.

Show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.

Respect the property of communities that you are visiting.

Respect the integrity and judgment of the referee.

Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game, the PCSC and the soccer organizations we are affiliated with.

Show respect for all players, coaches, fans and officials regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

Remember that children need adult role models they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.

Treat each player, as an individual remembering there may be a large spread of physical and emotional development of members of the same team.

To the extent practicable, follow the advice of a physician or parent when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.

Make a commitment to educate yourself on positive coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

Remember that a contest is only a game, not a matter of life or death for any player, coach official, parent or the PCSC, and that the game is for children and not for adults.

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## **HISTORY OF THE CLUB**

The Port Chester Soccer Club and its predecessor, the Port Chester Youth Soccer Travel, trace their origins to the Fall of 1996.

The Club strives to operate under the umbrella and cooperation of the Port Chester Recreation Department Soccer Program, the athletic programs of the Port Chester Board of Education, sponsors soccer camps, athletic clinics and coach training courses. They make their equipment and resources available to the Port Chester community promoting athletic development and sportsmanship for the children in our community, through a variety of innovative programs.

The current president is: Jose Perdomo

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Port Chester Soccer Club, Inc. (PCSC or the Club) is a nonprofit corporation organized and administered by Port Chester Parents. The Club selects, organizes and regulates boys' and girls' soccer teams to play in youth soccer leagues and tournaments, and selects the coaches of such teams.

This year the club expects to field 8 youth soccer teams, which are evenly divided between girl' teams and boys' teams. These teams are registered in the Westchester Youth Soccer League ("WYSL"), a regional component of the Eastern New York Youth soccer Association (ENYYSA") and the United States Youth Soccer Association ("USYSA"), and in a local travel league sponsored by the American Youth Soccer Association ("AYSO"). The USYSA and AYSO are youth affiliates of the United States Soccer Federation, an organization designated by an Act of Congress as the governing body for soccer in the United States.

The club expects more than 300 children and young adults to participate in its programs during the 2002-2003 school year. Over130 children are expected to enroll in our pre-travel Micro-soccer developmental program. The PCSC provides more opportunities for more children to participate in travel soccer than any other soccer club in our area.

## **OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY**

The Club's objectives are to provide children and young adults with the opportunity to participate in a travel soccer experience where they can develop positive self-esteem and build character by learning the virtues of hard work, respect, honesty, self-control, teamwork and sportsmanship.

To achieve these objectives, the Club encourages its coaches and team parents to adopt a philosophy that seeks to achieve the following for the players.

1. **To have fun.**
2. **To develop an appreciation for sportsmanship and the fundamentals of team play.**
3. **To respect teammates, coaches, opponents, the referee and the laws of the game.**
4. **To learn the meaning of dedication and commitment and to experience the relationship between effort and results.**
5. **To learn soccer - individual skills, small group tactics and team tactics, so that each player and his or her team can become the best that they are capable of becoming.**
6. **To engage in healthy competition.**

This year, the Club is planning the following initiatives and activities: sponsoring the developmental program for Recreation League players in Kindergarten through seventh grade and organizing a International Tournament on Independence Day weekend, expanding the VIP program for physically and educationally challenged children, sponsoring an indoor soccer tournament and/or clinic in February for the U-11 and/or U-12 age group, sponsoring and outdoor tournament on memorial day weekend and participating in the local Columbus Day Parade, expanding the club's commitment to the PCSC and the WYSL Sportsmanship Programs, publishing the "Penalty" newsletter for parents and continuing to educate and involve parents in soccer activities, implementing PCSC website ([www.pcsc.org](http://www.pcsc.org)), upgrading its training and mentoring programs for new coaches, assisting the WYSL and AYSO in training additional referees and supporting the Village of Port Chester in developing new athletic fields.

The club is continuing to explore the challenge presented by the proliferation of "united" and "select" teams in other communities that are actively recruiting players from Port Chester Teams.

The Club is determined to meet this challenge by building the best coaching staff in Westchester and taking actions to improve our program and make our teams more competitive. In July 2001 the Club had in mind to appoint Raul Ordoñez as our first Professional Director of Coaching and Raul is charged with improving the coaching and training of the Club's teams. During 2001, the Club selected its new U-9 teams based on August 1, 1992-3 birth dare (young fourth graders and all third graders), making these teams the first in the Club that are age-consistent to the teams we compete against.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Officers and other members of the Executive Board all of who are unpaid volunteers, as well as approximately 20-25 parents who serve as volunteer professionals to assist in the development of our programs direct club activities.

In addition the Club has also appointed the following Committee Chairpersons to supplement the efforts of the Board.

## **TEAM SELECTION AND REGISTRATION**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Children are eligible to try out if they are between 8 and 18 years of age and reside in Port Chester, go to school in Port Chester or have previously played on a Port Chester team. All youths (and their families) who are eligible to try out for Club teams may become Club members upon payment of club dues, regardless of whether such youths are selected for Club teams.

National youth sports organization report that over 70% of all children drop out of organized youth sport by the age of 13. Locally we experience this trend in both the Recreation League and PCSC programs. During the spring 2001 season one PCSC U-13 team almost forfeited some games due to a shortage of Port Chester children who wanted to continued playing without that opportunity. The Club's Executive Board has adopted a policy of allowing each team in the U-13 and U-14 age groups to register up to three non-resident players so Port Chester children can continue to play travel soccer on Port Chester teams.

### **TRYOUTS**

The Club's Guidelines for Selecting Players and Coaches (a copy of which is included in this Handbook) sets forth the basis for the tryout procedure and selection process. As set forth these Guidelines, the selection of players for teams is based on a number of factors, which include (in alphabetical order)

Agility	Aggressiveness	Athletic ability	Attendance record
Attitude	Ball handling	Coachability	Commitment
Field sense	Hustle	Physical maturity	Potential for improvement
Skill	Speed	Sportsmanship	Teamwork

Tryouts are held in November for new U-9 and U-10 age teams which will play in the following Spring, such tryouts are open to all eligible children, and publicized through the Club's website and the local papers. June tryouts are held for older groups, beginning with the change in format from 8v8 to 11v11 play in the U-11 age bracket.

### **AGE DIVISIONS**

Both the WYSL and AYSO conform to the age categories established by the United States Soccer Federation, which are as follows for the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003.

U-19 August 1, 1983, to July31, 1984 U-13 August 1, 1989, to July31, 1990

U-18 August 1, 1984, to July31, 1985 U-12 August 1, 1990, to July31, 1991

U-17 August 1, 1985, to July31, 1986 U-11 August 1, 1991, to July31, 1992

U-16 August 1, 1986, to July31, 1987 U-10 August 1, 1992, to July31, 1993

U-15 August 1, 1987, to July31, 1988 U-9 August 1, 1993, to July31, 1994

U-14 August 1, 1988, to July31, 1989 U-8 August 1, 1994, to July31, 1995

Because the Club's teams have been selected from the Port Chester Recreation League teams, they were historically selected by grade rather than by conforming to the national and international standards. Virtually every other soccer organization in Westchester has made the change in their team selection policy to the August 1 to July 31 "soccer year", and as a result our teams have been younger than, and at a competitive disadvantage to, our opponents. During the fall of 2001 the Executive Board of the Club decided to adopt the August 1 national standard, and to begin phasing in its adoption with the tryouts for the new U-9 teams in November 2001.

In November 2000, the Club conducted its U-9 tryouts in a manner similar to those in years past, except that all fourth graders, whether on an existing PCSC team or not, who were born after August 1, 1992-3, participated in the tryouts for the U-9 teams rather than the U-10 teams. The U-9 teams were formed were age-equal with their opponents from other communities. During the Spring of 2001 season these teams were more successful competitively than the prior years' U-9 teams.

Travel teams play in divisions designated by age and ability. WYSL teams play in divisions of one-year increments (i.e. U-9,U-10,U-11, etc). In each age category the WYSL will attempt to seed the six strongest teams in division 1, next six in Division 2, and so on. In high school age brackets of U-15 and above, teams are seeded primarily by ability rather than by age in division that may include more than one "soccer year".

AYSO teams play in divisions of two-year increments (U-10, U-12, U-14), which means that our U-9, U-11 and U-13 AYSO teams will be playing against teams of older players. While AYSO does not publish scores or standings, it will collect win-loss records for each fall season and try to schedule compatible teams against one another in the spring season.

#### **TEAM SIZE**

All club WYSL teams in U-11 and older divisions play in an 11v11 format where the maximum roster size permitted by the USYSA is 18 players. The executive Board recommends a minimum roster size of 15 to 16 players for these teams, balancing interest of playing time and safety. All club WYSL teams playing in U-9 and U-10 divisions play in an 8v8 format where the maximum roster size permitted by the USYSA is 14 players. However, the WYSL recommends a maximum roster of 12 players for these teams, and the PCSC Executive Board has adopted that recommendation.

All AYSO teams in Westchester have historically played in a 11v11 format, but beginning in 1999 the Westchester AYSO organization gave teams in the U-10 division a choice on whether to play 11v11 or 7v7. For 11v11 play, AYSO nationally recommends a maximum team size of 15 players, but the executive Board has adopted, with the permission of AYSO, a policy to recommend a maximum team size of 16 players. For 7v7 play, AYSO recommends a maximum team size of 10 players, but the executive board has adopted, with the permission of AYSO, a policy to recommend a maximum of 11 players. Teams,

which play in the AYSO League, are subject to a 50% minimum playing time requirement.

### **NUMBER OF TEAMS**

The WYSL permits the Club to enter two boys and two girls teams for each category with 11v11 play and three boys and three girls in the U-9 and U-10 age categories, which engage in 8v8, play. The Club has also entered one boys and one girls team for each category of 11v11 play in the AYSO travel league, and two U-9 teams which engage in 7v7 play.

It is the policy of the Club and a requirement of the WYSL that on teams, which play an 11v11, format the best players be selected for the "A" team. And the next best be selected for the "B" team. The Club has formed one A team and two equal B teams for WYSL 8v8 play. The Club has also formed its C teams for play in the AYSO travel league from those players which were not selected for the WYSL teams.

### **REGISTRATION**

The club affects registration of each team. Each player on a WYSL team is simultaneously registered with the United States Youth Soccer Association, which registration is evidenced by a pictured ID card which is retained by the coach and required to be shown to the referee before each game. Each player on an AYSO team is registered with the American Youth Soccer Organization. Each parent should review the PCSC Code of Ethics for Coaches and Parents and the WYSL Parental Guidelines, which are included in this Handbook.

### **DUES AND EXPENSES**

Each player on a Club team pays membership dues to the Club based on whether the team plays one or two seasons each school year. Players on elementary and middle school-age teams of U-10 through U-14 pay \$30.00 per year to play in both the fall and spring. Players on a new U-9 teams which play in the spring and players on PCSC high school age teams pay \$20.00 to play one season. The PCSC sponsors high school age teams for girls in the Fall and boys in the Spring when these layers are not playing interscholastic soccer. Membership is not limited to players. Players are also responsible for paying their share of their team expenses including Registration Fees to play in either the WYSL or AYSO league, uniforms, fees for professional trainers and indoor gym time. Financial aid is available from the Village of Port Chester and PCSC in cases where a family might otherwise have difficulty paying for travel teams costs.

### **CLUB PROGRAMS FOR PLAYERS**

#### **LEAGUE GAMES**

WYSL and AYSO travel league games are scheduled on Sundays in the Spring and Fall, with generally ten games each season in the WYSL and eight games in the AYSO travel league. During the Fall, games are scheduled beginning shortly after Labor Day and

ending the Sunday before Thanksgiving (except Columbus Day Weekend), and during the Spring, beginning at the end of March and continuing through Father's Day (except Easter Sunday and Memorial Day Weekend).

## **PRACTICES**

Travel soccer is intended to be a lot of fun, but is competitive, with an emphasis on each player becoming the best player that he or she can become and each team becoming the best it can become. This requires a significant time commitment from both the players and the coaches. Travel soccer places a greater emphasis on competition than Recreational Soccer League.

During the spring and fall teams generally practice two days a week, for 90 minutes per practice. During the winter most teams practice indoors in gyms rented by the Club. Team members are expected to attend this practice regularly. Travel teams also participate from time to time in scrimmages with other teams, either informally as part of a practice or on a more formal basis.

The Club's Director of Coaching trains all new U-9 teams during their first year. Older teams also use professional coaches or trainers to assist the parent coaches in teaching soccer skills. The decision to use a professional coach trainer is made by each Club coach or team, and the team is responsible for all payments. All professional coaches and trainers used by PCSC teams must register with the Club. The Club encourages each Head Coach to consult with the Director of coaching regarding his or her team's training requirements.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

Although teams are encouraged to play in tournaments, each team makes its own decisions to play or not to play in tournaments.

As there are no league games scheduled for Labor Day, Columbus Day and Memorial day Weekends, they tend to be popular weekends for outdoor tournaments, which can be one, two or three day competitions. Club teams have played in outdoor tournaments at:

Iona College (NY)	SUNY Purchase	Ossining (NY)
Poughkeepsie (NY)	East Fishkill (NY)	Yorktown (NY)
Massapequa (NY)	Northport (NY)	Newtown (CT)
Ridgefield (CT)	Randolph (NJ)	Short Hills (NJ)
Holliston (MA)	Newton (MA)	Harrisburg (PA)
Springfield (VA)	and numerous other locations.	

Club teams also participate in indoor tournaments during the winter. These tournaments are usually one-day tournaments held in college or high school gymnasiums or other indoor athletic facilities. Club teams have participated in indoor



tournaments held at the Port Chester Middle School, JFK School, Rockland Community College (NY), Vassar College (NY), Nassau Community College (NY), the Soccer Coliseum in Teaneck (NJ), the Soccer Palace in West Orange (NY), the Meadowlands Sports Complex (NJ), Western Connecticut State University (CT) and numerous other nearby locations.

The team pays tournaments registration fees directly to the tournament sponsor. Coaches expect their players to be available for tournament play.

PCSC Independence Cup Tournament  
PCSC Memorial Day Weekend Tournament  
PCSC Indoor Tournament  
State Cup Tournament  
WYSL Select and State OPD Teams  
PCSC High School Age Teams  
PCSC Sportsmanship Program  
WYSL Sportsmanship Program

### **MINIMUM PLAYING TIME**

The WYSL does not have a rule requiring a minimum playing time. Nevertheless, the Club strongly recommends that each player be present in each game, but coaches should be free to manage an individual player's time in accordance with both the player's attendance at practice, skill and the status of the game. The Club further recommends that weaker players should receive significantly greater playing time in one-sided games so that cumulative playing time will be more even over the course of the season. PCSC teams playing in the AYSO travel league and the AYSO tournaments are subject to the AYSO rule requiring each player to play in at least one half of each game.

### **OTHER TEAM ACTIVITIES**

PCSC teams will also attend, PC High School, College, Professional and international soccer games as a team. Club teams have also traveled to play soccer in Europe after raising a substantial portion of the expenses through team fund raising activities.

### **CLUB PROGRAMS FOR COACHES**

#### **COACH SELECTION**

The Club's Guidelines for Selecting Players and Coaches (a copy of which is included in this handbook) sets forth the basis for the selection process for coaches. As more fully described in these Guidelines, coaches for new U-9 teams are selected after the selection of the teams. All new coaching candidates are required to submit to the Club a

Coaching Application (a copy of which is available on the Club's website) and, if requested by the Executive Board, submit to interviews. The Executive Board removes all coaches serve at the pleasure of, and can at any time.

### **COACHING EDUCATION**

All coaches of Club WYSL teams must complete an eight-hour coaching course and receive WYSL coaching certification or the New York State equivalent "F" license.

All coaches of WYSL teams must also be registered with, and have a valid picture ID card from, the USYSA.

All coaches of Club AYSO teams will be required to attend AYSO coach training classes and receive AYSO certification by December 31, 2000.

All club coaches are also encouraged to attend coaches' clinics sponsored by the Club or others and achieve more advanced soccer coaching certification.

In 2000, Club coaches began attending the coach training courses, which are offered by the WYSL. Four Port Chester parents who coach PCSC and Recreation League teams attended for an equivalent of a "F" certification.

The club intends to continue to offer Travel and Recreation coaches opportunities for further professional training and certification.

### **COACHES COOKBOOK (Coming soon)**

This book has been designed and prepared by the Club to pass on to each new generation of PCSC soccer coaches the objectives believed by the Club to be important, the coaching philosophy stressed by the Club, and those recipes for success that have been accumulated and developed by the preceding generations of coaches.

This book also includes many suggestions with respect to leading and managing a PCSC travel team and suggestions to enhance communications with players and parents.

### **COACHING MANUAL (Coming soon)**

This book has been prepared by the Club to provide PCSC and Recreation Coaches with detailed information on how to teach youth players, soccer techniques and tactics.

### **COACH MENTOR PROGRAM (Coming soon)**

In 2001, the Club established a Mentor program for new coaches. This program is designed to be supportive and instructional rather than evaluative. that is, the Mentor, a more experienced coach, acts a "a big brother" to the coaches of a team, being a guiding light, available for questions and occasionally ( but not necessary regularly) attending practices and games.

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES AND PARENTS**

The Club has published its Code of Ethics for Coaches and parents (a copy of which is included in this Handbook), providing, among other things, that it is the responsibility of the Coach to emphasize the proper ideals of, and lead by example in demonstrating sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

## **COACH EVALUATION**

To receive direct feedback from parents and players, the Club distributes directly to each registered player a coaches Evaluation Form each season( a copy of which is available on the Club's website and included in this Handbook).

Coaches are evaluated on a number of items, including but not limited to, their ability to teach skills effectively and treat each child fairly.

## **POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE**

In 2002, the PCSC will join the Positive Coaching Alliance, a non-profit educational organization based at Stamford University. The Positive Coaching Alliance stresses the benefits of coaches and parents using the positive rather than the negative coaching approach. PCA newsletter will be sent to all PCSC coaches.

## **CLUB PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES**

### **CLUB HANDBOOK**

The Club publishes this Handbook each year and mails a copy to the home address of every registered player to provide each family with a detailed summary of all of the Club's activities. Questions about the Club and its programs should be initially directed to the player's coach, although if he or she is unable to answer the question they can be directed to the relevant Committee Chairperson or any member of the Executive Board.

### **INSIDE "PENALTY" A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER (Coming soon)**

In the fall and in the Spring the Club publishes its "Penalty" newsletter, which contains up-to-date information on those seasons' activities and upcoming events.

### **SOCCER-A SIDELINE FOR PARENTS (Coming soon)**

In 2002, the PCSC will distribute copies of this 40 page instructional booklet to all families with players in the U-9, U-10, and the U-11 age groups.

### **WEBSITE (Running since August 2,2002)**

The Club will use its website, [www.pcsc.org](http://www.pcsc.org), to post information with respect to the Club, its teams, field directions, weekly scores and standings, tryouts, tournament information, club and League forms, recommended readings and other information with respect to soccer events and activities.

### **PCSC FAMILY DAYS (TBA)**

In 2002, the Club will sponsored the first PCSC Family Day - Port Chester Day at the Metro Stars, a professional men's soccer team then based in NY/NJ. The day will feature Soccer fest '02, an afternoon of soccer games and contests and Club ball boys and girls. Fever players and coaches also conducted a special instructional soccer camp in Port Chester a few days before Family Day. In 1998, The Club arranged a bulk ticket purchase for approximately 400 players and parents to attend a Metro Stars game at Giants Stadium. Approximately 35 Players participated in the pre-game.

### **SUMMER CAMP SURVEY (Coming soon)**

The Club is again planning to conduct its Summer Camp Survey.

A summary for the results will be available on the website to help families in the process of selecting a summer soccer camp.

### **PARENTAL VOLUNTEERS**

Parents who volunteer to serve as Officers, Directors and Coaches run the PCSC.

Numerous other parents have made major contributions to the Club's activities by assisting in many administrative and supportive functions such as serving as score reporters, Club patch distributors, AYSO Registrar, referees, assisting with field maintenance, assisting at the Micro-Soccer, Indoor and Memorial Day Weekend Tournaments, serving on the Mouth guard Committee and securing donations of mouth guards, donating educational books and videos, serving as Club Librarian, securing a Website sponsor and serving as newsletter editor.

Parents who have an interest in volunteering to serve in a non-coaching capacity should contact the Club President or any member of the Board.

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

All complaints must be in writing, addressed to a member of the Club Board and must identify the party making the complaint.

Parents are encouraged to talk over their problems directly with the coach in the first instance.

Coaches should be aware of a problem before complaints are made to the Executive Board.

### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **COOPERATION WITH RECREATION SOCCER PROGRAM**

The Club has extensive interaction with the Recreation Soccer Program and has a policy of supporting this program. All PCYS players must be registered with the Recreation

Department and play on Recreation league teams, and many PCSC coaches coach Recreation teams.

Coaching courses sponsored by the Club are offered to Recreation coaches as well as to PCSC coaches.

The Club Sponsors referee training for individuals who want to referee at Recreation League or Travel soccer games.

Equipment purchased by the Village of Port Chester, the PCSC teams use including sets of goals and Recreation teams.

Recreation coaches participate in the try out process, particularly for teams in the U-9 and U-10 age categories.

The Club intends to help the Recreation Department and the Neighborhood Athletic Associations to improve their soccer programs.

In 2001, the PCSC will bring small-sided soccer to Port Chester and experiment with 7v7 league for second graders and Micro-soccer instructional program for kindergarten, first and second graders.

### **COOPERATION WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Fall 2002)**

The PCSC strives to operate in cooperation with the Port Chester Board of Education. Coaches of the relevant age teams are expected to schedule their to avoid conflicts with important school activities such as the Young Writers' Workshop and the elementary school PTA fairs.

The Club coordinates its field schedules to avoid conflicts with high school athletic teams, and high school teams use soccer goals which have been purchased by the Club.

In June the PCSC pledged to the Board of Education to Purchase two additional sets of goals to be placed at the renovated Quaker Ridge School back field.

The PCSC has also implemented numerous suggestions made by Board of Education employees such as the use of orange field paint for soccer markings to avoid confusion with white lacrosse marking on the same field, and has purchased "Turfus," the same brand of field absorbent that is used by Board of Education field maintenance crews for use by Club field maintenance volunteers.

### **VILLAGE OF PORT CHESTER ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY**

In 1999 and 2000, PCSC officers volunteered their time and expertise to assist the Recreation Department and Advisory Counsel on Parks and Recreation in completing the

Village of Port Chester Athletic Field Study recommends that the Village upgrade certain facilities and construct additional new athletic fields to assure that the popular youths sports programs can be available to the increasing numbers of school-age children.

#### **VIP SOCCER PROGRAM (Coming soon)**

In 1999, the PCSC was the first organization in Westchester to begin sponsoring a soccer program for 9 to 16 years old boys and girls who are physically or mentally challenged. This team of Very Important Players (“VIPs”) participates in an AYSO program for coed VIP teams.

The Club has been instrumental in establishing this opportunity for children throughout Westchester who might not otherwise have a chance to participate in athletic events in 2001. The WYSL announced it will begin sponsoring a similar program.

#### **PASS BACK PROGRAM**

During the Spring 2000 season the PCSC initiated a program to collect used soccer equipment for donation to the Other Youth Soccer Club. PCSC coaches and families collected over 75 ball, cones, water bottles and other soccer items, enough to equip three Bronx youth, many of whom come from families with limited financial means. (Fall 2002)

#### **COLUMBUS DAY PARADE**

At the invitation of the organizers, the Club participated for the first time in the Port Chester Columbus Day in October 2001. The PCSC “Soccermobile” float was decorated with patriotic bunting, soccer goals, balls, players and coaches. The Club intends to participate in the parade again next year.

#### **BLUE AND WHITE**

The Club has been and is again during 2002-2003 school year a sponsor of Blue and White, a parent booster organization that supports the Port Chester High School Athletic programs.

#### **SPRING BREAK SOCCER CAMPS (Coming soon)**

Each year, the Club sponsors open, multi-day soccer camps during the Spring vacation week each year.

#### **FALL AND SPRING YOUTH FESTIVALS (Coming soon)**

Because of the overwhelming interest in the Club’s Spring Break Soccer Camps, for several seasons the Club offered a multi-week instructional soccer program on Monday afternoons for first and second grade children.

These programs have been replaced by the even more popular Micro-Soccer program beginning with the Spring 2000 season.

### **ATHLETIC CLINICS (Coming soon)**

In 2001, the Club organized a series of Speed, Power and Agility Workshops, which were conducted by the staff of Dynamic Fitness and Greg Brittenham, Strength and Conditioning Coach for the New York Knicks.

These Workshops were designed to enhance athletic the incidence and/ or severity of sports-related injuries.

The Club has also sponsored special clinics for goalkeepers, which have been run by professionals.

Current information on the Club's soccer camps and athletic clinics can be obtained from the club's website.

### **FALL FOLIAGE RUN OR PORT CHESTER DAY (Coming soon)**

The Club has been and is again in 2000 a sponsor of the Port Chester Historical Society's Annual Fall Foliage Run.

## **FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **FIELDS**

Home games are played on fields supplied by the Village of Port Chester and the Port Chester Board of Education, pursuant to permits obtained by the club. In the Fall, soccer fields are generally available on Sundays because the Recreation Department sponsors its soccer program on Saturdays, In the Spring, however the Recreation Department generally devotes Village and Board of Education fields to the Little League baseball, Recreation softball and lacrosse programs, and only three fields are lined as soccer fields for girls' interscholastic soccer. In some cases fields which are used on Monday to Saturday for baseball, softball and lacrosse may be used on Sundays for soccer if the Club commits that its team parents will move the goals on and off the field each week, During the Spring, the Club assumes the responsibility for the layout and lining of certain fields at its own expense.

The WYSL and AYSO generally require that at least one field be provided for a full day for each six teams registered. The Club tries to use field of size appropriate to the age of the players (i.e., smaller field for younger players). If the Club's access to Village or School fields is restricted, the number of teams it registers may have to be reduced. Because the Club is responsible for the condition of fields and goals, PCSC coaches and parents are required to do field and goal maintenance not provided by the Village or Board of Education, particularly after a rain. Each field is assigned a Club U-9 or U-10 team to be responsible for certain game-day field maintenance- to put out and remove corner flags, check to make sure the goals are anchored and the nets are fully secured (not sagging off the cross bar or loose on an upright) and remove debris and standing water. By 8.00 a.m. every Sunday during the Fall and Spring seasons, each Port Chester

field for which the club has a permit is inspected for its safety and playability. The Club estimates that it provides over 100 hours of game-day field maintenance in each of the fall and spring seasons. In certain cases, if field conditions dictate, the Club voluntarily “pulls” fields and cancels or moves games to another available field. WYSL rules morning. Information with respect to field closures can be obtained from the team’s coach.

### **OUR FIELDS-EVERYONE’S JOB**

In 1998, the PCSC adopted this Club wide field maintenance program. The Board has adopted the proposition that each member of the Port Chester community who has been given the privilege of participating in Travel Soccer also shares a responsibility of stewardship for the fields which make our programs possible.

While there may appear to be plenty of space in our community, there are numerous requests for field use from high School teams; Recreation League sports, the Little League adult groups and other activities, and we find there is a “field shortage” which is most acute on weekends. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that every coach, parent and player takes actions to maintain and preserve all of our fields.

When practicing after a rainfall, teams should avoid wet and soft areas. Player drills and cones should be moved to firmer soil. Warm-ups and practices should be conducted along the sidelines away from heavily worn areas such as the goalmouths and center circle

After each game and practice, coaches and parents should ask the players to pick up water bottles and the other litter. If each member of the Club makes just a modest effort, we will collectively leave the fields and our reputation in mint condition.

### **EQUIPMENT**

The Club has purchased two sets of regulation, 8x24 foot movable soccer goal and two sets of 7x21 foot movable goals, which are used for 8v8 play. These goals have been placed on school fields and are used by High school and Recreation teams as well as PCSC teams. These goals have replaced “permanent” (in the ground) goals, enabling the fields to be moved or rotated so as to rest the goalmouth areas.

The Club has also purchased other equipment such as field lining machines, outdoor corner flags, indoor goals and indoor corner flags for use by the PCSC teams and other residents of Port Chester. All teams have been furnished with a commercial first aid kit and appropriate size game balls. the Club makes large volume purchases of club patches for application to uniforms and jackets and for distribution to PCSC teams participating in tournaments where it is often customary for players to exchange patches with players on other teams.



### **INDOOR GYM TIME**

The club schedules indoor gym time during the winter, and has master rental agreements with certain local facilities, enabling gym time to be available to each Club team on a sing-up basis.

The club provides to the operator of each such facility its insurance certificate covering all Club teams; each team pays the Club for the cost of the time reserved by such team. Some teams also participate in winter programs run by outside professional coaches, participate in winter indoor leagues and tournaments or secure their own indoor gym time.

### **UNIFORMS**

Players are required to have a uniform for their team, in a style approved by the Club.

Uniforms for new U-9 teams are purchased from the Club, and existing teams can choose to purchase from the Club or directly from unrelated retail suppliers.

The Board requires that all U-9 teams purchase “standard” Blue and /or white team jerseys and short to reduce family expenses when players move between teams or when uniforms are passed down to younger siblings.

### **SAFETY**

The Club is pre-occupied with concerns over safety of its players. In this regard, the Club, provides substantial game-day field maintenance to ensure the fields are safe for play, encourages its coaches to engage in proper pre-game warm-ups and stretching, stress sportsmanship to avoid dangerous play and fights and provides all teams with a commercial first aid kit.

All players must avoid wear shin guards and proper footwear to participate in practices, games and tournaments.

### **MOUTHGUARDS (Coming soon)**

The Club has a special committee, which has investigated, then use of mouth guards.

This committee recommends that all goalkeepers wear mouth guards. As the use of mouth guards has not been made mandatory in New York State by local affiliates of the USYSA, the Club cannot require players to wear mouth guards. To further the use of mouth guards, the club developed a program in 2001 to provide mouth guards for all of its goalkeepers.

The goalkeeper program is supported by a \$1000 grant from a dental supply house and the volunteered time of the Club’s Mouth guard Committee.

## **PCSC GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING PLAYERS AND COACHES**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish a framework for the selection of players for and coaches of PCSC teams, in a fair and consistent manner.

### **2. SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**

The tryouts will be conducted in the manner approved by the Board.

The authority of the coordinator shall be subject in all respects to the Board. In the case of U-9 and U-10 teams the Board will designate one or more representatives and other Independent Evaluators (i.e. someone who has no children involved) to be in attendance for all tryouts and selection meetings.

If the Board designates a representative or other Independent Evaluator(s) to so attend tryouts or selection meeting(s), the coordinator and the coaches shall be responsible to such Independent Evaluator(s).

Such Independent Evaluator(s) are assigned to provide impartial judgment and prevent gross unfairness.

### **3. AGE-GROUP COORDINATOR**

The board of the PCSC should appoint at least one “coordinator” who shall be responsible for coordinating the selection process for each age category for each of boys and girls.

The coordinator for continuing teams needs not to be the incumbent coach of the “A” team. Appointment as coordinator does not create any presumption as to the Board’s opinion as to such person as a coach.

In the case of tryouts for U-9 age teams, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Recreation Coaches will be encourage to nominate a coordinator.

The president may, in his discretion, appoint such nominee as a coordinator or one or more other coordinators, from among the Recreation coaches, the Board or otherwise.

### **4. APPROVAL OF TRYOUT STRUCTURE**

The coordinator should discuss with and obtain the approval of the Board or its designee(s) BEFORE the first tryout, with respect to the structure of the tryouts, including the drills expected to be used, the manner of evaluation and, to the extent then known, the identity of those who are assisting.

It is recommended that objective drills and exercises (i.e., shuttle run or dash timed by stopwatch) should be established to complement any more judgmental

exercises such as scrimmaging. For U-9 and U-10 teams, tryout stations should be standardized in accordance with PCSC's Recommended Tryout Stations.

After approval of the structure of such tryouts, each PCSC and Recreation coach should be advised as to the nature of the tryouts. This is particularly important for the selection of U-9 and U-10 teams.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRYOUTS SCHEDULE; CORRESPONDENCE**

The time and place for the tryouts should be announced with sufficient lead-time so parents involved in the selection process and youngsters can plan to attend. To the extent practical, this announcement should be placed by the Board in "The Corner Kick" and on the Club website. All tryout correspondence from an age group coordinator should be approved in advanced by the President or a designee.

**6. OPEN TRYOUTS**

An effort should be made to ensure that all youngsters interested in participating have been informed. It is the policy of the PCSC to have "open" tryouts at least annually.

**7. NUMBER OF TRYOUTS**

The board should approve the number of tryouts. For U-9 teams, there should be at least three tryouts.

For U-10 teams there should be a minimum of two tryouts.

A single tryout me be sufficient for older teams, depending on the number of interested players.

The first tryout day for U-9s should be devoted primarily to drills and exercises.

Subsequent tryouts should be devoted primarily to scrimmaging.

**8. PLAYER EVALUATION**

To the extent one or more tryout stations are used, each participating coach should be asked to record or indicate the level of performance of each youngster at his or her station.

An attempt at numerical evaluation is helpful.

All of the numerical and other tryout evaluations of each player should be recorded in a roster format with columns of data, so that each child's performance at the tryout stations can be conveniently reviewed.

A list of all the players who are participating should be prepared and a copy (with evaluation data) provided to the persons involved in the selection process.

Copies of the recorded tryout evaluations (raw data) should be furnished to the board or its designee as soon as practical after each tryout, and should also be made available for review at the selection meeting by all persons included in the selection process.

**9. ROLE OF TRYOUTS**

A child's ability to show how he or she plays soccer or to display discrete soccer skills at tryout will necessarily be limited by the duration and format of tryouts.

Tryouts are considered an important element of the selection process, by providing an opportunity to compare the children against each other in several controlled environments and situations.

**10. TRYOUTS PROCEDURE**

The process and evaluation formulas must be submitted to and approved by the Board or its designee(s) prior to the first tryout.

After the first day of tryouts, the coordinator should collate and organize all of the raw scores for each player.

The Board or its designee(s) should also approve any modifications to the tryout rating formula, and the setting of ranges and other parameters. Reduction of raw scores to few letter or other designations (i. e., A, B or C) should be avoided.

Before the first tryout, the Recreation coaches from each district should submit to the coordinator their rankings of the players from their entire district.

The coordinator should use such rankings and the first day's tryout data to prepare scrimmage groups for the second day, in a manner approved by the Board's designee(s). After the second day of U-9 tryouts, new scrimmage groups should be arranged prior to the third tryout.

**11. SELECTION MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Generally, coaches who have attended and participated in evaluation at the tryouts, as well as the coordinator, the Board representative and the other Independent Evaluators, if any, should attend selection meetings.

In case of final selection meetings for U-9 and U-10 grade teams, each district should have only the number of coaches in such grade present as shall be specified by the Board or its designee, and for such purposes the coordinator should count toward his or her district's representation.

At the invitation of the coordinator with the prior approval of the Board representative, other parents who have attended and participated in the evaluation at the tryouts could be in attendance.

Players cannot be present.

## **12. PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS DECISIONS**

Selection of players for U-9 and U-10 teams should be made at the final selection meeting by the vote of the Recreation coaches attending and participating in the tryouts (such number of Recreation coaches per district as shall be specified by the Board or its designee), as well as the coordinator, the Board representatives and other Independent Evaluators and the relevant U-9 or U-10 PCSC coaches.

Regardless of the number of Recreation coaches from each district present at a preliminary or final selection meeting, each such district shall have the same number of votes, which may be cast by one or more persons from such district. Generally, the PCSC coaches should make selection of players for other continuing teams, but the PCSC coaches should consult with the Recreation coaches attending and participating in the tryouts.

During any such selection meetings, all efforts should leave the meeting when his or her child is discussed. In the case of the selection of U-9 and U-10 teams and any other grade for which the Board shall have designated an Independent Evaluator, selection of teams shall be subject to the final approval of such Board representative and other designees.

Such Board representative shall bring to the attention of the board any player selection decision that such person believes to be capricious, unreasonable or prejudicial, in which case the team will not be considered to have been selected the issue shall be resolved.

Such person shall also have the authority to change the ranking of any player, to add or remove a player from a team or otherwise.

Selection of a reasonable number of alternates is permissible for the purpose of filling a roster slot if a player selected does not accept such selection.

Alternates should be filled with the player best qualified, in accordance with the selection criteria used for the other players on the team, whether or not such player is the next alternate or has been designated an alternate, In certain circumstances, a mini-tryout may be appropriate.

The addition of player outside of the tryout at any time during the year requires the prior approval of the President or a designee.

**13. SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection of players for travel teams should be made at a meeting after the last tryout, based on factors which include (in alphabetical order) agility, aggressiveness, hustle, physical maturity, potential for improvement, skill, speed, sportsmanship and the teamwork. Input could come from, among other sources, the recommendations of Recreation and PCSC coaches, the coordinator, the Board representative and other Independent Evaluators, personal observations of Recreation and PCSC games and practices and the PCSC tryouts.

To the extent practical, the PCSC coaches should attend Recreation games and relevant PCSC games.

The relative importance of these sources will vary from the younger age categories (when Knowledge of the ability of and familiarity with other players is Low) to the older age categories (when such knowledge and familiarity is higher).

Selection of player should never be done because of the friendship of the players or parents, because a player's parent is a Recreation or PCSC coach or because the player was on the team the prior year.

Similarly, there is no requirement that each district have equal representation of players on teams.

Nevertheless, particularly in case of U-9 teams, disproportionately high representation or substantial under representation of players from one or more districts, as well as the placement of children of coaches, will be carefully examined to assure essential fairness.

**14. MULTIPLE TEAMS**

One or more teams chosen for 8v8 or 7v7 play may be balanced or chosen by strength.

The Board will make such decision after consultation with the tryout participants.

All U-11 and older teams must be chosen by strength. For teams chosen by strength, after an "A" team is chosen, a "B" team will be chosen and then a "C" team for play in the AYSO travel league.

Prior to selection of any other team (or an announcement concerning the likelihood of selection), approval must be obtained from the Board.

**15. INFORMING PLAYERS OF DECISIONS**

For tryouts after the end of the PCSC season, every effort should be made to contact all players as soon as possible after the last selection meeting, to advise them whether or not they have been selected for a team.

Generally, players should be notified the evening after the last selection meeting.

However, for tryouts prior to the end of the PCSC season, all players should be contacted at such time as shall be approved or determined by the Board.

For U-9 and U-10 teams and for other teams with a change of a coach, players should be notified by the Recreation coaches or the newly-appointed PCSC coach, as shall be specified by the Board or its designee.

For other teams, the PCSC coaches should call the players selected for the team they will coach and the Recreation coaches should call all of their players not selected for any travel team.

Special consideration should be made to promptly and sensitively advise players who have been dropped from teams.

Any player dropped from a Club team should first be advised that he or she has been dropped by the player's former coach, and then called by the player's new coach (if any).

In appropriate circumstances, a player's former and new coach should coordinate their selection calls, and consider the possible involvement of and advance notice to the parents of such player.

**16. SELECTION OF COACHES**

Selection of the person to coach a team will be made after the selection of the players of such team.

The Board will make the selection of all coaches after the final selection meeting; the Recreation Coaches should not select a PCSC coach.

For newly formed U-9 teams, after children have been selected, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Recreation coaches may attempt to reach an agreement as to the recommended coach and assistant coach (if any).

A period of one or more weeks may develop after the final selection meeting and before the selection by the Board of U-9 or U-10 coach.

The Board or committee thereof may interview persons who have expressed to the Board an interest in coaching a team. It is recognized that the timing of the selection of the coaches for other continuing teams may be more flexible.

A PCSC coach need not be a Recreation coach or the parent of a player.

There should be no presumption that the coordinator, the Recreation coach with the “best” record or anyone else will be an PCSC coach.

#### **EVALUATION OF COACHES; BOARD APPROVAL**

Any incumbent coach should not automatically be assumed to be continuing coach. Each year the evaluation and selection process should be given consideration. All coaches serve at the pleasure of and can be removed at any time by, the Executive Board. In approving or removing a coach, the Board may consider, among other things, the following:

The interest of the players; the demonstrated ability of the coach to work with children in an orderly and constructive manner; the Performance of the coach, including, but not limited to, the teaching of skills and, directly and by example, of sportsmanship and team play, and the overall degree of fairness and objectivity with which the coach treats all players; performance of the coach should not be confused with and does not mean the won-lost record of the team; the expressed opinions, positive or negative, of players, parents, referees or other coaches; attendance of the coach at PCSC coaches meetings, clinics and courses; and the manner in which such coach discharged his or her responsibilities to the PCSC and WYSL or AYSO.

#### **COMMENTS; RELIEF FROM GUIDELINES**

Comments concerning coaches or these Guidelines should be directed to any member of the Board. The foregoing statements are “guidelines” and not strict rules to be followed in every instance. Departures may be necessary under a variety of circumstances but advance permission must be obtained from the Board.



**Appendix A  
COACHES EVALUATION FORM  
PORT CHESTER SOCCER CLUB**

**COACHES EVALUATION FORM**

We would appreciate your providing an honest evaluation of your coach as part of our efforts to provide the best youth soccer program possible. This form will be reviewed by an officer of the Club as part of the Club's evaluation of the coach.

This form will also be made available for reading by or a summary will be furnished to the coach being evaluated, to provide feedback from the coach. If you would like to maintain your confidentiality, please do not sign this form. If you prefer, the Club (but not the coach) to know your identity, you may submit a separate page with identification. Thank you.

Name of Coach Being Evaluated \_\_\_\_\_ Team \_\_\_\_\_

**Part A. This Part of the Form is for the player only.**

Have you been treated fairly by your coach? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, do you know why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you get enough playing time? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, do you know why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you could tell your coach what he or she could have done better, what would you say?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend practices and games regularly? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you:

	Very much	Some what			Not at all
(a)have fun playing on this team?	5	4	3	2	1
(b)improve your skills?	5	4	3	2	1
(c)learn new skills?	5	4	3	2	1
(d)learn to play as part of the team?	5	4	3	2	1
(e)feel that all players were treated equally?	5	4	3	2	1
(f)have a chance to play different positions?	5	4	3	2	1

**Part B. This part of the form is for a parent (or, if appropriate, the player).**

Did the coach:

	Very much	Some what			Not at all
(a) Keep winning in perspective?	5	4	3	2	1
(b) Encourage physical fitness?	5	4	3	2	1
(c) Have organized practices?	5	4	3	2	1
(d) Provide sufficient warm up time?	5	4	3	2	1
(e) Teach skills effectively?	5	4	3	2	1
(f) Encourage safe play?	5	4	3	2	1
(g) Show courtesy to other teams and officials?	5	4	3	2	1
(h) Encourage sportsmanship?	5	4	3	2	1
(i) Encouraged fair play?	5	4	3	2	1
(j) Know the rules of soccer?	5	4	3	2	1
(k) Communicate with you?	5	4	3	2	1
(l) Hold your child's respect?	5	4	3	2	1
(m) Encourage your child?	5	4	3	2	1

**Part C. This part of the form is for the player or parent.**

Please feel free to make any additional comments in the space below, or on a additional sheet. Perhaps you have some constructive criticism or praise you want to offer.

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Please return this form to:  
Raul Ordoñez, Director of Coaching  
350 North Main St  
Port Chester, New York 10573