

# **MUSA Flyers**

Academy & Select Programs

Player Handbook



## **Mission Statement**

MUSA is committed to serving the needs of our soccer players, and we shall begin by teaching very young players the necessary fundamentals. The educational goals of our club are:

- to teach a high level of soccer skills and tactics.
- to encourage our players to be the best that they can be.
- to foster a club atmosphere in which the good of the whole club is valued, as well as the needs of the individual.
- to offer an opportunity for players to experience the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from dedication and teamwork.
- to develop a sense of community, city county, and club pride and commitment.
- to foster the development of physical, mental, social and emotional fitness.
- to compete in the highest levels of competition within the state and region.
- to have as much fun as humanly possible in the process.

## **What is Select soccer?**

In simple terms, "Select" soccer means that players are chosen (selected) for positions on teams using a means of assessment, such as a tryout. Positions on teams are secured based on performance. This differs from recreational soccer where players may be placed on a team simply by signing up.

Select soccer is for serious soccer players who want professional-level instruction and who desire a more competitive environment with other players who share the same goals. Most Select soccer players tend to be those that want to play for their high school, and possibly in college. Players should not tryout for a competitive team simply because some of their friends are trying out. They should tryout because they really love to play soccer, want to learn to play at a more advanced level, and are willing to commit the time and effort required to become the best soccer player possible.

Beyond the added training, match, and tournament requirements, Select level players are truly challenged to perform at a higher level, technically and tactically, individually, and as a team. More is expected of each player and each team in commitment, effort, desire, and results.

## **What is Academy soccer?**

The Academy program is specifically designed for kids ages seven, eight, and nine. It can be looked at as a "bridge" from recreational soccer to Select soccer for those children that have desires to eventually tryout for Select soccer. The Academy level will begin to increase the commitment to practice time. Games are generally referred to as "play dates" with other clubs. During this time, the coaches continually stress fundamentals, spacing, proper teamwork, and help lay the groundwork for higher-level soccer.

## **Practice and Game Locations**

### **Lake Reba**

Lake Reba Recreation Complex can be accessed via Gibson Bay Drive or Catalpa Loop Road in Richmond. The park is open at 7:00 a.m. and closes at dark. There are ample parking lots located near the soccer fields. This is the location of practice for most of our teams, as well as most of our home games.

### **Berea Skate Park**

The Berea Skate Park also houses a full-sided field that is sometimes utilized for games. The address is 450 N Broadway, Berea, KY. Exit 76 off I-75 is the best exit to take when traveling here. There is a nice parking lot here; so parking should not be an issue.

### **MUSA Indoor**

An indoor facility is under construction that MUSA will rent monthly to provide year round training. The address will be updated soon.

## **Season Overview**

MUSA Flyers Academy and Select soccer runs from August until June, with an outdoor Fall and Spring season, and an indoor Winter session.

### **1. Fall Season**

- a. Practices begin mid July/early August and continue through the beginning of November
- b. Teams practice 2-3 times each week at the discretion of the coach
- c. Practice times are determined by each team's coach
- d. Teams typically engage in at least one Fall tournament
- e. Teams either play in the KSSL (Kentucky Select Soccer League) or the KPL (Kentucky Premier League) based on level of play and coach discretion.

### **2. Winter Session**

- a. Winter training will take place at MUSA Indoor. Futsal leagues will be looked at as options for some teams.

### **3. Spring Season**

- a. Practices begin late February/early March and continue through the beginning of June
- b. Teams practice 2-3 times each week at the discretion of the coach
- c. Practice times are determined by each team's coach
- d. Teams typically engage in at least one Spring tournament

# **MUSA Flyers Team Roles**

## **Director of Coaching**

The Director of Coaching is responsible for hiring and managing coaches, establishing the skill development curriculum, managing practice schedules, planning and overseeing camps, resolving interpersonal conflicts between coaches, players, and families, and making operational decisions regarding practices, tryouts, fields, equipment, and related matters. The Director manages the assignment of teams in leagues and divisions, and represents the club at league meetings. The Director has final say on player placement.

## **Coach**

The role of a MUSA Flyers Coach is to develop players' technical and tactical skills, to instill teamwork, discipline, and a positive attitude in players, and to put a team into position to compete effectively. Coaches run practices, give guidance and training to players, assign players to positions, and handle player's concerns. They select tournaments they believe will be advantageous to their players. They are responsible for lining up substitute players for games. They bring the player cards to each game.

## **Team Manager**

Team Managers govern team operations: game schedules (game schedules are created by the leagues but managers must make changes where there are conflicts or rainouts), tournament registration, and activities such as team get-togethers. The manager also provides information to team parents, such as changes to schedules, important announcements, and so on. The Club often sends information to managers to have them distribute to their teams (typically in cases where managers may have information to add to the general announcement).

## **Select Representative**

The MUSA Academy/Select Representative serves on the MUSA board and is an active voter on league matters. He/she reports back to the weekly board meetings on what is going on in Academy/Select. He/she also works with the Director of Coaching to help with the day-to-day operations of the club.

## Expectations Toward Parents

MUSA upholds and enforces the FIFA code of conduct for all players and parents. Rude parents send the wrong message to players, other teams, and the leagues. Do not exhibit it, and do not tolerate it in others.

### **Promote the Interest of Soccer**

Soccer is the world's greatest game. But it always needs your help to keep it number one. Think of soccer's interests before your own. Think how your actions may affect the image of the game. Talk about the positive things in the game. Encourage other people to watch it or play it fairly. Help people have as much fun from it as you do. Be an ambassador for the game.

Any parent who is coaching from the sidelines or being a distraction to other parents, coaches, or players will be immediately warned to stop, and if such behavior continues, will be suspended from attending their child's games for the remainder of the season. MUSA takes this seriously.

Parents should set an example for their children to follow. Please refrain from doing the following:

#### -Abusing referees

-Parents should not comment on a referee's calls, period! Referees are human and can make mistakes. It is, ultimately, just a game.

-It is a felony to intimidate or abuse a referee (it is the referee's judgment whether to report it). If a parent receives a yellow or red card during the game for abuse of a referee, and the club is fined, that parent will be responsible for paying the fine to the appropriate league.

#### -Coaching players

-Let the coach do the coaching, they're professionals and have been trained how to provide guidance.

-Don't instruct players on the field: it confuses them, and my conflict with what the coach is telling them

-Cheering should always be non-directional, for example, "Go Flyers!" not "Pass!"

-Parents often have an urge to yell, "Shoot!" **Resist it!** A big part of skill development is learning when to dribble, pass, or take a shot; yelling "Shoot!" may very well be the wrong thing to do in that situation.

-Also, avoid yelling, "Go!" to your child. While this is a natural thing for people to yell during a sporting match, it is a very specific coaching instruction.

- Making negative comments
  - Be positive and avoid criticizing a coach, player, or team, even if not within earshot of others
  - Remember, your child takes his/her cues from you. Teach them to have class and to put aside criticism and be position
  - If you are upset at something you see, resist the temptation to call out or complain about it later. If you are negative, your child will be also.

## **Fan Seating**

- Players sit on one side of the field; fans on the other. Parents are not allowed to be on the side of the field designated for players
- Leagues prefer to have fans from different teams sit separately, generally across from your team's bench
- Don't get involved in arguments with other parents – rise above it, remember it's just a game
- The club encourages parents to sit with other parents and enjoy the game together
- The best thing a parent can do at a game is offer encouragement and positive energy. Yell for the team. Cheer great plays. Let the players experience the magic of playing in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

## **Uniforms and Practice Attire**

### **Uniforms**

- Uniforms for our club are ordered every two years.
- Parents will be informed when it is time to order jerseys. Currently we are utilizing soccer.com for ordering kits.
- Currently, Adidas is the brand of kit we are wearing, ordered through Soccer.com.
- Dressing for the game:
  - All players must be uniformly dressed at every game: proper jersey (either home or away), shorts, socks, and pregame warm-up jacket
  - The home jersey color is gray.
  - The away jersey color is blue.
  - Always bring all jerseys to every game! There are times when players must wear their alternate jersey.

### **Practice Attire**

- Players will be issued practice t-shirts at the start of the season.
- Players are expected to wear grey/orange practice t-shirts, black shorts, and black socks to all of their training sessions.

### **Cold Weather**

-At the end of fall/early spring we understand that it can be quite cold at games and practices. We ask that players wear the appropriate gear if necessary:

- Grey, black, white or blue undershirt
- Black or grey leggings
- MUSA zip-up top
- Gloves

## **Fee Schedule**

We have two options when it comes to playing Select soccer: full season (Fall and Spring) or half season/Spring only (after high school soccer ends, from October through the end of Spring). Our Spring only teams are our high-school aged teams, typically U15 and above. Our Academy is full season. Our fees are based on the amount of time that your child gets for soccer training sessions and game time.

Where do my fees go? That's a common question that we field. For each child, the fees are utilized to pay: DOC (Director of Coaches) salary, your own team's coach's salary, your individual player registration with KSSL, a portion of your team league fee, securing of fields for practices and play that are not at Lake Reba, and the refereeing fees that come with your games.

Current fees for the upcoming season will be as follows:

Full Season (Fall and Spring) - \$875

Spring Only - \$600

Academy - \$675

We provide payment plans to help alleviate the stress of paying everything up front. When you register your child and pay, you can choose the payment option that best suits your needs. Once payments are made, they are non-refundable.

## **FC Cincinnati Affiliation**

In 2020, the MUSA Flyers were selected to be a Youth Affiliate of the Major League Soccer team FC Cincinnati. We are excited to be able to offer club perks and more details will follow.