

Fall season

October, 2005



MOUNT OLIVE SOCCER CLUB, MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP, NJ

# Fall 2005 Update

## The President's Corner

**Welcome to the 2005 – 2006 Soccer Season.** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the MOSC membership, for your support. The time you give to help the club, whether you donate one hour or in one case 18 years, is greatly needed and very much appreciated

The MOSC is facing several challenges this season. The lack of rain this summer accelerates the damage to the fields at ITC and at Turkey Brook. The club is working closely with the Mount Olive Parks Department to keep the green stuff growing at Turkey Brook and at the same time keep the ITC fields playable. Your patience is needed as we juggle the field schedules and locations. Rest assured we will utilize the full potential of Turkey Brook as soon as the field conditions permit.

Adding stress to the field schedule is the construction at the High School. The soccer club is working closely with the High School Athletic Department to accommodate the needs of the High School without displacing the play-

ers within our program. Again, I ask for your patience as the schedule changes frequently.

The spring 2005 season saw the rise and fall of the \$5.00 per registration facility fee. The fee issue may be revisited by the town council in 2006. The MOSC views the fee as a discriminatory tax and will continue to oppose any attempt to pass such an ordinance. The club has developed a bulletin board at the concession stand to keep you informed.

The spring 2005 season also marked the creation of the Jennifer Cialone Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Mount Olive Soccer Club awarded a total of \$2,000 to worthy candidates from the graduating class of 2005. The winners of the scholarships were **SARAH FETTERMAN & DANIELLE PHILLIPS.** Our best wishes to Sarah & Danielle as they start their college careers. The club looks forward to the challenge of expanding this program and providing financial

assistance to our college bound members. Details of the scholarship program can be found on [www.mountolivesoccer.com](http://www.mountolivesoccer.com). I encourage all of our parents to familiarize themselves with this program because today's pre-k player is tomorrow's graduate.

In closing, I would like to thank you for supporting the Mount Olive Soccer Club. Supporting the club by being a coach, a field maintenance volunteer, or simply getting your child to practice helps the club grow. I would also like to remind everyone to cheer for the players. Your encouragement gives every player the opportunity to shine.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the fields.

Fred Phillips, President  
Mount Olive Soccer Club

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### Special dates to note in 2005

*October 22—U8-U11 Halloween Tournament*

*October 29—U12-U14 Halloween Tournament*

*November 2—Mandatory Coaches Meeting, Senior Center, 7 PM*

## In Between the Lines (A Field Perspective)

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It is an hour before game time and the coach's child is dribbling a ball while watching Daddy (or of course Mommy) drag the goals into place and then pound some big metal hooks into the ground to keep the goal from tipping over. Next Daddy begins to shake a paint can and line the field, so that the field will look sharp for that day's game.

This occurs about a hundred times each season and is one of the small parts of how our fields come to life each week. We start on Field Maintenance Day, where we have 30 to 50 volunteers who give us a half a day's work and assist with putting the nets onto goals, moving goals and of course the laying out and lining of our fields, which is

where the greatest amount of labor is needed. Following this day, we have to keep the fields up by lining them every so often.

Parents, you can help your coach and your club just by volunteering an hour or less of your time to line a field. You may be watching your child practice and you go line a field or possibly, you may be interested in Adopt-A-Field, where you are in charge of making sure that field stays lined. The whole key is to ask your child's coach "can I help with anything?" Please, coaches, take the time to find out what help we presently need! Up until the Halloween Tournament, we will need lots of help for we have 11 more fields to lay out and maintain between Turkey

Brook and ITC, so if you can help please contact Chris Newman, [crossingcrew@yahoo.com](mailto:crossingcrew@yahoo.com).

So the next time you see the coach lining the field before your early game with his child at his side, I hope that reminds you to ask "Coach, can I help with anything?"



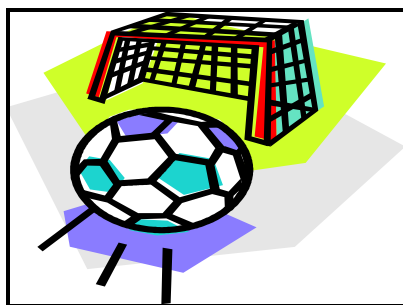
## Travel Updates

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The Fall 2005 season kicked off on September 11th with 15 travel teams from MOSC competing in the Morris County Youth Soccer Association. Seven of our 15 Mount Olive teams participating in MCYSA are competing in Flight 2 (Highly competitive) or higher, with the Mt. Olive Mavericks (U14 Girls-Greg Sanchez) playing in the Elite flight, against some of top-ranked girls team in the State. The Club introduced 4 brand new teams to the league for the Fall 2005 season. The Strikers (U09 Girls – Guy Poggi) are competing in Flight 2 as a new team this season. The Lightning (U9 Boys – Todd Conway) and Storm (U09 Boys – Guiseppe Penza) are competing in Flights 5 and 6. The Galaxy (U13 Girls – Kurt Frustol) have come from our Recreation Program to compete in

Flight 5.

The Club continues to build on the successes of prior seasons and is fast becoming one of Morris County's strongest programs. Teams continue to get top-notch training from the area's best and most qualified instructors. Support from our parents and managers has been nothing short of outstanding. 13 of our 15 teams participated in preseason tournaments getting much-valued match compete-



tion before regular-season play. at 1pm at Turkey Brook Park.

All 15 of our Travel teams will be competing in our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Tournament in late-October as well. If you are interested in having your child participate in the travel program, you are invited to come out on Sunday afternoons to observe and cheer on your local teams. Home games take place on Sundays starting at 1pm at Turkey Brook Park. Check the club website [www.mountlivesoccer.com](http://www.mountlivesoccer.com) or the county web site [www.mcyasa.org](http://www.mcyasa.org) for dates and times. You can also find more information about the travel program by browsing the club website or contacting Pat Keegan, travel director.

# Support Our Referees

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The game of soccer can be a wonderful experience for everyone involved... the players, their parents, organizers (coaches, managers, team parents, and league and club personnel) **as well as the referees**. However, as we observe the growth of this game and the excitement of so many of our children as they play, we also observe behavior by many parents that does not support the overall goals we have for our club. Parents are encouraged to practice what is discussed in this article by reining in other parents that are not being fully supportive.

Let me relate the results of a survey (published in the N.Y. Times in June 1997) given to parents and their children. Parents of kids playing competitive sports and the kids themselves were given a checklist. Both parties were asked to circle the 3 most important reasons why each party wants the child to play the particular competitive sport. The ages were the same as our youngest players, 7 to 10 years old. The parents three most often cited goals were "being challenged," "learning to compete," and "winning." The children most circled goals were "having fun," "learning new skills," and "making friends." In an effort to help bring our goals closer to the goals of our children, allow me to offer the following **THREE LEGS of SUPPORT**.

## **SUPPORT THE PLAYERS**

This means all kids. Make positive comments to players, not negative ones. Don't groan when someone misses the ball. After a loss or a mistake, don't malign the other players. They are children too. Make a rule for yourself... say one positive thing to an opponent each half! Applaud a great save by the opposing goalie, a wonderful pass or a beautiful defensive play.

Forget the constructive criticism. You know, things like "If you only worked on your left foot a little more" or "next time you should pay attention when the coach talks about heading!" **Comments need to be unfailingly positive and supportive.** Kids take even the mildest criticism as a sign that you don't support them. Your job on the sidelines is to revel in their accomplishments and offer a shoulder, a hug or a kiss when everything doesn't go perfectly. If you feel the need to comment on a mistake, how about "Oh, what an unlucky bounce!"

And, please remember that the kids on the other team might be your next door neighbor. Please don't gloat over the mistake made by an opponent. For heaven's sake, no celebrating over a team shellacking. What if it was your child? How would they feel? How would you feel?

## **SUPPORT THE COACH**

Here's a shock, your kid's coach isn't perfect. But, don't make it harder by coaching from the sidelines. Never yell to a player to do something... that's the coach's job. Players **HATE** to hear instructions from more than one source. Never decide that you know best what your child should be doing and complain during the game. If you have an issue, take it up with the coach after the game **out of earshot** of your child. Here's the best advice I can offer, "Let them play!"

It is a shame that the smallest kids play on the smallest fields allowing them to hear everything that everyone says to them! How many times have we seen a child turn around to a parent and say, "but the coach told me..." It's a sure sign that you are interfering with your child's fun. Let the coach do the coaching. You do the cheering.

AND FINALLY...

## **SUPPORT THE REFEREE**

Okay, this is very simple. Refs make mistakes. But, they are the authority in the game of soccer. If you want your child to be a good sport, respect authority and have fun, **NEVER CRITICIZE THE REFEREE**. Let's be honest. Most of you don't really know the rules (Laws) of soccer. Most of you don't have a clue about the intricacies of the offsides rule. Do you know that your child can be knocked to the ground legally? A legal charge that knocks your son or daughter over is not a foul. Do you know that it is not a penalty for a larger player to out-physical a smaller player for the ball?

But, let's get back to the mistakes. To have games, we must have referees. We recruit new refs **EVERY YEAR**. Does anyone think that a new ref is going to make the right call all the time? Of course not. But, does anyone really think that a ref is going to favor one side or the other? Please, these are games. Games as in fun and play. They are not life or death for anyone... especially the ref! Assume the ref will make the same amount of mistakes for both sides.

Let's use an example of another area of life to show you what happens if you, the parent, yell at the ref. Pretend you are in school watching your child learn. You don't like the way the teacher has reprimanded your child. So, you scream at the teacher?!? Of course not. I realize that the analogy is not perfect. But, think about it. Do your kids follow

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## Support Our Referees (continued)

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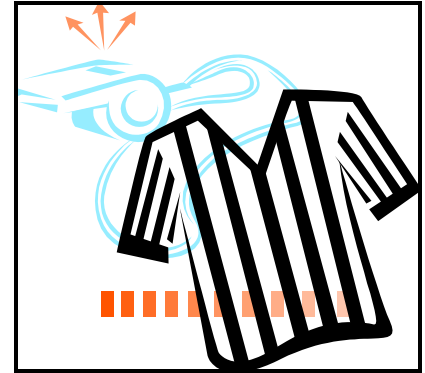
your lead in how they interact with the world? Of course they do. If you are a ref screamer, expect your kids to be also. You wouldn't want your child to yell at a teacher and I'm sure you don't want them yelling at the ref either.

In any event, I must warn you about an important related topic: Referee abuse. It happens very often. I'm not talking about physical assault (although I have seen that too).

I'm talking about a loud mouth Dad screaming at a 14 year old girl (refereeing an Division 6 game) that she belongs in the kitchen. I'm talking about a coach (who has never read FIFA's 20 pages of interpretation of the offsides rule) calling a referee an "idiot." **We will no longer tolerate this type of verbal abuse.**

So, we are back to mistakes. Refs will make them. Please realize that they are part of the game and refuse to let them ruin your enjoyment of your child's fun.

Have a great Fall season!  
Jeff Bass  
MOSC Referee Coordinator



## Patience and Understanding

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During this past summer and early fall we have received historically low amounts of rainfall in our area. In August we received a memo from the Mt. Olive parks & buildings supervisor to restrict

our playing traffic to the Turkey Brook Park fields to that of training sessions and Saturday/Sunday games only. We have honored this request and all club teams have been practicing elsewhere during this time. We

appreciate your patience and understanding as we anxiously look forward to Mother Nature's catching up on our water needs this season.

## New \$5.00 Facility Fee Suspended for 2005 only

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Mount Olive Soccer Club members should be aware that the town council recently added a resolution to Ordinance #16-2005 (by Ord. # 21-2005) whereas each sport participant would have been charged a \$5.00 Facility Fee (use tax) each season for each sport played. By way of this new resolution the Mount Olive Soccer Club is temporarily suspending the collection of the \$5.00 tax we were ordered to collect on behalf of the township in order to receive our field permits. **This resolution and the anticipated passing of ordinance # 21-2005 addresses Fall 2005**

**ONLY with many long term fee issues still open for implementation.**

*Those families who had paid the \$5.00 "use tax" during the fall on-line registration system have been refunded upon the passing of Ordinance # 21-2005 which canceled this fee on or about July 12, 2005.*

The Mount Olive Soccer Club Board of Directors would like to thank those parents/members that took the time to send an email/letter to the town council voicing their objections to this "use tax" to our youth sport participants.

We strongly felt that this \$5.00 fee

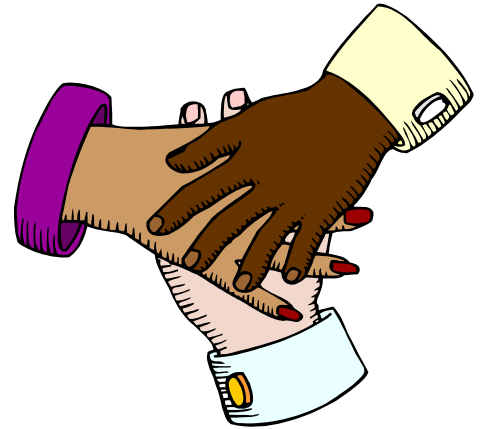
per child per season per sport was a discriminatory TAX. The parks, library, fire departments, schools, and the senior center are parts that make Mount Olive a complete town and as such, the entire community benefits from their growth and development. Once again, we appreciate the added efforts made by many of our members to this matter. This \$5.00 charge is being suspended during a time of change in Mount Olive. It may become the subject of controversy once again during next years budget items and we may need to call upon you again for your support and assistance.

## Glad to Help When We Can

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This summer/fall the Mt. Olive High School began its construction and renovation project. As a result many of the high school athletic teams have been displaced from their fields during this time of improvement. This fall, some of the high school soccer teams needed to have a place to play a couple of scheduled games by using fields at Turkey Brook Park.

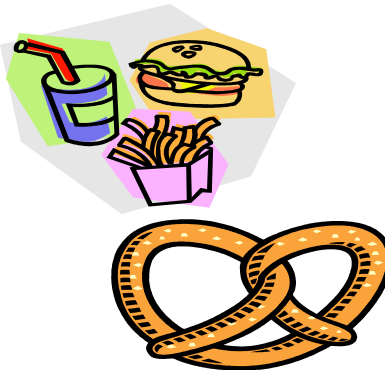
The Mount Olive Soccer Club will continue to help the high school teams where we can and will work diligently with the Recreation Department, High School Athletic Department and the Building and Parks Department to insure that our 900 member program can accommodate and work within the time frame and schedule of the 40-50 high school soccer players during this period.



## New Additions to the Concession Stand

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This fall we graciously accepted the kind generosity from Corbin Dean who volunteered to become the youngest manager in the Mt. Olive Soccer Club in our concession stand. Corbin, a high school student will be taking over many of the responsibilities from John Ryan who recently hurt his back and will be out of commission for a while. Please help us wish a speedy recovery to



to John Ryan and a big hello and thanks to Corbin Dean.

Also before we forget, we just added some new items to the menu and are now serving hot salted pretzels (\$1.25) and White Castle (2/\$1.50) Cheeseburgers.

## Careful Where You Park, and Please Leave Fido Home

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This season parents should take notice of the sign posted at the entrance to Turkey Brook Park. On it, it warns visitors not to park on the grass or risk fines from \$50 - \$100. While at times during cold windy days it is tempting to park a bit closer to the fields by parking in an area where you should not, we would advise you not to do so or risk having to pay the fine. Please be certain to park only in designated parking areas & spots.

Besides, we always have hot coffee and cocoa brewing in the concession

stand on weekends and it's only a short walk from the main parking lot to every field at Turkey Brook.

Each season we always seem to have a few folks insisting on bringing their beloved pet to soccer games and practices. While we absolutely love dogs, we are also very concerned for the safety of the kid's running back and forth in front of them. Additionally we should also mention that not everyone has been cleaning up after their cute big dog and some of our younger club members have gotten

unpleasant surprises while rolling down the hills.

**So please, leave Fido at home or at least take him for a much deserved walk around the loop road. He/she gets bored sitting around watching the kids having all the fun.**

## Criminal Background Checks for Coaches

Coming in the next few months there will more than likely be a town ordinance put in place which will require that ALL COACHES – FROM ALL SPORTS will have to complete a criminal background check which will involve fingerprinting for identification & confirmation purposes. While the exact details (nor ordinance) has not yet been decided or voted on, our members should know that the Mt. Olive Board of Directors is in favor of this program. We have met with both the Police Chief and the Recreation Advisory Committee many times now to find a clear and workable solution and policy.

Additionally, we were recently asked, along with the other “quasi” town sports programs by the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) and **ALL 11 OF US AGREED** that the costs associated with this new program be handled directly by the individual sports groups/clubs with their coaches. These findings were to be submitted to town council for consideration while preparing the ordinance for final vote and approval.

Additionally, while we were reviewing carefully the associated costs involved for this proposed program we (MOSC) felt it would

not be to the benefit of our membership to have a blanket \$5 “surcharge” or per head fee assessed for this program via the suggested township pricing method planned.

While the MOSC is completely in favor of the criminal background check procedure for the safety of children we were extremely concerned about the excess funds that would be generated as a result and felt that the sports clubs were in a better position to handle it more directly with each of their coaches. Once the final details are known on this program we will update everyone.

## 13th Annual Halloween Classic

**AGES U08-U11**  
**Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**  
**AGES U12-U14**  
**Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>.**

This year marks the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our extremely popular Halloween Soccer Tournament. We will be hosting almost 150 teams this year from soccer clubs all over the metropolitan area.

This event is the largest single fundraising effort of the clubs and can only be made possible with the volunteer assistance from you our members. We have asked that each of our instructional teams to supply at least 2 volunteers and that each of our travel teams supply 10 volunteers to assist us during this extremely big event.

In case you haven't noticed, we have changed our format slightly this year and instead of hosting 150 teams in a single day over 6 locations. We decided (for many reasons) to split the tournament into 2 smaller single day events using only 2 locations. By breaking up by age groups U08-U11 & U12-U14 we felt that it would also free up both parents and coaches to volunteer time during their “off weekend” of playing. If you haven't offered to help yet, there is still time. Please contact Dawn Bublitz at [dbublitz@optonline.net](mailto:dbublitz@optonline.net) to add your name to the list.



# Volunteers ALWAYS Needed

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Your club is desperately in need of volunteers on an ongoing basis. We have many open positions that are being covered with overlapping volunteers from other primary areas. No experience is needed and you will have the support & help of many "seasoned" volunteers in getting started. Please reach out to any coach and/or board member and let us know that you are willing to help out.

We really need the support and efforts of many volunteers in addition to our great coaching staff. Please feel free to direct your questions to either Harry Browne at [vpops@mountolivesoccer.com](mailto:vpops@mountolivesoccer.com) or Don Neeb at [vpplay@mountolivesoccer.com](mailto:vpplay@mountolivesoccer.com)



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