



SENECA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

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PURPOSE

The Seneca Soccer Association exists to provide a quality soccer program for the children of Montgomery County's Seneca Valley region (which includes the areas of Gaithersburg, Darnestown, Germantown, and Rockville) at reasonable cost to participants.

PHILOSOPHY

The Seneca Soccer Association views its role as providing an opportunity for individuals and teams of Montgomery County's Seneca Valley region an opportunity to play competitive soccer.

We strive to work in partnership with other Youth Leagues and Clubs in the best interest of the youth player and not coaches, clubs, or parents.

The Seneca Soccer Association (SSA) sponsors both boys and girls youth soccer teams in the travel leagues of the Metropolitan Washington DC area. These are primarily the National Capital Soccer League (NCSL) for boys and the Washington Area Girls Soccer League (WAGS) for girls. However, in order to form and develop teams to play at this level, we also are committed to supporting recreational and classic level teams with a long-term goal of entering a travel soccer league.

We strive to achieve this while minimizing the cost to the youth. We rely on volunteers to participate in the leadership of the Association. It is expected that every club will have one or more of its parents participating in some way as a volunteer.

We co-host an annual youth soccer tournament and all members are expected to participate as playing teams and as volunteer workers in staging the tournament.

Since 1984, SSA has a long-standing philosophy of autonomous control by the member teams. We offer a club environment that encourages self-determination by our individual teams and promote the viewpoint that there is no single formula for success in youth soccer. Participation, growth, friendships -- these are the measures of a successful youth soccer experience and create a lifelong love of "the Beautiful Game".

SERVICES

Trainers - The Association will recommend Field Trainers from its coaches and other trainers who have been recommended by member teams.

Coaches - The Association believes that coaches should make every effort to develop their coaching skills to better develop the mental and physical aspects of each player.

Licensing. The Association will reimburse coaches $\frac{1}{2}$ the Registration Fee for any Coaching License class upon successful achievement of the license. The Association does not reimburse travel, lodging or food expenses.

Clinics. From time to time, the Association conducts coaching clinics targeted at the development of all the member club coaches.

Team - The Association knows that its ongoing success is dependent on the formation of new travel teams and the transition of existing recreation and classic level teams to the travel level. It also supports the ongoing improvement of existing teams.

Formation. The Association is committed to helping coaches, parents, and players form teams to compete at the travel level. In some instances, these teams may start playing at the recreation or classic level until they are ready to step up to a more competitive level and in some cases, until there are openings in the leagues.

Transition. The Association is committed to helping coaches, parents, and players transition from recreation and classic levels of soccer to travel soccer. In some instances, these teams may play at the classic level until they are ready to step up to a more competitive level and in some cases, until there are openings in the leagues.

Improvement. The Association is committed to helping member teams identify players who are interested in trying out for a travel team.

ORGANIZATION

The Executive Committee of the Association includes the three officers who are elected for 2 year terms:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The Executive Committee also includes the following positions appointed by the President:

- NCSL Representative
- WAGS Representative
- August Cup Tournament Volunteer Coordinator
- Field Coordinator
- At-Large Members
- The immediate Past President

Meetings:

Executive Committee Meetings.

All Board members are expected to attend. The meetings are open to any member of the Association.

Full Association Meetings:

- Each member is expected to have at least one representative at these meetings.
- A meeting is held prior to and following both the Spring and Fall seasons.

VALUES

- Fun -** Playing soccer should be fun. Soccer is a game.
- Development -** Every effort should be made to help each player develop to their fullest potential.
- Balance -** We believe that each player, coach and team must maintain a balance between their commitment to soccer, their education and their family. While soccer may be the number one sports priority, it must be balanced with other important aspects necessary for the development of well-rounded individuals.
- Sportsmanship -** Each player, each coach, and each team must commit to fair play, and to abide by the Seneca Player, Coach, and Parent Guidelines as well as League Rules.

- Competition -** We are committed to helping each player, coach and team be prepared to compete at the highest level possible.
- Playing Time -** Travel soccer teams use the player's performance in practice and in games to guide the coach to the appropriate playing time for the individual.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The Association accepts ***“Travel Status”*** teams. ***“Travel Status”*** teams are those who participate in leagues that are classified as competitive in nature (such as Washington Area Girls Soccer (WAGS) League, National Capital Soccer League (NCSL), Maryland Premier Soccer League (MPSL)). This may include teams currently on a waiting list for admittance to one of the leagues listed above or teams who are currently on a track leading to admittance to one of the leagues listed above.

- Travel teams pay a Club Fee (currently \$300) to cover the cost of field reservations, paint, field equipment, etc. This applies to all Travel teams who use the club's fields.
- Travel team representatives are expected to attend the regularly scheduled club meetings.
- Travel teams are expected to participate in the SSA hosted **August Cup Tournament** (if age eligible) and all teams are required to have parents or players volunteer their time on various work assignments in support of the tournament.
- Clinics and other services provided by the Association are designed to meet the needs of the Travel teams.
- Travel team coaches are expected to have at least an “E” license or initiate a plan to take an “E” license course.
- A team interested in applying for membership in the Seneca Soccer Association must complete the “Travel Team Membership Application Form” and provide any required attachments. Once received and complete, the application will be considered by the Board of Directors where they must receive majority vote of the Board in order to be admitted. Travel teams applying for membership are invited to be present at this meeting to address any questions the Board might have.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

- Have at least one parent of the team participate as member of the Board of Directors or one of the Association's Committees.
- Actively participate in team fund-raisers.
- Adhere to SSA Code of Conduct in the Association's By-Laws.
- Adhere to the SSA Recruiting Guidelines in the Association's By-Laws.
- Adhere to the Acknowledgment and Affiliation Guidelines in the Association's By-Laws.
- Adhere to the Coaching Guidelines.
- Adhere to the Parent Guidelines.

COACHES GUIDELINES

The following Coaches Guidelines have been developed for all coaches of Seneca Soccer Association sponsored teams.

Coaches are examples to the players, their parents and other children. Coaches must therefore always:

- 1) Demonstrate by their words and actions faithfulness to the Purpose and Values of the Association.
- 2) Treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent and others with respect and dignity.
- 3) Do their best to teach the fundamental rules and strategies of the sport.
- 4) Be familiar with and adhere to the international rules of soccer and the rules of the league.
- 5) Support the authority of officials who are assigned to the contests and assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
- 6) Recognize that their conduct at practices and at games is an example to the players and behave accordingly.
- 7) Protect the health and safety of the players by insisting that all activities are conducted for the player's psychological and physiological welfare.
- 8) Learn the strengths and weaknesses of each player so that you can place them in situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
- 9) Do everything possible to be sure that each player receives a fair amount of playing time each game.
- 10) Conduct practices and games so that all players have an opportunity to improve their skill level through active participation.
- 11) Communicate to players and their parents their rights and responsibilities of the individuals and parents.
- 12) Do everything possible to make the experience **FUN** for every player.

PLAYERS GUIDELINES

The following Players Guidelines have been developed for all players of Seneca Soccer Association sponsored teams.

Soccer is a game and as such should be played by ladies and gentlemen according to the rules established by FIFA and the leagues in which teams participate. Each and every player should demonstrate good sportsmanship and their play should reflect positively on the Association. Players must therefore:

- 1) Demonstrate by their words and actions faithfulness to the Purpose and Values of the Association.
- 2) Treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent and others with respect and dignity.
- 3) Do their best to learn the fundamental rules and strategies of the sport.
- 4) Be familiar with and adhere to the international rules of soccer and the rules of the league.

PARENT GUIDELINES

The following Parent Guidelines have been developed for all parents of Seneca Soccer Association teams.

Parents are examples to the players, their fellow parents, and children who attend the games as spectators. Parents must therefore always:

- 1) Demonstrate by your words and actions faithfulness to the Purpose and Values of the Association.
- 2) Treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent and others with respect and dignity.
- 3) Do your best to learn the fundamental rules and strategies of the sport.
- 4) Support the authority of officials who are assigned to the contests and assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
- 5) Protect the health and safety of the players by insisting that all activities are conducted for the player's psychological and physiological welfare.
- 6) Do everything possible to make the experience **FUN** for every player.
- 7) Let the coaches direct and coach the players.
- 8) Be great spectators!
- 9) Find opportunities to support your coach.
- 10) Act on the sidelines the way you want your child to act on the field.
- 11) Take the opportunity to get to know the other parents.

TRAVEL TEAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Team Name _____ Boys Girls (circle one)

FIFA Age Group (please circle)

U8 U9 U10 U11 U12 U13 U14 U15 U16 U17 U19

Birth Date of the Oldest Player _____

Name of Current League _____

Coach

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Manager

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Assistant Manager

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (____) _____ - _____

Cell (____) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

Team/Coaching Philosophy

Coaching Experience

Team History (*# of years together, sportsmanship record, playing record*)

Description of your parental commitment

Why do you want to join the Seneca Soccer Association?

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

We have read and understand the Seneca Soccer Association Membership Guide and By-Laws. If this application of membership is accepted by the Association, we agree to adhere to the Seneca Soccer Association Membership Guide and By-Laws and any subsequent changes properly enacted.

Coach _____ Date _____

Assistant Coach _____ Date _____

Manager _____ Date _____