Matteson Square Garden
Soccer Rules and Regulations

Updated; 10-01-10

Welcome to Matteson Square Garden, the professional venue for the amateur athlete, and your home for indoor soccer. We have put together the enclosed in order to provide a fun and safe place for everyone in our community. Please help us to provide a great experience every time you visit Matteson Square Garden, by following these few rules and regulations we have provided, both on and off the field.

1. PAYMENT

As per our website and fliers, MSG has specific registration deadlines each session. Your team must have your deposit paid ($200) prior to the deadline in order to reserve your spot in the league. Your team's remaining balance must be paid in full prior to the start of your first game. If your team is not paid in full by the first game, your team will be charged a $100 late fee.

2. LIAVILITY WAIVERS

Each player participating in soccer activities at MSG must sign a liability waiver. If under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign for them. Players participating on multiple teams need to have only one liability waiver signed. Players who do not have a signed liability waiver cannot participate. Once your liability waiver has been signed, you will not be required to complete the waiver again.

3. ROSTER FORMS

Each coach or manager is responsible for completing an online team roster prior to the start of their game. A maximum of 18 players may be carried per team. Changes to team rosters may be made through the team's third game. Rosters are frozen after the third game. Teams who are playing with players not on the roster may forfeit games that the unrostered player has participated in.

4. PROTESTS

Teams may file a protest regarding a player's eligibility only. Protests will not be accepted regarding referee decisions. Should a team wish to protest over eligibility, the protest must be made no later than one hour after the completion of the game in question and be accompanied by a $100 protest fee. Should the team win the protest, the fee will be refunded. If the protest is lost, MSG will keep the $100 fee. Should a team have a reasonable problem with a referee, it should be reported to the management and a video of the game may be reviewed.

5. SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING

MSG will do its best to accommodate all of your scheduling requests. Any days and times your team cannot play should be made available to MSG at the time of registration. We will do our best to meet your needs, but we cannot guarantee all requests. No changes will be made once the schedule is printed. Should you need to reschedule a game, please submit a request to a manager and depending on availability we will try to accommodate your request.

6. DIVISIONING

All teams will be placed in divisions based on age and requests for either Competitive of Recreational levels of play. MSG reserves the right to promote or relegate a team from one division to another after the completion of each session. A player cannot play on two teams in the same division.

7. NO SMOKING, DRUGS OR CONCEALED WEAPONS: MSG is a non-smoking facility and will not tolerate drugs nor concealed weapons!

8. REFEREES

MSG will use a single referee for all games, unless otherwise indicated. The referee will have the sole discretion of enforcing the rules of the game to the best of his/her ability and to his/her best to provide a safe, fair and fun environment for all concerned. All coaches, players and fans will give our referees the respect to which they are entitled. Teams at all levels should be used to the zero tolerance rules that are being strictly enforced at all levels. – MSG is a zero tolerance facility as well.

9. SLIDE TACKLES

Slide tackling, or sliding in general (aside from the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area) is not allowed at MSG. Violation of this rule may result in a card for the offending player.

10. PLAYER BENCH AREA

Only players, coaches, and managers that are listed on the team's roster are allowed in the bench area. It is the coach's responsibility to keep his team's fans out of his players' area. Refusal to comply with this rule may result in a 2-minute bench penalty. No food is allowed in bench area. No alcohol is allowed in bench area. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a time penalty and possible expulsion from the building.

11. SOCCER BALLS

The use of soccer balls outside the field playing surface is prohibited. MSG will not provide warm-up or game balls. Each team is responsible for bringing balls to warm-up with prior to the start of the game and one team will be required to supply a game ball.

12. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Based on age group, the following number of players will be on the field for each division:

Small Field	Number of Players
Pre K - 2nd Grade	4 players + goalkeeper

Large Field	Number of Players
3rd Grade - 8th Grade	6 players + goalkeeper
High School - Adult	5 players + goalkeeper
Coed (3 male, 3 female)	6 players + goalkeeper

13. BALL

All teams 6th Grade and under will play with a size 4 ball. All teams 7th Grade and older will play with a size 5 ball.

14. EQUIPMENT

All players, at High School level and lower must wear shin guards. Adult players have the option to wear shin guards or not. Players who do not will not be allowed to play until shin guards are on. All teams must wear the same colored jerseys. Players who do not have the same color jersey will not be allowed to play. Should a color conflict arise, the away team (listed on the schedule) will be required to change uniforms. Players are allowed to wear indoor shoes, tennis shoes, turf shoes or cleats. MSG's field turf is designed to wear all different types of shoes. Jewelry and illegal or dangerous equipment (as per FIFA rules) will not be allowed. Failure to comply with this rule may also result in a 2 minute time penalty. It is the responsibility of the coach/manager to ensure his or her players are properly equipped. Any players who do not adhere to the equipment rules will be asked to leave the field of play to make equipment adjustments.

15. LENGTH OF GAME

All games played on the large field shall consist of (2) 22 minute halves. All games played on the small field shall consist of (2) 20 minute halves. Teams will be provided a 5-minute warm-up period and a 1-minute break at half-time. Teams should be ready to play after the 5 minute warm-up period has ended. If game times are running behind warm-up time could be shortened to 2 minutes, but will never be less. Minimum player requirements to start include; Pre K - 2nd Grade (3 players + goalkeeper), 3rd Grade - 8th Grade (4 players + goalkeeper), High School - Adult (3 players + goalkeeper), Coed (4 players + goalkeeper)

16. METHOD OF SCORING

All goals = 1 point.
Coed = 1 point male goals, 2 points female goals.

** We do not have the rule that a female must "touch" the ball on the attacking half **

17. TEAM RECORDS

All teams will receive 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. Division standings will be determined by points. Tie-breakers are, in order: Head-to-head result, fewest goals conceded, and most goals scored.

18. SUBSTITUTION OPPORTUNITIES

Teams may choose to substitute on the fly or at guaranteed substation opportunities at MSG. The following is a list of substitution opportunities. A yes indicates that the stoppage is a guaranteed substitution opportunity.

Opportunity	Youth	Adult
After a goal is scored	Yes	Yes
After a penalty has been issued	Yes	Yes
Clock is stopped for injury	Yes	Yes
Ball out of bounds	No	No
Ball hits ceiling	No	No
Prior to start of half	Yes	Yes
Any unusual stoppage	Yes	Yes
Free Kicks	No	No

All free kicks must be substituted for on the fly. This applies to fouls, violations of pass back rules, etc. A substitute cannot play the ball until the player he or she is substituting for is within 1 yard in front of his/her bench. If either player plays the ball prior to when the substitution has been made, it will result in a free kick awarded to the other team.

Goalkeepers may be substituted on the fly, provided the referee has been notified and he/she is wearing a jersey that is different in color from his or her teammates. Additionally, the substitution of a goalkeeper must also comply with the standard substitution rules for all field players.

19. FREE KICKS

All free kicks at MSG are direct, which means a goal can be scored directly from any kick, including kick-offs and goal kicks. All free kicks and kicking situations that do not involve guaranteed substitutions must be put back into play in 5 seconds. If teams do not play the ball within 5 seconds, the ball will be given to their opponent. All set walls on free kicks must be back 5 yards. The kicking team may ask the referee to move the wall back 5 yards, in which case they have to wait for a second whistle to take the kick. Otherwise, teams do not have to wait for a whistle on a free kick if a guaranteed substitution has not taken place.

20. RESTARTS

The following is a list of restarts at MSG:

a. Ball goes out of bounds on the sideline - ball is placed next to the wall no more than 1 yard away from the wall.

b. Ball hits ceiling - ball is placed at center of neutral zone line at line nearest to the point it was kicked out.

c. Goalkeeper pass back violation - at top of arc at penalty area.

d. End-line off defender – corner kick spot.

e. End-line off offensive player – ball in keeper's hands.

f. After a goal is scored – center mark.

g. Any infraction normally resulting in an indirect kick that occurs in penalty area – at top of arc at penalty area.

h. Any infraction normally resulting in a penalty kick -- penalty kick given at dot closest to goal line.

21. PENAL FOULS

A free kick will be awarded for kicking, tripping, jumping at, holding, pushing, charging violently, striking, spitting, slide-tackling or boarding an opponent

A blue or red card may be assessed. A 2-minute penalty will be assessed for all blue cards, and a 5 minute penalty will be assessed for all red cards.

A player will sit out an automatic one game for his/her first red card. This does not include the game he received the red card in. A two-game suspension or more may be given, depending on the severity of the offense.

Any player receiving a red card for fighting, retaliation and leaving the bench to enter a fight, will be suspended for the remainder of the session. Should these incidents occur in the final game of the session, that player will be suspended for the next session.

22. BENCH PENALTIES

Bench penalties involve misconduct from teams (coaches, managers, players, and spectators), delay of game, illegal substitutions and too many players on the field. A violation will result in a 2-minute time penalty to be served by any player on the bench, unless a specified player is determined guilty by the referee. If any manager or coach is given a time penalty, that penalty must be served by the player. If such person is given a red card, a player must serve the 5 minute penalty and that person must leave the arena. If the ejected person refuses to leave the arena, that team will forfeit.

23. TIME PENALTIES

a. **ALL** penalized players must report to the penalty box and remain there until the penalty is served in full.

b. The time for the penalty will start when the game has been legally restarted.

c. A player serving a 2-minute minor penalty shall return to the field of play at the time a goal has been scored against the player's team, if playing short. If an equal number of players from both teams are in the penalty box, no one will be allowed to return to the field until the teams are at equal strength.

d. A player serving a 5-minute major penalty for an ejected player may return to the field of play at the end of the full 5-minutes. All 5-minute penalties must be served completely, no matter how many goals are scored.

e. A player may receive more than one 2-minute penalty at one time. (i.e. Dissent towards a referee may facilitate an additional 2 minute penalty, making a 4 minute, double-minor penalty.)

f. On a penalty kick, the player may return to the field immediately after a goal has been scored.

g. Any player receiving three 2-minute penalties in the same game will automatically be ejected from that game.

24. GOALKEEPER RESTRICTIONS

a. The outdoor pass back rule is in effect. On any occasion, when a player deliberately kicks the ball back to his goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with his/her hands. A violation results in a free kick at the top of the penalty area.

b. The goalkeeper can win the ball with his/her feet outside the penalty area and bring it back into the penalty area and pick it up with his/her hands. The keeper may not pick up the ball when it is outside the penalty area, even if the keeper's body is inside the area. This results in a handball and a free kick given at the spot where the infraction occurred.

c. Goalkeepers have 5 seconds to distribute the ball after making a save. This means 5 seconds after the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her complete possession. A violation of this rule will result in a free kick at the top of the penalty box arc.

d. Goalkeepers do not have to serve their own time penalties, with the exception of red card infractions. Otherwise a teammate will be chosen to serve the penalty. The penalty, however, is charged to the keeper.

e. Goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop-kick the ball after receiving possession. The goalkeeper may throw the ball out using their hands or place the ball on the ground and use his/her feet to distribute the ball into play. Once the ball is placed onto the ground, it is considered a "live" ball.

25. CO-ED Rules

a. Each team will have 3 women and 3 men on the field.

b. The gender of the goalkeeper does not matter.

c. A female must take all restarts in the offensive half of play.

d. Anyone can take restarts in the defensive half of play.

e. If a team is short female players, the team must play short. (i.e. 3 males and 2 females, not 4 males and 2 females).

f. If a female scores a goal it counts as 2 points, if a male scores a goal it counts as 1 point. MSG does not have a rule stating that the ball must "touch" a female player before a male can score.

26. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Spitting on the carpet will result in an automatic 2-minute penalty.

b. MSG is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

c. Slamming the doors will result in an automatic 2-minute penalty.

d. Gum on the carpeting is a serious problem. There is no gum allowed in the building. Please advise your teams.

e. Verbal abuse of referees by managers, coaches, players, and/or fans will not be tolerated.

f. MSG doesn't have a "no play" from behind rule. If the ball is poked from behind with no contact it is a playable ball. Over 30 divisions, we will enforce the "no play" from behind rule however.

g. No outside food or drinks are allowed in the facility.

If you are unsure about any of the above mentioned rules, please e-mail us at: mattesontriplex@charter.net. FIFA rules apply if not modified within above stated rules.