



MLSC COMPETITIVE HANDBOOK

2026-2027

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

- **Academy / LSAP** – MLSC participates in the Louisiana Soccer Academy Program (LSAP). Designed to make learning the game enjoyable for youth players with emphasis and focus on individual technical development, and not on team outcome. Players will be encouraged to learn and develop technical skills and use game formats to perform learned skills. Training emphasis will be on deceptive dribbling and ball striking. Because failure is to be expected, the attempt is celebrated rather than the result.

Players in the age group of **9U and 10U** will participate in pool training and take part in Jamborees, Playdates, and scheduled “friendly” matches. Game scores and rankings will not be kept. Teams will be formed based on balance or by ability prior to each scheduled event. Players registered in the LSAP program can still play recreational soccer. All players in the LSAP program will receive equal playing time.

- **Classic Team** – Designed to provide further development of players in a competitive environment. Coaches are required to have successfully completed one (1) online and two (2) in-person US Soccer Coaching Modules (one of the in-person must be the 11 v 11 Module). Classic teams will train 2-3 times per week as directed by the coach.

Playing time will be at the discretion of each coach. All players should expect to receive 50% combined playing time during the year. Actual playing time will vary as coaches will consider attendance, tardiness, and attitude. During any one game, players may receive less than 50% playing time.

Coaches will submit player evaluations upon the completion of each season (Fall and Spring) and will be asked to provide Individual Player Programs (IDP) for each player based upon that player’s evaluation. Players registered as Classic Team players are not eligible to participate in recreational soccer.

TRYOUT PERIOD

- Academy Program (9U / 10U) – tryouts shall commence on the Monday following the Bob Abbott Cup and shall conclude on the second Friday thereafter at 12:00 pm.
- Classic Level (11U - 13U) – tryouts shall commence on the Monday following the Bob Abbott Cup and shall conclude on the second Friday thereafter at 12:00 pm.
- Classic Level (14U & older) – tryouts shall commence on the Monday following the conclusion of the LSA State Cup for that age group and shall conclude on the second Friday thereafter at 12:00 pm.
- The Invitation Period shall commence immediately upon the conclusion of the Tryout Period for each specific age group.

COMPETITIVE SEASON

The official season starts with Team Camp at the end of July. Practices are Monday through Friday and designed to welcome back players and promote chemistry among the players. The Fall season will commence the week after Team Camp and conclude in November (before Thanksgiving). The Spring season will begin in late-January or early-February and conclude in May. Each season will be approximately 15-weeks in length.

Note that competitive players in 13U & older ages will conclude their Fall season earlier and return for the Spring season later, in accordance with LHSAA and MHSAA rules.

COMPETITION

- **9U / 10U**

- 16-20 games each Fall/Spring season
 - Premier Soccer League (PSL for 9U and 10U) – 3 dates for 6 games
 - Inter Club Friendly Games – 2-4 games
 - Jamborees/Playdates (9U and 10U) – 2-4 opportunities (4-8 games)

All competition will be in the Southeast Louisiana and Jackson-metro areas. Playdates and Jamborees will not require overnight stays.

- **11U and older**

- 16-20 games each Fall/Spring season
 - Louisiana Classic Soccer League (LCSL for 11U and older) – 3-4 games
 - Inter Club Friendly Games – 2-4 opportunities
 - Tournaments – 3-4 dates (9-12 games)

Teams may play one “travel” tournament outside of the area (Southeast Louisiana and Jackson-metro) for exposure to competition from different teams. Tournament selection is at the discretion of each coach and manager.

CLUB FEES

Cost - \$350.00 / \$250.00 Fall or Spring only

- Academy (9U / 10U)
- Pre-Competitive (11U / 12U)
- Competitive (13U & older)

Club Fees include:

- Team Camp
- Registration
- LSA Insurance
- Licensed Coaching and Training
- Operational and Administrative Costs

TEAM EXPENSES

Estimated Cost

- 9U / 10U - **\$275.00 / \$140.00 Fall or Spring only**
- 11U / 12U - **\$375.00 / \$190.00 Fall or Spring only**
- 13U & older - **\$385.00 / \$195.00 Fall or Spring only**

Team fees are in addition to Club fees and will be billed out in installments at the start of the year. These fees are deposited into a Team account and are used to cover the team's expenses.

Team Expenses include:

- **Tournament / Festival Entry Fees**
- **Referee Fees**
- **Coach Travel Expenses (mileage, per diem, hotel, etc.)**
- **League Entry Fees (LSAP, PSL, LC SL, etc.)**
- **Video Equipment (Veo, Trace, etc.)**

Team expenses are shared equally among all players on the team/roster, regardless of participation in games, jamborees, playdates, or tournaments. Each team coach and manager will create a budget for team expenses that outlines the items listed above. Budgets will be made available to each family upon request. Each family is responsible for their player's portion even if the player does not participate in the event. The total team cost may vary depending on the number of games and events each team participates in. Team participation will be determined by each team coach and manager.

The estimated amount represents the expected total team fees to be collected at the beginning of each year. If actual team expenses exceed the prepaid amount, families will be billed for the difference and payment due upon receipt. If actual team expenses for the year fall below the estimated amount, balances will be credited/refunded accordingly.

Players rostered for only one season, Fall or Spring, will be billed for half the estimated team expenses. and will be billed, or credited, accordingly.

PAYMENT PLAN OPTIONS

MLSC understands the financial commitment to competitive soccer and offers monthly payment plan options:

- 9-Month Plan
- 8-Month Plan
- 6-Month Plan
- 3-Month Plan is offered for single season player families

Each plan requires an initial payment of \$75.00 as the first installment. Payment plans are subject to a \$5 late fee per month. Overdue payment status is subject to a change in player eligibility status.

UNIFORM

MLSC is an Adidas contracted club. Payment for uniforms will be made to **REX SPORTS/SPORTS CENTER** directly. Competitive players will purchase practice/training jersey and game uniforms in 2-year cycles. Our next two-year cycle will begin Fall / Spring of the 2026-27 competitive season. All competitive players will wear a **GREY** practice/training jersey, navy shorts and socks, as well as our **NAVY** and **ORANGE** competitive uniforms, for all training and competitions. It is suggested that players purchase more than one practice jersey.

Player numbers will be assigned by the club. The club will make best efforts to designate numbers according to player requests but cannot guarantee it.

LIST OF REQUIRED APPAREL	ADIDAS	COLOR
Home Jersey	Squadra 25 Shirt	team light grey OR team orange
	sponsor logo (2), number, club crest	
Home Shorts	Squadra 25 Short	team light grey
	number	
Home Socks	Copa Zone Cushion 5 OTC	team light grey
Away Jersey	Tabela 23 Jersey	team navy 2
	sponsor logo (2), number, club crest	
Away Shorts	Tiro 26 League Short	team navy 2
	number	
Away Socks	Copa Zone Cushion 5 OTC	team navy blue/white
Practice Jersey	Estro 19 Jersey	team orange
	sponsor logo (2), number, club crest	
Goalkeeper Jersey	Tabela 23 Jersey (GK)	team yellow / black
Goalkeeper Practice Jersey	Tastigo 25 Short (GK)	team yellow

FINANCIAL AID

MLSC is committed to ensuring that no child is denied the opportunity to participate due to financial hardship. Financial assistance may be offered to families according to need.

Applications must be submitted through PlayMetrics. The Financial Aid tab is located under Club Programs on both desktop and phone app versions.

Families are strongly encouraged to submit their application prior to accepting team invitations to allow sufficient time for processing. Applicants will be required to provide proof of income to be considered for assistance and must also be willing to fulfill volunteer service hours for MLSC, if requested. All applications are reviewed by the MLSC Finance Committee, and applicants will be notified of the committee's decision via email within approximately two weeks.

Please note that need-based financial assistance does not apply to team expenses or uniforms. Families must be prepared to pay all team-related expenses either in full upfront or through prepaid monthly installment arrangements.

FUNDRAISING

Teams are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities to offset team expenses. The total funds raised will be divided equally among all participating players and credited to each player's individual account. Participation in fundraising activities is encouraged but not required. All team fundraising activities must first be approved by the Club President, Competitive Director, or Director of Coaching.

CLUB EXPECTATIONS

24-Hour Rule: Parents and coaches should refrain from discussing any potentially conflicting opinions within a 24-hour period (e.g., time, player position, substitutions, etc.). To avoid misunderstanding between parents and coaches (and club) it is highly recommended that all staff coaches:

- Know the club rules and abide by them
- Parents will not harass referees, opponents, or their coaches at any point
- At every opportunity meet and explain to parents (e.g. at your parent meetings) the restrictions that are placed on you as a coach for a particular age group
- Coaches will prepare a fair substitution schedule before each game and follow it as best you can
- Meet with parents periodically to inform them about the dynamics within your team(s) and how the team is evolving. More importantly, meet just to educate them about the game, in general,

We ask that all team issues or concerns be addressed in the following steps:

- First - Direct communication with the Head Coach
- Second – Communication with the Director of Coaching, if the issue is not resolved
- Third – Communication with Executive Director, if the issue is not resolved

Missing Practice & Games: At the U13 through U19 age groups, players must sit out at least half a game for missing any practices prior to competition.

Practice Dress Code (players): All players **MUST** wear official GREY practice jerseys, navy shorts and socks (preferably Adidas). Finally, all players must wear shirts at practice (Absolutely NO shirts vs. skins). Players must practice as they play. They must wear shin guards, which must be fully covered by socks.

Communication: All club communications will be done through the MLSC office via PlayMetrics:

- Mass Email, email to the entire competitive program, individual teams, managers and coaches
- Mass or Group notification or chat
- Announcement banner posted on our website
- Phone calls

Practice Cancellation: In case of inclement weather, families will be notified via:

- Mass or Group notification or team chat
- Posted on our web site
- Cancellation at the field (in the event we did not have the opportunity to cancel practice ahead of time).