

PITTSFIELD SOCCER CLUB

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PURPOSE:

The Pittsfield Soccer Club (PSC) is organized as a non-profit 501c3 Massachusetts youth travel soccer club. The club was formed to:

- A. Promote and develop a youth travel soccer program.
- B. Educate both participants and their parents in the sport of soccer, promoting public awareness and support for the sport.
- C. Participate and be affiliated with the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA), Berkshire County Youth Soccer League (BCYSL), and other such associations and programs necessary to promote the growth and development of youth soccer.
- D. Recruit and develop coaches and other support personnel, and to participate in and / or sponsor tournaments.
- E. Organize and develop teams for premier and tournament play, open to players countywide, in conjunction with Soccer Domain Academy.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Pittsfield Soccer Club is to provide the highest quality soccer training, education, and programs to the club's players while giving each PSC player the opportunity to learn and play soccer in a supportive and rewarding environment that emphasizes fun, skill development, teamwork and sportsmanship. The PSC is a non-profit volunteer organization sanctioned by MYSA and USYSA.

ORGANIZATION:

The Board of Directors administers PSC activities. The Board has the responsibility of overseeing the activities of the Club and charting the long-term directions and plans. Recognizing the clubs reliance on volunteers, the Board has delegated responsibility for individual team activities to coaches and managers and has empowered the Operating Committee, the Club Co-coordinators, Secretary and Treasurer to act on behalf of the club in accomplishing these goals. Suggestions brought to the Board by the Operating Committee require majority approval.

BOARD MEETINGS:

The club will hold an Annual general Meeting each year. The date and location will be announced and will be open to club participants. Minutes are kept and available through the club secretary.

CLUB FINANCES:

The financial records of the Pittsfield Soccer Club are maintained by the club treasurer and reported to the Board of Directors at each meeting. Should the need arise, an audit committee will be formed to review the clubs finances annually.

INSURANCE:

PSC players and coaches, as well as all volunteers, are covered by MYSA insurance. The club will obtain appropriate insurance coverage for fundraisers and other events if needed.

COACH SELECTION AND TRAINING:

The club endeavors to select and maintain a strong group of dedicated coaches who have a keen interest in meeting the goal of developing players in a very soccer friendly environment. Coaches are appointed by the Operating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors for one-year terms and renewed at the will of the Operating Committee. New coaches receive a one-season introductory appointment subject to review by the Operating Committee. The PSC strongly advocates the continuing development of our coaching staff. Coaches will adhere to all rules and regulations imposed by MYSA and the BCYSL. Accordingly, the club has appointed a Director of Coaching Development who is responsible for working with the coaches and increasing their knowledge and skills. The Club continues to promote coach advanced training and certification opportunities.

Any individual interested in coaching, or helping in any way should contact the Club Co-Coordinator or the Director of Coaching Development to begin the process of review and appointment.

TEAM TRAINING:

The PSC has partnered with Ashley's Soccer Camp (ASC) to train its teams. ASC trainers will be responsible for all player development within the PSC. In addition, ASC will run other soccer programs, camps, and clinics in conjunction with the PSC.

CORI PROGRAM:

The Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) mandates that CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) checks be done on all adults involved in the club's programs. All coaches and volunteers will be required to complete the CORI process through the MYSA website.

TEAM COMPOSITION:

PSC teams are formed annually through our tryout/evaluation process. Tryouts for the spring season will be held on an as needed basis to be determined by the Operating Committee. This evaluation process is completed with the help of independent evaluators and with the goal of giving each individual an opportunity to make their mark over a two-day period. Each season, this process is a very difficult one, with minor differences separating players. The development of soccer skills or growth of an athlete cannot be plotted linearly. Each individual develops at a different rate. For that reason we encourage all players to continue to play the highest levels they can. The goal is to keep playing and developing at all levels.

The policy of the club will be to field the strongest team possible in each age division, and then additional teams when possible, with the overall goal of doing our best to insure that every player has a place to play. The Berkshire County Youth Soccer League and Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association recommend this policy in the competitive age groups beginning at U12.

Under this policy, the most developed players will be on the roster of the first team, with the next group on team 2, and so on. The tiered structure of the Pittsfield Soccer Club provides opportunities for each squad to find its own competitive level over the years through the reshuffling that occurs after each season.

No player will be guaranteed a position on an individual team from season to season. Because of the differing rates of skill development and physical maturation of youths, it is not unusual for a player who is initially on the 2nd or 3rd squad in an age bracket to move up to the 1st squad as he/she develops. The tryout process, with an independent evaluator at each age bracket, is intended to provide this opportunity to players.

At the non-competitive age groups, U10 and under, it shall be the clubs policy to provide a stable developmental environment, limiting movement of players from team to team, with the focus on fun, safety, sportsmanship, and skill development.

With the issue of players playing up in age, The Pittsfield Soccer Club will follow all MYSA and BCYSL imposed regulations regarding this matter. The Operating Committee must grant authorization for players to play up.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS:

1. The Club Coordinators and Director of Coaching, along with independent evaluators will determine which players will be placed on each team. The head coach will have input but the Director of Coaching and Club Coordinators will make all final decisions.
2. PSC coaches will notify potential players within 7 days of the last try-out if they have made a team and what team they are on.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the umbrella of the Board of Directors and PSC Operating Committee, each team is a self-directed entity and intended to operate as an effective partnership between the coaches, team manager, parents, and players. The club encourages individual initiative by teams that work toward the overall goals of the PSC.

The PSC firmly believes that player development is all about playing soccer and getting as many “touches of the ball” as possible. Accordingly we encourage teams and players to challenge themselves to the fullest extent possible through tournaments, premier league participation, etc. However, we do require that each team uphold the good name and standing of the club by living up to our responsibilities to the BCYSL by playing all our scheduled games.

Uniforms and equipment are the property of the Club and must be collected by the coaches at the end of each season and returned to the Club Coordinators. Also, team uniforms are only to be worn for games and scrimmages.

CLUB LONG - TERM GOALS:

The PSC long - term goals include initial formation, then continual improvement to the soccer club, a stronger tournament presence and building larger participation in club activities and governance. The club hopes to see a substantial growth over the years and a continual upgrade in player skills and coaching. The PSC wants to continue its presence as a force in Pittsfield and the BCYSL, as well as MYSA. We need to keep in focus that this is competitive soccer, but that they are kids and need to be having fun.

CONTACTING THE CLUB:

Anyone can contact the PSC about any issue by calling one of the Board members, or someone on the Operating Committee (see below). We encourage all feedback, positive or negative, from interested parties. Candid constructive feedback is key to our continued improvement.

CLUB ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES:

The Pittsfield Soccer Club is wholly reliant on volunteer labor to complete its mission. We always need “new blood”. This is a great opportunity to take an active role in your child’s development and really make a difference. The Operating Committee is especially looking for volunteers from the U-10 and U - 12 ranks...you are the future.

Pittsfield Soccer Club Board of Directors

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Operating Committee

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