

SOPPs
of the
SCARLET KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB



(Standard Operating Policies & Procedures)

Equal Teams at Modified **(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)**

The primary purpose of the modified teams is to develop players for varsity level play. The secondary purpose is to provide competitive soccer.

If more than one modified team is fielded, it is the opinion of the board that overall player development will take place best in teams of approximately equal skill for the following reasons:

- The less skilled will learn much faster, when practicing and playing alongside more skilled players. This, through participation with, and demonstration by, the more skilled players.
- The more skill players will learn leadership and how to help train through helping the less skilled.
- In the league, a dominant team, or a team that is strongly dominated will not be able to develop as quickly as one with close competition.
- A dominant team or a dominated team can lose interest more quickly through boredom or discouragement. Both experiences will diminish the experience and potentially lead a player leaving the sport.
- By raising the level of the lesser skilled players more quickly and further than if they played separately, all players will have a higher quality experience at the varsity level.
- It has been demonstrated that the league in which we participate would not be a good fit for one very dominant team. At present, most teams are very competitive, and a couple are lesser so. A completely dominant team would face no competition and would thereby fail to benefit themselves, or the other teams in the league.

Communicating with the Board **(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)**

The Scarlet Knights Soccer Club Board of Directors was formed to guide the organization with God-given wisdom through multiple counselors. It requires a majority vote of the Board to set policies or make decisions which affect the club; no individual Board member, person, or family has such authority. The preferred method of communication to an individual Board member or the entire Board regarding club business or club concerns is through the club email address, boardmembers@sksoccerclub.org. Only Board members receive email at this address.

SK Facebook Account **(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)**

Why:

- To add additional, quick, targeted, private communication of club activities and urgent notifications.
- Facebook provides automatic notification of page updates to members (who can choose to have the updates forwarded to their phones).
- Provide club members a way to leave monitored, encouraging, and celebratory comments for the teams.

What's posted:

- Events and schedules.
- Announcements and rosters.
- Official latest copies of club and team forms.
- Game results (managers and coaches could post game outcomes and the leagues could get game results from the page).
- Prayer requests.

Who maintains:

- An interested board member or a trusted individual agreed upon by the board.

Gifts to Volunteers **(Accepted 27-Feb-2013)**

The Board does not sponsor gifts to any volunteers for their service to the club. There are so many volunteers who help the club run smoothly that it would be impossible to recognize everyone in an equitable manner. The club remains a 100% volunteer organization. However, the Board does encourage individuals and teams to express their thanks to those who serve them.

Pool Players
(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)

In the past, there has been some confusion about the policy for 13 year old players who are both Modified and Varsity eligible. The intent of this communication is to try to clear up that confusion. It's written in the form of a Q & A in the hopes of answering any questions you may have.

What do the club Bylaws say about age eligibility?

Modified Players, Oldest: Turn 14 years old on or after September 1 of the season's calendar year

Varsity Players, Youngest: Turn 13 years old before September 1 of the season's calendar year

These age criteria are set by the leagues in which we participate.

Essentially what the Bylaws are saying is that if you turn 14 on or after September 1st of the soccer season's calendar year, then you're eligible for both Varsity and Modified levels.

So does that mean I can try out for either Modified or Varsity if I fall into that category?

Yes

What happens if I don't make the Varsity roster? Will I have to sit out the season?

If you don't make the Varsity roster, there are a few options available to you.

- You may, at the coach's discretion, be offered a pool player position on Varsity.
- Whether you've been offered a pool position on Varsity or not, you can still play at the Modified level. This will have the advantage of your likely seeing increased playing time.
- The least desirable option is to sit the season. Nobody wins in this scenario and so everyone is encouraged to select one of the first two options.

What is a pool player?

A pool player will not be listed on the Varsity team's roster, but will be allowed to practice with the team. Pool players are encouraged to attend all the team's games, with the understanding that playing time will be limited. Specifically, a pool player will be eligible to play in any non-league games (at the coach's discretion), but pool players WILL NOT be permitted to play in any league games unless a roster spot opens up due to injury or other unforeseen circumstance. A roster invitation would be entirely at the coach's discretion

Will pool players have to pay any registration fees if they're not officially on the roster?

Yes, pool players still must pay registration fees. However, because playing time will be extremely limited, registration fees will be reduced by 2/3. For example, if registration fees are \$60, then a pool player will pay only \$20 (plus the cost of a uniform.) For that reduced registration fee, pool players will be able to practice with the team at all practices, particularly throughout the month of August, and may have an opportunity, at the coach's discretion, to play in any scheduled non-league game. If the pool player is added to the team roster within the first 3 league games, the remaining portion of the registration fee will be due.

So which option is recommended?

The answer to this question will be unique for each individual. Some obvious factors to consider are the player's experience and skill level. But beyond pure soccer factors, we realize that every family has unique circumstances to manage, and that everyone will have to make their own decisions about what will work best for their child and for their family. For example, already having a sibling on one of the teams might sway the decision, simply to ease travel complications. Whichever option is selected, please bear in mind that the amount of playing time you can expect to see is always at the coach's discretion. Typically, the player in this age group would receive more playing time at the modified level.

In Summary

Pool players have the same standing as a roster player with the exception that they do not normally play in league games.

Coaching positions opening up every year
(Accepted 29-May-2018)

It is the Board's position that all coaching positions will open up every season – even for positions held by long-tenured coaches. The reason behind this thinking is to obtain a list of candidates for all positions, and for the board to retain the best possible coaches for the club. A letter should be sent out during the month of May, seeking interested candidates, with the ideal goal of establishing a coaching staff by June timeframe so as to be prepared for tryouts in July.

Team Sizes
(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)

Modified: The goal at this level is to have NO CUTS. Everybody makes the team(s) with the goal of developing the skills and abilities of ALL players. League rules allow for a wide range of team roster sizes.

Varsity: Team sizes at this level are at the coach's discretion. League rules do not specify a maximum team roster size. The board recommends that 14-16 players be carried on the roster. But this is only a recommendation – it is the coach's decision. Remember that Pool Players can also be carried as non-roster players (see separate SOPP).

Relationship with Bullis Park & the Town of Macedon

(Accepted 12-Mar-2013)

From the founding of the Scarlet Knights, the club has always called Bullis Park its home. The Town of Macedon owns and operates the Park, and it falls within the Recreation Department, headed by Recreation director (986-5932 x116). The club enjoys an excellent working relationship with the town, but annual notice must be given of the club's planned use of the Park, including tryout dates in July, practices throughout the month of August, and games throughout September and October. The Park is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis - and while any Town sponsored events always take priority, the club has never had a problem obtaining the dates we've needed. To assure Park availability for all of our desired dates, the Club Administrator shall assume responsibility for making sure that contact is made with the Macedon Recreation director during the month of January, with a list of our planned usage dates for the upcoming calendar year. This task can be delegated, but the responsibility remains with the Administrator.