



FEBRUARY 2022

MONTHLY UPDATE



What a Kick!

GET YOUR MLSA INFO FAST & RUN WITH IT.

Become a TOPSoccer Buddy!



Since 1996, the Mt. Lebanon Soccer Association has sponsored a TOPSoccer Program for children with special needs. Children from many South Hills communities participate. Disabilities may range from Down Syndrome to Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Spina Bifida. Many of the participants have some degree of motor or coordination difficulties. Play is adapted to meet their level and ensure that challenges are achievable and fun. In addition to its athletic component, the program promotes social interaction and positive self-esteem.

Each of our players is provided a "Soccer Buddy" that helps him or her on the field. You can help teach the game, provide much needed encouragement, and enjoy the whole process. We've given both buddies and players a wonderful experience for many years. We are always looking for energetic and caring volunteers. We prefer that our buddies are at least high school age, but exceptions can be made. Volunteers can earn community service credit hours.

If you're interested in becoming a TopSoccer Buddy, all you need to do is complete this [Google form](#) and the Top Soccer Director will reach out to you personally with more information.

When: Sundays April 24th through June 12th
Time: Sessions start around 6pm and last one hour.



If you have any questions, please contact topsoccer@mlsa.org

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Overall program questions? Email info@mlsa.org

SEE INSIDE FOR KEY INFO & AWESOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **RT 19 Registration ends** Tuesday, March 1. [Sign up now!](#)
- **Parties on the Pitch!** The PFC party was a hit! See page 2 for information about upcoming events.
- **Get Soccer Parenting Certified!** Read on to see how!
- **A Note from Our President:** Seeking MLSA Volunteers
- **For updated volunteer needs,** check out the volunteer info. on www.mlsa.org to see which programs currently need help!
- **Make some money and have some fun.** Now training refs!
- **Games To Watch:** Mark your calendars for upcoming games to watch from home!
- **MLSA Sponsors!** Get in front of 1,000+ Lebo families when you sponsor the MLSA. Check out the businesses and organizations that sponsor us now, and please support our amazing sponsors!
- **Watch your email & check MLSA.org, our social media and [school newsletters](#) for all updates.**

MLSA IN ACTION

Parties on the Pitch!

Our first Party on the Pitch was an incredible success with over 35 girls in attendance! Special thanks to PFC and coach Kelly Mehalko for hosting. Stay tuned for details on upcoming events with Century United and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds!



Lebo spirit and lots of fun at PFC on February 27!



FAMILY CORNER

Get Soccer Parenting Certified for FREE!

Registration is now open for a brand new initiative called "Successful Soccer Parenting." This exciting partnership with US Youth Soccer and well-known developmental soccer expert Skye Eddie Bruce includes a free 25-minute certification course plus a portal with more resources, including hundreds of articles, interviews, additional courses and a community forum that help us best support our athletes with a healthy philosophy that keeps them motivated and inspired to play.

MLSA's own Brienne Sembrat says, "This is an incredible opportunity for everyone at all levels of play. It's the information I would have paid a lot to have before my kids started sports. If I were a coach, I would want every parent on my team to have this information. If I were a player I would love for my parents to parent me this way. As a parent, I know that these strategies foster a healthy and respectful relationship with my kids."

You can become Soccer Parenting Certified in just 25-minutes for free! [Follow this link](#) for registration and more information.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

MLSA Volunteer Positions

MLSA Membership,

Would you like to be a part of a 51 year-old tradition that has provided countless hours of fun, learning and teamwork to the Lebo community? We are always seeking volunteers, no matter what your skill set or level.

The MLSA offers a variety of programs, including developmental programs, inhouse leagues and competitive programs for our community youth—and there are plenty of places where you can make a difference.

We're seeking various backgrounds, including members with a soccer background to help with coaching and training, as well as members with key administrative skills like logistics, communications/marketing and planning.

It's our passion to provide an exceptional soccer experience for the kids. If you have the time and would like to be part of our association, please reach out to us directly by sending us an email at info@mlsa.org.

Thank you for your continued support,

Tim Defeo

President, MLSA



ARE YOU READY TO REF?

Make Money and Make a Difference

GRASSROOTS ENTRY LEVEL USSF REFEREE SESSIONS NOW AVAILABLE

- Successfully completing the Grassroots Entry Level Course makes you a USSF Referee - so you can ref Travel games.
- There is both online training (free of charge) and on-field training (\$65). You must complete the online sessions before signing up for on-field training.
- You must be 14 years old to get started.
- This is not MLSA-only training. This is a national certification that puts you in the USSF Referee Program, administered locally by the Western PA Referee Committee.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Go to <http://www.wparef.com/> and click the "Become A Referee" tab, where you will find:

- General information about becoming and remaining a referee
- How to register for accounts in the two systems that you will use for training/registration
- After you register for your accounts you will have access to online instruction which:
- MUST be completed at least one week prior to the on-field session
- Takes 4-6 hours and can be done in sections
- Step-by-step instructions on obtaining and submitting your clearances (for all) and work permits (for minors)
- These need not be submitted prior to your instruction, but must be submitted before you receive your badge and are therefore able to referee
- SafeSport training must also be completed. This takes about an hour and can be done in sections.
- If you need fingerprints (18+), allow several weeks for processing
- Information on referee uniforms/equipment
- IMPORTANT: Your Entry Level Course is just the beginning. Referees must recertify annually, to keep up with new information on the Laws and administrative matters.

PRO TIPS FOR GAME OFFICIALS:

- Make sure to specify Mt Lebanon as your "Home Association" under Contact Info. That's how you get on the Lebo list for assigning.
- Make sure to list an email address you actually use, the State Referee Committee frequently sends out important info to all refs via email.
- You will use this same system every year to sign up for your re-certification.

GAMES TO WATCH IN MARCH

Download the LiveSoccerTV app for game times and channels.

Men's Games

International Matches:

Mar 5 Bayern vs Leverkusen
Nice vs PSG

Mar 6 Man City vs Man Utd
Napoli vs Milan

Mar 9 Real Madrid vs PSG

Mar 15 Man Utd vs Atletico

Mar 16 Juventus vs Villareal

Mar 20 Real Madrid vs Barcelona

Women's Games

NWSL: The Challenge Cup begins on March 18. Click [HERE](#) to view the full schedule and channel information.

Pitt Women's Soccer:

March 19 @ 4 pm vs. Youngstown State (home game)

March 19 @ 7:30 pm vs Seton Hill (home game)

March 27 @ 7 pm vs Canada U-17 Rex (home game)

Keep your eye out for **USWNT** games TBD!

WE LOVE LEBO

A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We are so grateful to sponsors that help with our various programs. Please support the companies that support us!

And if you'd like to become a sponsor, it's a great opportunity to reach over 1,000 MLSA families. We can feature your logo and website on our newsletter and website.

Please send your company name, address, phone number, email and website url to info@MLSA.org. The cost for one year is \$250. We thank you for your support!



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