

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS regarding the EAST LANSING SOCCER CLUB**

### **1. What is the East Lansing Soccer Club?**

We are a non-profit corporation offering high-quality / low cost youth soccer programming. Each family that registers a player with us is a member of the Club. Each year at our annual meeting, on the first Saturday in June, the members elect a Board of Directors. Our coaches are volunteers, but many have formal training as coaches. We have a small paid staff.

### **2. Does my child have to try out? What's that all about?**

Our Recreational program has no tryouts: every able child who registers is accepted until the teams are full. Our Select program is more competitive, and includes a mandatory tryout session. Tryouts for Select teams are mandated by the MSYSA. If your child is medically unable to participate or you are out of town that week, we're sorry, but we play by the rules, we don't make them. Teams have to be formed by early July, so we will try to be accommodating but our options are limited. The tryouts themselves are much like a typical practice. We try not to create a stressful atmosphere, but the players are being compared to each other. Coaches are attempting to assemble the most well-rounded, competitive teams possible, and to fill all of the positions that need to be filled to field a team. Players who do not fit that plan may be "cut" or not offered a spot. Players who are cut are placed on one of our Recreational teams. Every single player who tries out will be called by the coaching staff an informed of the outcome.

### **3. What is "castle" or CASL soccer?**

The governing body of youth soccer in the State of Michigan, the MSYSA, divides soccer programs into levels based upon how competitive the players are expected to be in terms of ability and commitment to the sport: Recreational < Select < Elite < Premiere < Academy < Olympic Development. The Capital Area Soccer League is a mid-Michigan Select league that our ELSC has chosen to be a part of. We sometimes field Elite-level teams via CASL as well.

### **4. What are these premier clubs I keep hearing about?**

There are several for-profit youth soccer companies in the greater Lansing area. Some formally participate in the MSYSA Premier leagues; some use the word "premier" for marketing purposes. Many offer a very strong and comprehensive soccer education program, with full-time coaches and their own facilities. Because the ELSC is not-for-profit and volunteer based, we can limit our fees to \$200 for a year; if you enroll in a for-profit club, expect to pay between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per year in fees alone. Although we rely on volunteers for much of what the Club does, our staff will expand in 2014 to include a Director of Coaching to help enhance our training and programs.

### **5. Do you offer scholarships?**

For our Recreational program, we can offer families who qualify for reduced or free student lunches a small offset, but because we already operate at-cost, as a non-profit, our ability to help is limited. Please email us through our website if you believe you qualify. For our Select/CASL program, CASL itself offers a \$75 per 1/2 season scholarship. Please see the CASL website for details. No scholarships are available for the Kindergarten program.

### **6. So if my child plays CASL soccer do I pay the ELSC and CASL?**

No. East Lansing families playing with the ELSC only pay and register with the ELSC. Please do not send any money or forms to any of the league we play in, as this will only cause confusion.