



2007 U10 Boys: Fire

2016-17 Team Plan

The Fire enter their 2016-17 U10 season, their first as full-time travel team at Methacton United, as the first team in the 2007 boys age group. Players in our 2007 age group are products of the [Director's Development Program \(DDP\)](#), which eschews the win-at-all-costs mentality of many youth travel programs in favor of a curriculum focused strictly on player development for the U7-U9 years.

In the 2015-16 season, Methacton United entered two U9 boys teams into the Central League, respectively named Fire and Ice. Both sets of teams were exposed to friendly and tournament matches and saw significant improvement in their overall field awareness and skills on the ball. Our coaches intend to mirror the training and development philosophy of the DDP program whether the players are involved in competitive or practice environments.

The U10 Fire team will be managed by Head Coach Tom DiGati and Assistant Coach Jen Conrad. We will work to extend the mission of the [Methacton United travel program](#) and have our team reflect positively upon its reputation. This will be the result of a combined effort of transparent communication between coaches, players, and players' families.

US Soccer Mandates and U10 Age Group Impact

We consider this age group to be in a favorable position with respect to the mandated change to birth year registration. Because this is the first season of true travel competition for this group, as well as the likely addition of new players through our [open tryouts](#), we expect the new age structuring to have a positive impact on team building and the streamlining of player development.

The mandated change in field size and team size (7v7) may require an adjustment for those players already exposed to a larger 8v8 pitch in previous seasons. We will rely on the guidance and strategy recommendations of our professional trainers to best transition them to smaller-sided play. Part of that adjustment will incorporate preseason competitive and friendly matches to expedite the players' adaptation to the new dimensions of the field and the [developmental initiatives of US Soccer](#).

Goals and Expectations for the 2016-17 Season

We intend to choose our League associations with respect to the talent pool available and the recommendations of the professional coaching staff. This joint decision should give our players the best opportunity to experience the challenges and rewards of their efforts. This decision will be made in May 2016, after the results of the tryouts.

The development of our players is our utmost intention and this is reflected in the missions of both Methacton United and US Soccer. Emphasis will be placed on player movement, both on and off the ball, and composure and reduction of touches when under pressure. We will also expose the players to fast-paced and touch-reliant futsal tournaments as opportunities arise. Futsal is an indoor sport and tournaments are typically held in the winter.

Methacton United recognizes the importance of developing well-rounded children and strongly encourages our players to participate in activities and sports away from the pitch. However, accepting a place on a travel team requires a higher level of commitment from both the player and their parents. All players are required to prioritize soccer over other activities for the following events:

Event	Dates
Fall Travel League Matches	Most weekends Sep-Nov
Columbus Day Weekend Tournament	Oct 8-9, 2016
EPYSA State Cup Matches	Select Spring weekends



Anticipated Playing Calendar

Summer: June - August

Training	2x per week with professional training staff (<i>full calendar at methactonunited.org/travel</i>) 1x per week (Saturday mornings) with team coaching staff		
Friendlies	Approximately 20 friendlies		May - August
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Friendlies are an important part of player development. Putting players in game situations and trains their minds and bodies to think and react in pressure situations, increasing both their speed of thought and speed of play. We will take a 2 to 3-week break from friendlies around the July 4th holiday to account for family vacations.</i> <p><i>We recognize that some players are involved in spring/summer sports, and as such, try our best to schedule friendlies around player availability. If a player cannot participate in some friendlies due to conflicts, it is understandable and will not be held against him.</i></p>		
Tournaments	Battle at Hilltop	Limerick, PA	Aug 26-28, 2016
	Lou Ramos Classic	Allentown, PA	Sep 2-4, 2016

Fall: September - November

Training	1-2x per week (Mon-Fri) with professional training staff 1x per week (Saturday mornings) with team training staff		
League Games	Delco Soccer League, Div TBD		Sep 10 – Nov 13
Tournaments	Cape Express Pink Ribbon Classic	Cape May, NJ	Oct 8-9, 2016
	YMS Columbus Cup (<i>alternate</i>)	Yardley, PA	Oct 8-9, 2016
	Hempfield Adidas Fall Classic	Lancaster, PA	Nov 18-20, 2016

Winter: December - February

Winter Academy	1x per week indoor training with professional training staff		Dec 5 – Feb 20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>All Sports Center, Upper Providence</i> 		
Training	1x per week indoor/futsal training with team training staff		8 weeks beginning in Jan
League Games	YSC Winter League 2	Wayne, PA	Mid-Jan to Early Mar
	– and/or –		
	Philly Futsal League	King of Prussia, PA	Jan – Feb (TBD)
Tournaments	LVU Winter Futsal Tournaments (1-day)	Allentown, PA	Dec – Feb (TBD)

Spring: March – June

Spring Academy	1x per week with professional training staff		Late Mar to Late May
League Games	Rock League or Central League		Sundays, Apr-May
Tournaments	EPYSA State Cups (<i>select weekends only</i>)		Mar – Jun
	Spring Tournaments based on player availability		TBD

NOTE: Because we are planning for events more than a year in advance, dates and tournaments may be changed based on tournament schedules, player availability, or a change in the level of play of the team.



Expected Financial Commitment

All of our teams at Methacton United value the commitment that our players, parents, and coaches make to our program. As discussed at methactonunited.org/travel, the fee structure for the 2016-17 season has been changed in order to provide consistent and uniform financial expectations across all teams.

The increased travel registration fee will include our fall league registration fees, referee fees, professional training throughout the summer and fall, and will also allow us to participate in 2-3 summer/fall tournaments without having to solicit additional funds from the player families to do so.

A Note on Seasonal Assessments

Rather than continuously approaching families with requests for additional money required each time we decide to participate in an event, the club has encouraged teams to provide a schedule of assessments by which each player will pay the specified amount by the appropriate date and this amount will be deposited in our team account in order to fund our activities for the 2016-17 year. We have attempted to spread these assessment amounts out throughout the year to make it more manageable for families and to give us some flexibility as the year progresses. Each team will have a different assessment schedule based upon their planned activities. The estimate of expenses below is based upon the costs for the activities listed on the team's Anticipated Playing Calendar.

Because many of the plans in the winter and spring seasons may still be tentative based upon availability, the assessment amounts can and likely will change once we solidify our schedule for those time periods. It is also important to note that teams can, and often do, offset their expenses by conducting fundraisers at various events throughout the year or by soliciting donations from local businesses.

Team Expenses	Date	Est. Pmt
Travel Registration Fee	May 15	\$ 695
Summer/Fall Assessment	Jul 1	\$ 180
Winter Assessment	Dec 1	\$ 170
Spring Assessment	Feb 1	\$ 40
		\$ 1,085

Additional Training		
Winter Academy		\$ 195
Spring Academy		\$ 120
		\$ 315

