



## OMSA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Last Updated: 09/08/2023**

**Question:** I am concerned with providing my child's birth certificate to your organization with all of the identity theft that is occurring. What becomes of the birth certificates once the OMSA Tournament is over?

**Answer:** The OMSA Board is also very concerned with this topic and takes extreme care with safe-guarding the waivers and birth certificates in their possession. We therefore recommend that only copies of the birth certificates be submitted. We will maintain the birth certificates for a period no longer than 30 days after the tournament and will then shred them. If any parents want to blacken out the mother's maiden name since this name is routinely asked for when applying for credit cards or loans we will have no problems with this practice. Birth certificates for Peotone teams will be maintained for one year.

**Question:** Are there any restrictions on where I can get my players from?

**Answer:** Our OMSA Tournament has always included players from the surrounding communities. The intention is to build a competitive and lively rivalry between local towns. Players should be limited to the school district of the town being represented or play for the town of the recreational league they played in this fall season.

**Question:** How many club/traveling players are allowed, what is the definition and how is this monitored?

**Answer:** Each team has the option of utilizing a limited number of club/traveling players not to exceed 3 for U8 & U10 or 4 for U12 & U14. A club/traveling player is defined as being active on a club or traveling team anytime August 1st through the last day of the OMSA tournament.. Active means either playing or being rostered with a player card during the noted time period. The player's status per this definition, either non-club or club, will need to be properly indicated by their parents on the waiver form and confirmed by their parents' signature. The coach is still responsible to ensure that the proper number of club/traveling players is not exceeded. A team will forfeit any games played in violation of this rule by a score of 3 to 0, pursuant to OMSA Board review.

**Question:** Why are club / traveling players allowed on each team and why is there a limit on the number?

**Answer:** The spirit and tradition of OMSA has been to bring "all-star" recreational level teams formed from the recreational leagues of local communities to compete. The inclusion of a limited number of club players allows teams to enhance their competitive level of play. The intent, though, is that the vast majority of the team make-up is that of recreational players and the current limits ensure that.

**Question:** Do the players that I select for my OMSA Team have to be registered and playing for MYSA (Manteno Youth Soccer Association)?

**Answer:** No. OMSA and MYSA are two separate organizations that have separate rules.

**Question:** As a coach can I coach more than one team in the same OMSA Tournament?

**Answer:** It is the responsibility of the team / coach to notify the OMSA board if a coach will be coaching more than one team and needs special consideration in scheduling games. OMSA will take this request into consideration when creating the schedules.

**Question:** Can a player play on more than one team in the same OMSA Tournament?

**Answer:** A player can only appear on one roster. We are promoting and encouraging as many players as possible to be able to participate in the OMSA Tournament.

**Question:** Is there a minimum age that a player must be in order to participate on the U8 team?

**Answer:** There is no minimum age requirement. Obviously, for the safety of the children, their size and skill level should warrant such a consideration. We also encourage as many children as possible to play within their own age group.

**Question:** Can a younger player (e.g., U8) play up a level (e.g., U10)?

**Answer:** Technically, we do not have any restrictions about a player playing up a level. We do however encourage teams to follow the guideline of having children play within their respective age group. This provides other players the opportunities to make the team and not get replaced by a younger player. Also, we are concerned about the safety of the younger player playing with older and possibly stronger players.

**Question:** I am confused as to the cut off date regarding the birth date of August 1. Can you explain that requirement?

**Answer:** The easiest way to think of this is to ask yourself, as of August 1<sup>st</sup> what is the child's age? Then in order to play on a specific age group, their age must be "under" the age in question, i.e. for U8 the age must be 7 or less as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, U10 must be 9 or less as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, U12 must be 11 or less as of August 1<sup>st</sup> and U14 must be 13 or less as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Question:** What size soccer balls are used and does it vary by the age group?

**Answer:** Size 4 ball is required for U8, U10 and U12. Size 5 ball is used for U14.

**Question:** Who provides the game ball?

**Answer:** The designated home team is requested to provide the game ball for each game. The home team is normally the team that is listed first on the schedule.

**Question:** Will a player be allowed to play if they have a cast on an arm or hand?

**Answer:** We will allow players to play if the arm or hand is wrapped (e.g., foam, bubble wrap, padded with cloth, etc.) so no exposed hard cast is available. We will also need a doctor's release which should be with the coach at all times and shown to the referee before each game and shown at time of registration check-in. The player needs to be instructed to not extend the arm to avoid dangerous situations. If the referee sees this occurring, the player may be removed from that game. We ask that the players and parents keep in mind that an injury to this player is possible and that OMSA is not held liable for any injuries.

**Question:** Is slide tackling allowed in any of the age groups?

**Answer:** We will be following IHSA rules (high school) for all age groups so legal slide tackling is permitted.

**Question:** Can our team bring a travel trailer to the school in case of cold or rainy weather?

**Answer:** No. The school district has limited parking spots available and there will not be any extra space to have travel trailers, RV's, or utility trailers parked on school district property and parking lots. The Village Peotone Department will be patrolling and enforcing this restriction for our tournament.

**Question:** Can pop up tents be set up so we can have food available for our teams?

**Answer:** We are asking all towns to only use 12' x 12' tents and no "community tent" combinations, which includes putting multiple 12'x12' tents together. We are asking your help to avoid the very large tents with food for entire communities. We understand some families or small groups may want to bring food to reduce costs since they are there all day and that is fine. The larger tents that are organized with "community food" quantities is what we would ask be avoided. We ask that you do not run extension cords to the shelters for electricity as this has caused an overflow and tripped the circuit breakers. As a reminder, alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the school district property. Thank you for adhering to these guidelines and communicating them to your team's families!

**Question:** What does OMSA do with their profits?

**Answer:** We established an ongoing scholarship program for the local high school seniors. Please see the "About Us" section on the Home page for a list of those players.

**Question:** If we have registered our team on the Old Mill Website and want to make changes to the players or coaches how can this be accomplished?

**Answer:** Once a team is registered on the website, you will not be able to make changes directly on the website. You will need to have the coach email our President at [oldmillsoccertournament@gmail.com](mailto:oldmillsoccertournament@gmail.com) with any changes and we will go into the system and make those changes. Keep in mind that we do have cut off dates for getting our programs printed and these changes might not make it into the final program.

**Question:** Once we have registered our team on the website, mailed in a check for the registration fee and provided our birth certificates and waivers is there anything else we need to do?

**Answer:** Yes you will need to stop by the OMSA Registration Tent approximately one hour prior to your first scheduled game to pick up a tournament bag with programs for every player, to check in your team and obtain any other instructions or notices.

**Question:** Is there a medical team available the day of the tournament?

**Answer:** No we do not have an ambulance or trainer on site for the tournament. We do have a first aid kit and limited number of ice packs available at the OMSA Registration Tent. Peotone does have a fire department and ambulance available and if you think they are needed, please dial 911 first and then send someone up to the OMSA Registration Tent to report the problem.

**Question:** Are noise makers allowed during games?

**Answer:** We follow the IHSA rules and these rules do not permit any noise makers.