



JANUARY 2021

# MONTHLY UPDATE

What a Kick!



**GET YOUR MLSA INFO FAST & RUN WITH IT.**

**Let's Go!**

Welcome back! **Registrations are opening February 1st on [MLSA.org](https://mlsa.org)** and continue through March 15th for the following programs:

#### **Spring Development (SDP, with Professional Trainers):**

- Eligible Grades: 1st through 7th Grade
- Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday (subject to change)
- The fall and spring development programs offer great soccer education and organized play to those who are looking for affordable, low pressure, fun, professionally run, in-community soccer.

#### **Spring Goalkeeper Training:**

- Eligible Grades: 2nd through 7th Grade.
- Monday and/or Wednesday (subject to change)
- Goalkeeper is a very specialized position so we place great importance on providing the Lebo keepers with specific goalkeeper skills training. If you have a seriously interested keeper, we would love to see him or her train with us!

#### **RT19 Spring Season:**

- Eligible Grades: High School Players
- Monday, Wednesday and Saturday (Subject to change)
- For players in 9th– 12th grades, RT 19 provides a competitive, close-to-home league that allows players to grow in their skills and love for the game after they “graduate” from the travel team or Lebo Cup.

Questions? Email [info@mlsa.org](mailto:info@mlsa.org)

## **AWESOME UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Spring registrations start 2/1 on [MLSA.org](https://mlsa.org)
- Upcoming FREE referee recertification & training information on the next page
- Excellent at-home training advice from the high school
- Spotlight your player!
  - 1. Complete the form <https://forms.gle/UaKrAf29joEBv9w18>
  - 2. Send a player photo (action) in Lebo Gear with name in subject to [social@mlsa.org](mailto:social@mlsa.org)

Watch your email & check [MLSA.org](https://mlsa.org), our social media and school newsletters for all updates!

# REFEREE TRAINING

## Get Ready to Ref - For FREE!

Hey Ref!

Online training for 2021 is in full swing. The authoritative source for refereeing info in Western PA is <https://www.wparef.com/>

**Recertification for 2021** remains open for existing referees, **at no cost (it's usually \$50) and 100% online.** Full details at <https://www.wparef.com/2021-recertification-season-has-began/>, or you can go straight to registration at [wparefs.gameofficials.net](http://wparefs.gameofficials.net)

**Entry Level Referee Classes for new referees--**registration now open for online modules, **at no cost!** Full details at <https://www.wparef.com/becoming-a-us-soccer-referee/>.

Now is also a great time to take care of clearances. We hope that by the time warmer weather comes, it will be safe to hold in-person sessions to complete your training.

When they can be scheduled, in-person sessions will cost about \$100.

Questions? Contact MLSA's Referee Assignor, Brian Auer, [refkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:refkeeper@gmail.com), c 412.608.8676



# FAMILY ED CORNER

## A Note from Seth Young, High School Girls Soccer Varsity Coach



MLSA Community, I hope this note finds you and your family safe and well. A byproduct of the game's temporary pause last spring is an increased development of training resources previously unavailable to players and coaches.

In my experience, many young players aren't fully aware of what they're capable of until they know a particular skill even exists. But, once they do, it's through practice in which trial, and error, and maybe even a bit of frustration ultimately leads to growth.

1) NYRB Youth Programs The New York Red Bulls Youth Academy produced a series of guided technical videos running the spectrum for players of all ages / abilities:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a_DASDNW6Y&list=PLPvYix4iYNcYKgWhInyZzJRUPwyTv02zg_)

[v=6a\\_DASDNW6Y&list=PLPvYix4iYNcYKgWhInyZzJRUPwyTv02zg\\_](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a_DASDNW6Y&list=PLPvYix4iYNcYKgWhInyZzJRUPwyTv02zg_)

2) NYCFC Youth Programs Not to be outdone, so, too, did cross-town rivals New York City Football Club: <https://www.nycfc.com/youth-skills-videos>

3) Techne Futbol Those involved in club soccer--of which I encourage anyone who loves the game to explore--may have found themselves with access to Techne Futbol. For those who are unfamiliar, this is an app. with a guided curriculum intended to support development, tracking metrics and progress along the way. While a trial is free, there is an associated cost.

<https://www.technefutbol.com/>

Lastly, included is content the high school girls were provided when they were unable to train last summer as a collective group, many of which can be adapted for various ages / skill levels.

Finally, I'll close with this: in 1992, Manchester United signed prolific striker Eric Cantona from rivals Leeds, and I reference this because his impact extended beyond scoring world class goals (<https://youtu.be/f1-xvEClIS4>) and winning Premiership titles (four in five years); he would stay long after practice ended working on the most basic aspects of the game.

And, in doing so, future world-class players like David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville all saw what was a true commitment to the sport and a desire for perpetual improvement--the result of which laid the foundation for the club's sustained success over the next two decades.

# **Your "Games to Watch" This Month**

**Also make sure to download the LiveSoccerTV app for game times and channels.**

Sat 30 Jan RB Leipzig vs Leverkusen

Sat 6 Feb Juventus vs Roma

Sun 7 Feb Liverpool vs Man City

Sun 14 Feb Brondby W vs Valerenga W

Wed 24 Feb Atalanta vs Real Madrid

Sat 28 Feb Marseille vs Lyon & Sevilla vs Barcelona

**Grab some friends and watch a game or two!**

