



2004 Boys: Raptors

2016-17 Team Plan

The Raptors enter their 2016-17 U13 season as the second team in the 2004 boys age group and will continue to be managed by Head Coach Doug Willen. Given the change to birth year registration for this season, the team is expected to be made up of a mix of players from last [2003-04 Raptors](#) and [2004-05 Mayhem](#) teams. The combined talent and the switch from small- to full-sided play leaves expectations high for the coming season.

Goals and Expectations for the 2016-17 Season

Over the coming year, the Raptors will look to continue their growth and pursue appropriate levels of competition. We expect to play in Delco Division 6 or 7 in the Fall season.

We look to continue player development with primary emphasis on: (1) player movement, on and off the ball; (2) improving the speed of decision-making; and (3) reducing touches under while pressure from opposition. Communication, defensive shape, and support play will also be important developmental points for our team. Lastly, as the boys get older, and in particular as they move to full-sided 11v11 play, team concepts become increasingly important. In addition to tactical training, the boys will be coached on communication and leadership within a team construct.

We anticipate teaching the boys two primary systems of play this season. Initially, the boys will play a 4-4-2 with a diamond midfield, which offers a very clear and easy transition from the 2-3-1-1 (also viewed as a 2-4-1) that the boys played in 2015-16. With the combination of rosters due to age group reshuffling, along with the move from small- to full-sided play, we believe that it is important to ensure a degree of comfort during the transition which this variant of a 4-4-2 will provide. The boys will also learn to play an additional system, perhaps the 4-2-3-1, based on the strengths and characteristics of the final team.

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
August Tournaments	Aug 5-7, Aug 26-28
Fall Travel League Matches	Most weekends Sep-Nov
Columbus Day Weekend Tournament	Oct 8-9
Pre-Thanksgiving Weekend Tournament	Nov 18-20
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 biweekly (June, July) and 1x weekly (August) with team coaching staff		
Friendlies	Approximately 5-10 friendlies	May – August	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summer friendlies are a crucial part of individual and team development and growth. In particular, this year they will prepare the boys for the rigor of full-sided play, and help prepare us to put our best foot forward at forthcoming tournaments and the league slate.</i> <p><i>We recognize that some players are involved in spring/summer sports. If a player cannot participate in some friendlies due to conflicts, it is understandable and will not be held against him.</i></p>		
Tournaments	West Chester Summer Classic	West Chester, PA	Aug 5-7, 2016
	Battle at Hilltop	Limerick, PA	Aug 26-28, 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 Division 6 or 7	Sep 10 – Nov 13	
Tournaments	Cape Express Pink Ribbon Classic	Cape May, NJ	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 training with team training staff (<i>tentative</i>)		8 weeks beginning in Jan
League Games	YSC Winter League 2	Wayne, PA	Mid-Jan to Early Mar
	– or –		
	422 SportsPlex Session 2	Pottstown, PA	Mid-Jan to Early Mar
Tournaments	TBD		

Spring: March – June

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

Please note the following regarding the assessment and fee schedule:

- From August 1 through November 30, your son, as a member of a travel team, should be committed to soccer over other activities. Summer sports should be completed by July 31, and ideally family vacations are taken by then as well. Thus, all fees incurred from May 15 until the conclusion of the fall season (November 30) are mandatory for all players. This includes tournament fees—all scheduled after July 31—whether your son is available to play or not. We will not ask “guest” players to foot the cost of an unavailable rostered player.
- The assessment due July 1 is based on our best estimates.
- An account “true-up” will be due October 1. Simply put, if prior estimates leave the team account short, an additional assessment will be due to even things up through the end of the fall season.
- In our opinion, and consistent with the aforementioned philosophy that the kids participate in sports and activities away from the pitch, all winter and spring activities are optional (with the exception of the State Cup games), and thus noted as “pay-to-play”. Meaning, if your son plays in winter indoor, or participates in team trainings, etc., there will be some costs, although nominal in nature. Likewise, professional training at our winter and spring academies is available through the club at the costs noted below.

Team Expenses	Date	Est. Pmt
Travel Registration Fee	May 15	\$ 695
Summer/Fall Assessment	Jul 1	\$ 215
True-Up account	Oct 1	\$ TBD
Winter Assessment*	Dec 1	\$ 75
Spring Assessment*	Feb 1	\$ 35
		\$ 1,020

Additional Training	Est. Pmt
Winter Academy	\$ 195
Spring Academy	\$ 120
	\$ 315

*Pay-to-Play

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.



