

MPSC/Morton Fury Merger F.A.Q.

Q: Why did MPSC and Morton Fury decide to merge?

A: Over the past year, club leadership and coaches have opened up a dialogue with each other. Through these discussions, club leadership and coaches felt it would be better for our families and players to join together rather than continue to compete with each other. A town our size would be better served with only one travel club, and we can combine forces to provide a great soccer experience for all of our players. We have enough talent in this area to create consistent successful soccer teams when we work together, and having our players play together will have benefits that last through high school. We are also fortunate to have many dedicated coaches with excellent expertise that care about our players and families. We have hardworking families that will help this club succeed. We have a supportive park district that wants to see this merger happen. All of the requirements are in place to make this a club that ALL OF US can be proud to be part of!

Q: What will happen to my player's current team?

A: If there is a team at the same age level for both clubs, there will be a joint evaluation of all the players at that same age. Players will be evaluated (independent of club affiliation) based on their skill level. Then, teams will be established based on those evaluations. All players will be placed on teams based on skill level to ensure fairness and competitive teams, as well as to make sure players are appropriately challenged.

Q: How will this merger affect my fees?

A: If you are a current Morton Fury member, you can expect your fees to go up slightly. If you are a current MPSC member, you can expect your fees to go down slightly. This is based on where fees are currently structured prior to the merger. Our new united board will be exploring as many ways as possible to keep fees down, including providing fundraising opportunities and multiple tournaments hosted at McClallen Park.

Q: How will coaches be determined?

A: Our merged club is dedicated to the mission of providing professional and qualified coaches for our travel teams. To ensure our travel teams are staffed by professional and qualified coaches, we will continue to partner with ICC men's and women's soccer, as well as maintain strong connections with our current professional and qualified coaches in both clubs. A coaching leadership committee has been established with coaches from each club that will be led by Coach Oz Bakirdan. Additionally, Morton Fury coaches Marcus Rapp and P.J. Klopfenstein and MPSC coaches Hailey Parungao and Matej Radonic will be part of this committee. This committee will craft and run evaluations, roster players on teams, and recommend coaches for each team. The anticipated coaches for the combined club will be a

mix of paid and parent coaches, which is modeled by most other local clubs including SASA, IFJ, and PFCU.

Q: How will the merged club approach uniforms for the Fall of 2021?

A: Since many of our members just spent money this past spring on new uniforms, the united board will be subsidizing the purchase of temporary home and away jerseys for the merged club. Parents will then be responsible for buying standard level shorts and socks that will be available on Amazon and comparable vendors (the club will provide links). The board-provided jerseys (combined with family purchased shorts and socks) will act as our temporary uniform for the Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022, while we work to develop a new and exciting uniform design for our merged club. These new club uniforms will tentatively debut in the Fall of 2022.

Q: Where will the merged club practice?

A: The merged club will practice at McClallen Park in Morton. This beautiful facility will accommodate all of our teams and provide us the ability to have lit fields for older teams.

Q: How is residency defined for Morton Park District affiliate groups?

A: Anyone who lives in the Morton Park District or the Morton 709 school District. This information is on property tax bills.

Q: What does it mean to be a Park District Affiliate? Do all teams have to be 2/3rds Morton 709 residents?

A: The merged club will occupy the status of a youth sports “affiliate” of the Morton Park District. This means that the club will get free use of Morton Park District fields and facilities, amongst many other advantages. All Morton Park District affiliates have to maintain a minimum 2/3 residency requirement per team. However, the united board has worked with the Morton Park District on a solution for our current non-residents.

Q: If I am a current MPSC non-resident, what does that mean for my player?

A: All 61 current MPSC non-residents have been given a two-year exemption (Fall 2021-Spring 2023) by the Morton Park District board of commissioners in the merged club. This means that the residency status of those 61 non-resident players will not be factored into the 2/3 residency status of the team on which they are rostered until the Fall of 2023.

Additionally, both the MPSC and Morton Fury boards have requested that the Morton park district board of commissioners consider amending the Morton Park District affiliate group guidelines (before the two-year exemption expires) to allow teams age U12 and older (in all affiliate athletic groups) to fall below 2/3 residency requirement without penalty. The park district director and park district staff have guaranteed the MPSC and Morton Fury boards that they will

bring this request to the Morton Park District board of commissioners with their favorable recommendation.

Q: Who is on the new united board?

A: A new combined board between both clubs has been formed with Jason Albers as President. The rest of the board consists of four former MPSC board members (Chris Greiner, Bob Hornsby, Brandon Blake, and Marcella Rosales) and four former Morton Fury members (Tavis Bones, Ed Riesberg, Kara Brooks, and Joe Gropp). They will be working together through this merger to set the foundation for Morton United FC soccer. All are committed to making the new club as strong as it can be and making sure all players get the best experience possible within the new club. There will also be multiple opportunities for additional parent input and involvement for various club operations (tournament committee, team managers, etc.)

Q: What will a typical season look like for this new club? What will the time commitment be?

A: While individual teams may vary, you should expect a weekly commitment of 2 practices. Older teams can expect to play in 3-5 tournaments per soccer season, which has been a consistent model for both clubs over the past few years. Younger teams can often explore a combination of league and tournaments, so this may also vary to an extent. In summation, we expect a similar time commitment overall from what you've come to expect over the past few years.

Q: What does this mean for NEW non-residents that plan to try out with the new merged soccer club?

A: Over the next two years, NEW non-residents will be allowed to join teams, provided that they do not comprise over $\frac{1}{3}$ of the roster (this will be calculated by the ratio of Morton residents and NEW non-residents on each team). Then, after the two year exemption for current MPSC non-residents expires (after the Spring of 2023), all teams will be expected to conform to Morton Park District residency guidelines.

Q: Will there be a league option in the new club for players that do not want a travel soccer experience?

A: Yes. Both clubs had league teams in the Spring 2021 season. As a merged club we will continue to have ICSL and Peoria league teams.

Q: Will there be offseason training opportunities with the new club?

A: Yes. Both clubs had various opportunities in the offseason from camps to skills training. We will continue having these opportunities as a merged club.