



Recently there has been a great deal of discussion about the use of town soccer fields. Some of that discussion involves misinformation being spread about OMM. As a volunteer-run organization that takes great pride in our role in this community for the past fifty years, it is of concern that the facts are being obscured. We wanted to try and ensure that our families have the correct facts and information.

We also value respectful dialog with all in our community, and so we also invite anyone with any questions about any issue to contact us directly. **Email is the best - info@ommsoccer.org.**

Question	Answer
<p>“What is all the recent fuss about Orangetown fields and especially the soccer complex?”</p>	<p>The need for field space for youth athletics is not new - it is the reason OMM was told by the town several years ago that we could not start a spring recreational soccer or travel soccer program, since town-owned fields were not available and the town would not take fields away from programs already using them. To help meet this need OMM partnered with the town to develop the soccer complex and continues to work to find and develop additional fields.</p>
<p>“What OMM programs use the complex?”</p>	<p>OMM has three programs- World Class FC, BuddyBall, and OMM Rec. The names are different to help easily differentiate between programs, but all three programs are completely owned and operated by OMM.</p>
<p>“I heard that the OMM recreational program is not allowed to play at the complex!?”</p>	<p>OMM Rec is regularly scheduled to play on the Complex fields for games and practices.</p> <p>For the spring soccer season 100% of games and practices are scheduled at the complex. In addition to their weekly games, all coaches real time soccer results today selected one practice slot each week- those that wanted to were able to select a second practice slot.</p> <p>In the fall when the OMM Rec program more than triples in size, teams will play some of their games at the complex in all divisions but the Junior divisions- that division has historically always played on a field size not found at the complex. The soccer complex contains 2 full size fields 4 smaller sized fields – these 6 fields are not enough to accommodate all of the games we need to schedule for the weekend even if we extended the length of the game day schedule.</p>
<p>“Are you sure? I saw on Facebook that OMM’s travel program uses <u>all</u> the complex fields.”</p>	<p>The schedule for the complex starts by slotting in games for OMM rec and in the fall, Buddyball is also scheduled. Rec games are scheduled for the morning and travel in the afternoon. Each weekend there are far more OMM rec games scheduled at the complex than travel games.</p> <p>For example, on the opening weekend of soccer last fall (9/6 & 9/7), the Soccer Complex hosted 46 games in total:</p> <p>OMM held 38 games, 83% of the total. WCFC held 8 games, 17% of the total.</p>

<p>Can other groups use the complex?</p>	<p>The Complex fields are used first by OMM for its programs (OMM Rec, WCFC Travel, and Buddyball) and then any open and available slots can be used by others who permit through Parks and Recreation.</p>
<p>Do any groups take advantage of those available times?</p>	<p>Yes. Each week open field slots are shared with the Parks and Rec department and are often permitted by groups to use. The Pearl River School district and Orangetown Lacrosse have both been frequent users over the past weeks.</p>
<p>Why do OMM, Buddyball and WCFC get to schedule complex use ahead of anyone else?</p>	<p>OMM worked in partnership with the Town to build the Complex and the vast majority of funds invested to create the Complex came from OMM. OMM invested \$3.0 million in building the Complex and has spent over \$1 million more since the Complex opened in annual maintenance costs. Additionally OMM maintains the complex fields.</p>
<p>“Can OMM rent the complex fields out?”</p>	<p>OMM does not rent the complex fields – any group who wants to use the fields in an open time must permit with the town. Although OMM maintains the field complex at its own expense, saving the town and its taxpayers more than \$200,000 each year to do so, any field rental permit fees are paid to the Town (and not OMM) when the fields are rented by the Town to outside groups (e.g., field rental to local colleges).</p>
<p>I heard that there is another soccer program that wants to use the complex and cannot?</p>	<p>As noted all groups can permit to use the complex at the times that there are openings. The Complex was developed by OMM to serve all of its programs. OMM Rec & BuddyBall use all available fields on weekend mornings, and WCFC Travel uses many fields on weekend afternoons. Since WCFC juggles the shifting schedules of 8 different leagues, regularly-scheduled availability is not possible. OMM offers availability as soon as we can identify it, via the Town Parks & Rec office. OMM reaches out and shares a good number of available game slots each weekend with Parks and Rec who then pass them along to any groups that have asked for space.</p> <p>In regards to other soccer programs, we have repeatedly made space available, but those none of the time slots were accepted. As one example, on our opening rec soccer weekend of 4/18 we offered 5 slots (7.5 hours of time) and on the following weekend of 4/25 we offered 7 slots (10.5 hours of time).</p> <p>While OMM has an obligation to serve the needs of its programs, we have and will continue to help other local programs, with use of fields and our equipment. In regards to soccer, OMM owns and maintains the soccer goals, nets and corner flags that other soccer program uses at Veterans Park and other Town parks, which we make freely available. OMM has also reached out to the other local soccer group to see if they were interested in working together to acquire additional fields and they have made clear they are not. The other soccer group has also been offered fields by the Town that they can use – with some being offered to them exclusively- but they have maintained that they want to decide what fields they want and when they will use them. To date, the times and locations they have said they want are the ones that OMM Rec is already using.</p>

<p>I heard that OMM's travel program WCFC is filled with kids from out of state? And that town kids get cut or not offered a roster position on World Class teams?</p>	<p>It is the nature of competitive Travel athletic programs that they <u>are</u> competitive, and that all players must try-out and compete for every position. This ensures the best player-development model possible, and results in a high-level of development that has already produced several collegiate athletic scholarships for Orangetown residents. Within that model, it is the goal of OMM to offer a position to every Orangetown resident that wants to play soccer - from 3/4 year old pre-Tykes up thru College and National Team candidates and Buddyball Soccer for children with special needs. We have been actively working towards that goal for several years now, including the development of the Complex and our Travel program. This is also why we launched a new tier within our Travel program that gives automatic preference to residents. Field availability is the biggest limiting factor in this goal, which is why we continue to work with the town and other local recreational groups.</p> <p>On the issue of residency, the largest group in all of our programs is Orangetown residents and the second largest group is children from Nanuet/Clarkstown. During tryouts if two players have the same ability level and one is a local resident, that player is given preference to be selected. Additionally as noted above, a third tier of travel programming has been added to specifically support the desire of local residents to participate in a travel soccer program at a less competitive level.</p>
<p>Is residency something that is a state or federal law?</p>	<p>No. Residency policies are set town by town. Clarkstown has a residency policy of 60% which is why so many Orangetown residents were able to participate in the Clarkstown Soccer Club's travel program before OMM started a travel program. Orangetown currently has a residency policy of 85% which Supervisor Stewart has noted is an arbitrary number. Haverstraw and Ramapo do not have any residency requirements. OMM's goal is to be able to allow 100% of the town residents who wish to participate in their programming to do so and we have asked the town to adjust the residency policy to 60% to match what Clarkstown does and to ensure that all our programs can continue, including Buddyball which continues to draw larger numbers of children with special needs.</p>
<p>Does the residency issue effect anyone else?</p>	<p>Yes. This also affects Patriots football which is charged with accepting children from Nanuet- many of whom live in Clarkstown. Patriots Football has also requested that the residency number be changed to 60%.</p>
<p>If this other soccer group wants to help children play soccer, can't you work with them?</p>	<p>OMM is always eager to find other organizations in the community willing to help develop new fields. However, the other soccer group has declined our offer to partner in field development or programming. In fact, they have stated that they will oppose any effort by OMM to develop new fields at RPC. OMM continues to find solutions to the field space issues and has submitted a proposal to purchase land and is pursuing the development of additional fields that will be funded 100% by OMM with no Town financial support or burden on taxpayers. This effort is supported by OMM's new partner Orangetown Youth Lacrosse. OYL is also committed to working to secure additional fields and to work with OMM to that goal.</p>

<p>I heard that since the Orangetown Soccer Complex was built & maintained by tax dollars, only town taxpayers should be allowed to play here and room should be made for the other soccer program.”</p>	<p>OMM entered into a use agreement with the Town which annually saves local taxpayers over \$200,000. OMM worked in partnership with the Town to build the Complex but the vast majority of funds invested to create the Complex came from OMM. OMM invested \$3.0 million in building the Complex. We have spent over \$1 million since the Complex opened in annual maintenance costs. By contrast, the other soccer program has not contributed any funds to the Town and has said that the town should pay all operating expenses for the complex.</p>
<p>“Is it true that the other soccer program has offered to partner with OMM on field development?”</p>	<p>No. OMM is always eager to find other organizations in the community willing to help develop new fields. However, the other soccer program has declined our offer to partner in field development. We specifically invited their leadership to join our Field Development group to help us with fundraising to build more fields, but that offer was rejected. In fact, they have stated that they will oppose any effort by OMM to develop new fields at RPC. OMM continues to find solutions to the field space issues and has submitted a proposal to purchase land and is pursuing the development of additional fields that will be funded 100% by OMM with no Town financial support or burden on taxpayers. This effort is supported by OMM's new partner Orangetown Youth Lacrosse. OYL is also committed to working to secure additional fields and to work with OMM to that goal.</p>
<p>“I read on Facebook that OMM/World Class only wants a prestigious soccer program and doesn't care about local kids.”</p>	<p>OMM believes that the best way to serve the development needs of all players - residents especially - is to offer a proven, quality development environment for kids of every ability to reach their full potential. To this end, our volunteer-run and -managed organization offers the highest-quality soccer development program we know of, designed to support the needs and ambition of all our players. We love our residents especially because that's what the majority of our program is made of, and they are the friends and neighbors of we, the volunteers that run our program.</p> <p>OMM has consistently worked to provide programs that address the various needs of <u>all</u> of our local children- from those with special needs, to those who are recreational players, to the most elite players. Additionally OMM reinvests the proceeds from league fees back into field maintenance, reducing the burden on taxpayers.</p>
<p>“I was told that the other soccer group is comprised of all Orangetown residents?”</p>	<p>No- they accept also non-residents into their program, and have many non-residents on its rosters.</p>
<p>“Is this other group a not-for-profit, just like OMM?”</p>	<p>No. While they were formed as a not-for-profit corporation 3 years ago, they are not a 501(c) tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS – the higher standard that OMM has met. Contributions to OMM are tax-deductible. OMM files an annual report with the IRS. OMM discloses its audited financial statements and publically reports its revenue and expenses. Despite requests from the town board, the other soccer group has never disclosed any detailed or certified information – including how much revenue it generates, how much profit it generates, or how much its leaders are paying themselves. While OMM carries the expenses of paying off the debt on the complex as well as the annual maintenance on the facility, the other soccer program has no such expenses. What is done with the funds they collect is not known although when pressed for an accounting of funds, they did finally</p>

	disclose that they pay the wife of the programs director in excess of \$16,000 a year to serve as their registrar.
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