



## LOYALHANNA UNITED SOCCER CLUB

7 August 2002

Cara D. Franczak  
Internal Revenue Service  
PO Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201-3222

Dear Mrs. Franczak;

We received your correspondence and are providing the following information as support of our non-profit activities. Answers to your questions will be provided in the same order as they were asked. Additional amendments will be attached to support the information provided.

1. The age range for participants with Loyalhanna Soccer is 9-18 yrs old. We anticipate as many as 249 youths to participate in the fall 2002. We do not have any members participating on youth teams over the age of 18. See the attached list of players who have recently participated with Loyalhanna United Soccer.
2. A filing with the State of Pennsylvania has been completed and the amendments are attached.
3. Two plans were provided to describe what the club would do if grants were be available. Since we are not yet a charitable non-profit organization, funds were not available from grants. We were rejected by three foundations due to our lack of 501(c)(3) tax status with the IRS. Latrobe Foundation, McKenna Foundation, and RK Mellon Foundation all indicated that we required an IRS determination letter stating 501 (c ) (3) status before consideration of our project. Our exact plan is now to acquire a suitable site to build outdoor soccer fields for community participation in soccer. Although our original plans were to provide facilities for numerous sports, our plan now is to offer soccer fields for club and community use. Fees will be charged for league play but will be at the minimum required. Periodic player and coaches clinics will be offered at minimum or no cost to the community. Casual use by soccer players between league seasons will be available at no cost. The land has not been acquired due to lack of funds. A copy of our option to purchase is attached. This option was entered into between our club and a private landowner. The previous club president and vice president handled the transaction then shortly after resigned their positions. The option to purchase the land has now expired. I (Vincent Pimpinella) was voted in as President at the January 2002 annual meeting. I inherited the project and have reevaluated the realistic scope of our project. Through recent board meetings, we've decided that 4 outdoor soccer fields best meet the short term community needs and is realistic. No indoor facilities are now planned. We plan to approach the land owners described in the attached option to purchase once our 501 (c ) (3) status has been approved. The following describes the details of how we will build the fields.
  - a. Raise funds through local foundations interested in our project. RK Mellon, McKenna, and Latrobe Foundation expressed an interest but require our organization to be 501 (c ) (3). Raise funds through local businesses interested in community projects

- b. Secure a suitable site for field development. We hope to be able to come to a new agreement with the land owners described in the attached option to purchase. This is an ongoing project and is being coordinated with Unity Township supervisors and its recreation board.
  - c. A specification for soccer field construction and maintenance has been researched and will be the foundation of our plans to build recreational fields. See attached document from The Pennsylvania State University, College of Agriculture Extension Service. We plan to build natural soil fields.
  - d. Our initial plan is to use volunteers to provide labor to build the fields. This has two benefits; one is low cost, the other is building a sense of community. Vince Pimpinella will act as the project manager. We have been in contact with the Army Reserve in Indiana, PA who has shown an interest in helping with this project as soon as a suitable site has been secured. This Army unit has bulldozers, tractors, and truck which are idle between projects assigned by the government. Loyalhanna would provide the diesel fuel and the Army Reserve would provide additional volunteers and equipment. The construction of the fields would provide a training opportunity to the Army Reserve's personnel. The community would then get soccer fields. We have also been in contact with the legal representative (Tim Hewitt) for 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Regional Equipment Center. Government surplus equipment is available to non profit organizations. The use of this equipment is a contingency back up versus working with the Army Reserve. If the Army Reserve is called to duty for home security protection, we will continue with our project.
  - e. Maintenance would be coordinated by Loyalhanna United Soccer Club. We will purchase a tractor suitable for grass cutting and fertilizing. We have club volunteers to maintain the fields once they are built.
4. We participate in the PAWest Soccer Association's travel league. PAWest is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. The PAWest league plays games in the Pittsburgh, PA area. Yes we provide equipment. We provide soccer goals, nets, corner flags, practice vests, and game balls.
  5. Membership only means that someone participates in club activities. The only dues collected are \$80 in the fall and \$35 in the spring per player. These dues cover uniforms for the fall and spring season, referee fees, line painting costs on Greater Latrobe School District fields, postage for communication, production costs for registration documents and medical waivers. Individual accounts are not set up for athletes. Each team is expected to do a fundraising activity each season. Teams do sub sales, car washes, or concession sales. Fundraising efforts are coordinated by our Treasurer who is also the fundraising committee leader. Each team manager is responsible to organize a team fundraising event. A typical event is a car wash at a local car dealership or furniture store. The business donates the parking lot space and water faucet. The teams bring buckets, sponges, hoses and towels. They make signs and encourage passing cars to stop in for a wash. The signs ask for a donation for a car wash. Teams typically work from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Loyalhanna United Soccer assumes the costs for soap, sponges, and towels. Sometimes a parent will donate these items for use at the car wash. Other teams organize submarine sandwich sales through a local convenience store – Sheetz. Players sell coupons which can be exchanged for sandwiches. Sheetz only charges the club for coupons sold. Sheetz takes back any unsold coupons. On game days, the club offers concessions sales for players, parents and other spectators. The club purchases items such as candy, soda, and hot dogs and resells them at a concessions table. These fundraising events help defer club operating costs.

6. Our present board of directors is newly appointed in January 2002. The (4) officers are the only active board members. At the moment, the board members occupy the club officers' positions. As a young organization many of us perform multiple duties to encourage the charitable nature of our activities.. Previous officers have resigned or are no longer active. Vincent Pimpinella, Don Edwards, and Alan Tennant are active coaches. Don Edwards is a certified referee and assigns referees for club games. At the present time, no other board members are active in the governing of Loyalhanna United Soccer Club, Inc. No compensation is paid to any officer. We volunteer our time to build this non-profit activity as a resource to the community.
7. Loyalhanna United Soccer Club is a member of the PAWest Soccer Association a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organization. We pay an annual club affiliation fee, (\$100) and \$7.50 per player each year to belong to PAWest Soccer Association. As a member of PAWest, we are allowed to play against other teams in the Pittsburgh area travel leagues for under-10, under-12, under-14, under-16, and under-19 age groups. PAWest also provides our club with liability insurance (see attached). As a member of PAWest, Loyalhanna Soccer Club can vote on issues at PAWest's annual meeting in the spring. We do not have a direct affiliation to the United States Soccer Federation. PAWest is the state member of USSF and passes down any rules, regulations, and customs to us. We then abide by these directions. We presently do not have any legal agreements with Soccer Academy. Soccer Academy was retained to assist Loyalhanna United Soccer Club in its effort to raise money to build our own fields. The prior president and vice president of Loyalhanna United entered into an agreement with Soccer Academy. Soccer Academy was to direct fundraising efforts with the understanding that Loyalhanna United Soccer could accept charitable donations. Since the prior president and vice president of our organization never applied for 501 (c) (3) status, Soccer Academy could not raise any money. In April 2002, I (Vincent Pimpinella) discovered that our club's tax status did not fulfill the agreement with Soccer Academy. Soccer Academy was unable to raise any funds. We cancelled our agreement with Soccer Academy. This agreement and the cancellation notification was sent with the original form 1023.
8. Parents and High School aged kids coach teams. Parents coach the older teams. 17-18 yr old kids can coach under-10 yr old teams. Parents manage teams. Managers serve as a point of communication for player's parents. This allows the coaches to concentrate on improving players. All our teams presently participate in PAWest travel soccer leagues in the spring and fall seasons. We do not play league games against each other. The benefit that parents receive is the opportunity to watch their children in a fitness activity and compete with other people. Participation in soccer deters other undesirable use of youths and adults time.
9. We will change our response to "J".
10. We have been unable to raise any foundation grants for our organization do to us not having the 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) tax status. Line 9 was interpreted as grants. The form has been revised to include funds raised by team events. Adjustments were made to break out the private donations to the club.
11. Field rental costs are "budgeted" costs which we anticipate having to spend as a contingency plan. We do not own our fields and rely on the Greater Latrobe School Districts fields for our clubs activities. When the school has a function or a new sports program, our field use is decreased. We have recently investigated options to rent fields from St. Vincent's College, Hempfield Parks & Recreation, and Foothills Soccer Club. ~~If necessary we will have to pay \$150/day from St. Vincent's College, \$25 per~~

game from Hempfield Parks & Recreation or Foothills Soccer Club. All prices were verbal quotes collected in April 2002 when the Greater Latrobe School District did not allow our club to use the fields for a 3 week period.

12. Referees are hired as independent contractors. Each referee makes \$35/game. Each linesman makes \$25/game. Each game has (1) referee and (2) linesmen. This rate is customary for payment as indicated to our club by PA West Soccer Association. Referees must pay \$35 per year to re-certify with PA West under a United States Soccer Federation program. Referees must also purchase their own uniforms.
13. Fundraising discrepancies were an oversight. Each team is expected to do a fundraising activity each season. Teams do sub sales, car washes, or concession sales. Fundraising efforts are coordinated by our Treasurer who is also the fundraising committee leader. Each team manager is responsible to organize a team fundraising event. A typical event is a car wash at a local car dealership or furniture store. The business donates the parking lot space and water faucet. The teams bring buckets, sponges, hoses and towels. They make signs and encourage passing cars to stop in for a wash. The signs ask for a donation for a car wash. Teams typically work from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Loyalhanna United Soccer assumes the costs for soap, sponges, and towels. Sometimes a parent will donate these items for use at the car wash. Other teams organize submarine sandwich sales through a local convenience store – Sheetz. Players sell coupons which can be exchanged for sandwiches. Sheetz only charges the club for coupons sold. Sheetz takes back any unsold coupons. On game days, the club offers concessions sales for players, parents and other spectators. The club purchases items such as candy, soda, and hot dogs and resells them at a concessions table. These fundraising events help defer the cost for referees, equipment, and line painting. That is what the expenses were for.
14. The previous president and vice-president of Loyalhanna United Soccer Club entered into an agreement to purchase 135 acres of land in the Latrobe, PA area. They put \$5,000 down as an option to purchase the land. The option has expired and the \$5,000 is no longer an asset to Loyalhanna United Soccer Club. The option expired because the club was unable to raise the required funds to close on the deal. Loyalhanna United Soccer Club would have held the title to the land. The land would have been used for a sports complex. We presently budget to rent fields because we do not have our own fields. We use fields controlled by the Greater Latrobe School District. It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure practice and game times from the school district. Recently the school district added girls' lacrosse. Their practices can conflict with Loyalhanna United Soccer practices. School sports take priority over our club activities. The soccer fields we use coexist with the outfield of (2) softball fields. When the school has a requirement for the softball fields, Loyalhanna United Soccer has no fields to play on. This spring the School district did not allow Loyalhanna United Soccer to play for a 3 week period. This was due to an effort to protect the outfield of the softball fields for school playoff games. We had over 200 players with no where to practice or play games. We have recently discovered that we can rent fields on an occasional basis from St. Vincent's college in Latrobe, PA. This is at a cost of \$150 per day. We can also rent fields from Foothills Soccer Club (a non-profit 501 (C) (3)) or Hempfield Parks & Recreation for \$25 per game.
15. The present board has extensive business experience. I (Vincent Pimpinella) am a present owner of a home based manufacturer's representative business working with power plant engineering companies and industrial manufacturers. I voted in as president of Loyalhanna United Soccer Club Inc. due to the fact that a significant amount of my time has been devoted to organizing and developing the club. I've

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been involved in both business and personal real estate transactions for land, construction, and existing buildings. These experiences support me as a leader for Loyalhanna United Soccer Club, Inc. I feel confident in my ability to organize construction equipment sources and contractors to build the soccer fields. Don Edwards and Dave Gebhart were small business owners in the past and now work as employees at middle to upper management levels. The time they invest in the operations of our club benefit all the players and their families. Alan Tennant is a plant engineer with Allegheny Power and has extensive technical knowledge. He also devotes a significant amount of his time to coach teams in our club. Financially the board (through personal funds) would be unable to acquire a suitable parcel of land and complete the construction of (4) soccer fields. We are unable to bring this project to completion without support from the local community and foundations who have expressed an interest in our project pending 501 (c) (3) tax status. We see our present financial resource situation as being similar to other soccer clubs in our area when they begun to offer services to the community. Norwin Soccer Club, Penns Forest Soccer Club, and Foothills Soccer Club are all 501 (c) (3) organizations providing charitable services to their community. We wish to provide similar services to our community where it is greatly needed.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation said in a letter “I certainly commend you and your group for wanting to provide such worthwhile activities for the youth in our area and hope that we can find some realistic way of providing support”. The McKenna Foundation indicated that their board would review our application for a grant in their November board meeting pending our status as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Local banks, the Latrobe Area Hospital and local restaurants to name a few have expressed great interest in supporting our project once we get organized as a charitable non-profit corporation. No board members are contractors or excavators. We will rely on and organize volunteers to help build our project as a community resource that will allow youths an opportunity to plays soccer and deter less desirable uses of their time.