

Soccer: Fall 2010

Dear Parents and Coaches,

It's time for fall soccer! Thank you for your support of the Columbus Recreation Soccer program. Your support is invaluable to the youth who enjoy playing. I hope you have an enjoyable season. We have started soccer earlier to alleviate overlapping of programs and to avoid the late October weather.

You will be contacted by email or phone on Tuesday, August 17 with team/coach name and 1st practice/game location. Schedules will be emailed/mailed out that day also, or you can receive them at the first practice.

Parents are needed to help with coaching and assisting with all grades **A meeting will be held on August 12 at 6:30pm at the Senior Center to learn more about coaching and the program.** I have materials that you can utilize if you are not very familiar with the sport. Please contact me if you are interested, otherwise we will solicit volunteers at the first practice. **Registration is due August 12.** Please make every attempt to register by the deadline, as it is difficult to form teams and order shirts with late registration. However since the program is starting earlier than it has in the past, late registrations may be accepted. **Official program start week is August 23, and actual start date will vary depending on grade.**

Soccer will be one hour in length. For the Pre-K, the main focus will be on fundamentals. Kindergarten will focus in fundamentals and will have the opportunity to play organized games. For the 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th grades, the first part of the hour will be spent practicing the fundamentals; the remaining time will be spent playing games. These grades will also have the opportunity to face neighboring communities. For the grades 5th to 8th, you will work on skills and pick-up games and will play other communities in the area.

You should receive your apparel the first week of practice if you register by the deadline. Every attempt is made to place orders in a reasonable time, but late registrations and incomplete forms delay orders. To help with cost, we try to only place one order. Thank you for your understanding.

Pictures will be taken of your teams on the following dates, so please wear your shirts. If it is re-scheduled, you will be notified as soon as possible. Pictures will be taken at the location you are playing.

Picture Schedule:

September 12: 5th-8th

September 14: 3rd-4th

September 15: 1st-2nd

September 18: Kindergarten, Pre-K

Our number one goal for this program is that all youth should have fun and enjoy the recreational sport of soccer. Although this is challenging given the different talents and skills of our youth, we strive to achieve this by minimizing the competitiveness of the games; by playing all youth, rotating positions and by not keeping score. We also encourage all participants – coaches and players, to display a high level of sportsmanship

I sincerely hope I was able to make your requests for scheduling. If at any time you have concerns, please feel free to contact me.

For Pre-K and Kindergarten, it is not required to have shin guards and cleats. For 1st through 8th grade, cleats, shin guards, etc are necessary. Shin guards can be purchased at a number of places including any sporting goods store, Wal-mart, Shopko or Fleet Farm. The "sock" type wear better than the kind that just wraps the leg with straps.

The weather can some times be the greatest challenge to our soccer program. Unless you get a call or email from your child's coach, you should assume that the game is on. If it is really raining, you can assume that it will be called. We will play in light drizzle and light snow – the kids love it! It is only hard on the parents. Most of all, at this age level, we would like you to do what is best for your family. **In most instances, the game will not be called prior to 5:00 because**

things change so quickly and it is difficult to predict what the field will be like at game time. Thank you for your understanding. For updated weather information, please visit <http://columbusrecwi.blogspot.com> or join us on Facebook. Feel free to also call the Recreation Department at 623-5936 as information will be available on the voicemail.

In addition to having fun, we hope that our program is also to teach some of the fundamentals of the game. The following concepts that we would like taught are:

Soccer: A game played by two teams on a rectangular field, in which players attempt to knock a round ball through the opponents' goal, using any part of the body except the hands. Generally, players use their feet and heads as they kick, dribble, and pass the ball toward the goal. One player on each team guards the goal. This player, the *goalkeeper*, is the only player allowed to touch the ball with the hands while it is in play.

Soccer is a free-flowing game that has relatively few rules and requires little equipment. All that is needed to play is an area of open space and a ball. Much of the world's soccer is played informally, without field markings or real goals. In many places, the game is played barefoot using rolled-up rags or newspapers as a ball. Soccer is the world's most popular sport, played by people of all ages in about 200 countries. The sport has millions of fans throughout the world.

Only in the United States and Canada is the game referred to as *soccer*. Outside these countries the sport is commonly called football, or *fútbol* in Spanish-speaking countries, where the game is particularly popular. The official name of the sport is *association football*. The word *soccer* is a slang corruption of the abbreviation *assoc.*¹

Corner Kick: When a defensive team kicks the ball over its own end line, opponents receive a corner kick, taken from the corner on the side of the field where the ball went out.

Throw in: When the ball is kicked or headed over the sideline, the opposing team is awarded throw-in. To be legal, throw-in must be taken with both feet on ground. Ball must come from behind the head and must be thrown, not dropped in to play.

Kindergarten and 1st grade teams should know when to inbound and begin to understand the basics of the throw. Older teams should be using all of the techniques of a throw-in, being more generous in the first few weeks than latter weeks. When a ball is incorrectly thrown in, it is forfeited to the other team for throw in.

The Goalie is the only player on the team allowed to use their hands. They may **throw-in** or **kick/punt** the ball back into play anytime they catch the ball.

Goalie Kick: When the offense team takes a shot that misses the goal, but crosses the goal line completely. The defensive team is awarded a goal kick. The goalie or any defensive player may kick the ball into play from anywhere within the goal area. In a goalie kick, the ball is placed on the ground and kicked into play.

When a goal is scored, the team that is scored on gets the ball.

There are many more rules and regulations, but these are the basics that we play with at this level.

Please feel free to contact me at the Recreation Department, 623-5936 or recreation@columbuswi.us with any comments or concerns you may have. Your feedback helps make the program better each season.

Have fun this season!

Megan Sommerhalder, CPRP
Recreation Director
City of Columbus

¹ Soccer," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2005
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