

## **SOCER INFO AND FAQ'S**

**NO ONE** is to be on the goals. No swinging, climbing or playing on them! This is dangerous and if they tip and fall, it can be fatal. We do not want this kind of tragedy!!!

Trash needs to be placed in the cans. There are plenty of these around. We need to keep the fields clean, so please keep the trash where it belongs.

So your child has never played soccer before. We all start somewhere. OR you have been asked to coach and you have NO idea what you are doing? Below is a list of things for each age group that will help you learn a little about soccer. Whether it be sitting on the sidelines or coaching from the bench. I promise once you learn a few things you will love the sport!! For ALL games and practices, please have a drink for your child. If you do not have one you can purchase one at the concession. Shin Guards are mandatory!!!! They are required in ALL participation in soccer for your child's protection. If you do not have a pair or forget yours, there are some in the building on the shelves to use. There are also extra cleats in the building. You are welcome to get a pair for your child if needed. And also welcome to drop off the ones your child has grown out of. We share to help others. :)

### **What days of the week are practices and games?**

Practices are set by the coach and can be any day of the week. Games for U10, U12, and U15/U19 can be any day of the week, but mostly on Saturdays. Games for U6 - U8 are typically limited to two nights per week, Monday through Thursday, but mostly on Saturdays.

### **What time are games and practices?**

Games generally begin at 6:00/6:30 pm. In certain cases, two games or practices can be scheduled each night on the same field. If this is the case, the first game or practice begins at 5:30 pm and the second immediately after, between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm. Please contact your coach for exact practice and games times. IF you do drop your child off for practice, please be courteous and be back in time to pick your child up. Don't make a coach wait.

### **How long do practices and games last?**

Practices for U6 are approx 45 minutes with games being 4/10 min quarters. U8 - U10 practices are typically scheduled for one hour and games last about an hour, including breaks between quarters/halves. Practice for U12 and older are 90 minutes with games running between 60 and 90 minutes, depending on the age division.

**Is there travel involved?** Yes. The High School, U15, U12 and U10 do travel. Games are scheduled with leagues in Parkersburg, Pt. Pleasant and Ravenswood. U8 teams only travel in the county.

(Note: Traveling to play teams for Recreation matches does not make your child a Travel (T) player.)

## **What does my registration fee cover?**

The registration fee covers a portion of the following: shirts, the state registration fee, referee fees, field upkeep and paint, maintenance and supplies.

## **What equipment is needed?**

T-shirt will be provided by the league.. Each child must have shin guards. Having the appropriate size soccer ball is nice but not mandatory.. Players on U6 - U8 teams use a size 3 ball, U10 and U12 teams use a size 4 ball, and U15 teams and older use a size 5 ball. Soccer cleats are recommended. Baseball and football cleats CANNOT be used.

## **Can my child play soccer and another sport (baseball, football, etc.) during soccer season?**

There is no league rule against this, but it is not recommended. It is extremely difficult to attend all practices and games when participating in two sports. This leaves teams short and not being able to play their scheduled games.

If your child is playing soccer for either their middle or high school soccer team, state regulations prohibit them from playing in any recreational league while the Fall season is in session. They are eligible and encouraged, to play during the Spring season.

Practice Guides for U6 - U12:

### **U-6**

This group of players are 4 - 5 year olds. There are 4 players on the field. Shin guards are mandatory, cleats are optional but do help for traction. They have a very short attention span. When practicing, you will be lucky to get a half hour from them. They are high energy and everything from the grass, to the trees, to the birds, to the sky interests them more than what you are saying to them. Patience? Yes! It is best to get down on their level and gather them around you when you are talking to them. And keep it short and sweet.

Practices - Practices shouldn't last any more than 45 minutes. These ages are taught to dribble the ball (with their feet not their hands). They will pick this up fairly quickly. Using the side of their foot, they can kick the ball back and forth from left to right while going down the field (dribbling). When they get closer to the goal, they can kick the ball into the goal. The hands

NEVER touch the ball in these ages. Yes they will pick it up, that is what they have always known to do with a ball. But remind them they are not to use their hands, this will be a good lesson for them through out soccer, although when they are older they will use their hands for throw ins and as a goalie. But that will be the next level up. SO back on track. A size 3 ball is used. Players may bring their own for practices. There are extras in the building, please return those for others when you are done with them. Games - there are 3 players on the field. There is not supposed to be a goalie, but most coaches put a child at the goal to keep the other team from scoring. So that can be done. The other children run the field dribbling and passing the ball to their own players. Passing? Yes, but don't count to much on it with this age group. They like to keep the ball to themselves. But passing is what they will need to learn eventually and need to do so that they won't lose the ball to the other team and can help in scoring a goal (assist). If the ball is kicked over the line, there is either a goal kick from the goal box, corner kick or a sideline kick. These are awarded to the team who did NOT kick the ball out of bounds. This age does NOT keep score. Everyone cheers for ALL the children. Encouragement goes a long way. Never yell or talk down to a child for a mistake. They happen, it is called learning! Game times are 4, 10 minute quarters.

There are no referees on the field. 1 coach will be on the field directing the game. The other coach can stand off the field at the goal. Heading the ball is NOT permitted at this age level. Field Set Up - this age does not need flags or a bench. There are blankets on the shelf in the building that can be used for the kids to sit on during games. If it is wet then get a bench. Parents sit on the outside of the field, the players sit on the opposite side from them. This keeps your kids together and knowing who has did what and who you have there for the game.

### **U-8**

These players are 6 and 7 years old and use a size 3 ball. They have 4 players on the field. One player may be played at goal but can NOT use their hands to pick up the ball. NO player is permitted in the goal box until the ball is in the box. Shin Guards are mandatory for ALL practices and games. Heading the ball is NOT permitted at this age level.

Practices - These shouldn't last anymore than an hour. Players continue from U6 dribbling the ball, practicing throw-ins from the side lines (this replaces the kick in from U6), passing and shooting at goal, and corner kicks and goal kicks. Throw-ins are done outside the line, ball in both hands, over the head, feet planted on the ground and tossing the ball into the players. The feet must not leave the ground during a throw-in. The ball must come back over the head during the throw.

Games - A referee will call the game. Coaches are to be at the bench with the players. Parents are to sit on the opposite side of the field. No one is permitted at the goal during the game. Game times are 4, 10 minute quarters.

Field Set Up - Flags must be placed on the field for games. Benches or a blanket needs to be set out too. The league has purchased blankets and these are on the shelf in the building. Flags go in each corner of the field. Home team on the schedule sets the field up (placing flags and benches). Home team is the first one listed on the schedule. The last home team of the day is responsible for putting all these items back in the building. DO NOT leave items out on the fields.

Heading the ball is NOT permitted at this age level.

### **U10**

U10 - players are 8 and 9 years of age, use a size 4 ball, players are NOT permitted to head the ball. Heading the ball will result in a free kick from the opposing team. There are 7 players on the field.

Build Out Line - this line is to help develop players. It is a different color than the regular field lines. When the goalie has possession of the ball, the opposing team must be on the outside of this line. Goalie is NOT permitted to punt the ball.

The rest of the rules are the same of the U12 and up brackets.

### **U12 - U19**

U12 - players are 10 and 11 years of age, use a size 4 ball, players are permitted to head the ball. There are 9 players on the field

U15 - players are 12, 13 and 14 and use a size 5 ball with 11 players on the field.

U19 - players are 15, 16, 17 and 18 and use a size 5 ball with 11 players on the field.

All rules from U8 pertain to U10 and up. Throw-Ins, goal kicks, corner kicks.

Two additions to these age groups are the PK (Penalty Kick) and Offsides.

### **PK**

Penalty Kick (this is done from the mark inside the big goal box with only the goalie at the goal. The rest of the team is on the outside of the big goal box. PK's are done if there is a foul inside the goal box, handball inside the goal box.

### **Offside Position**

It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if:

- he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent

A player is not in an offside position if:

- he is in his own half of the field of play
- he is level with the second to last opponent
- he is level with the last two opponents.

### **Offense**

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- interfering with play
- interfering with an opponent
- gaining an advantage by being in that position.

#### No Offense

There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in
- a corner kick.

#### Infringements/Sanctions

In the event of an offside offense, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Q: [What's the minimum age to play?]

A: Player MUST be 4 by January 1 of said year.

Q: [Can we request a coach or to be with another child?]

A: You may request but requests may not be honored. The reason is, RYSL puts out teams together by skills so that (hopefully) no one team is better than the rest or no one team is losing every game. We do try to honor carpooling requests if we can. Coach's and Asst. Coach's children will be on the same team, as well as siblings/family.

Q: [How long is the season?]

A: We schedule between 8 and 10 games. For the most part, games are played on Saturdays. There will also be some week night games as well. There will be two or three weeks of practice before the season starts (depending on weather and coaches).

Q: [What do I need to buy?]

A: Shin Guards are required for ALL players! Soccer cleats and a ball if you are able to. U-6 - U-8 use size 3, U-10 & U-12 use size 4, U-15 & U-19 use size 5.

Shirts will be provided by the league.

Q: [What are the seasons]

A: Fall Season is played in September - October. Registration deadline for fall will be July 15th. Spring Season is played in April - May. Registration deadline for spring will be February 15.

Q: [What are the divisions?]

A: Keep in mind that U means under. We have: U-6 (4 & 5 year olds) U-8 (6 & 7 year olds), U-10 (8 & 9 year olds), U-12 (10 & 11 year olds) U-15 (12, 13 & 14 year olds) and in the spring U-19 (15-18 year olds). A player may be moved to the next age bracket up, but no one is permitted to bump up 2 age brackets.

Q: [OK, I registered, now what?]

A: You will be contacted by your child's coach to set up practices. RYSL is 100% volunteer driven! The coaches will set up their own practice night/time, but RYSL will set the game schedule.

Don't see your question answered here? Please email [ripleyyouthsoccer@yahoo.com](mailto:ripleyyouthsoccer@yahoo.com) with any other questions you may have!