



YOUTH SOCCER PARENTS MANUAL

Fall 2026

INFORMATION INCLUDED:

- Registration
- Financial Assistance
- Special Requests
- Refund Policy
- Team Selection
- Practices & Games
- Playing Time
- Inclement Weather
- Transportation
- Insurance
- Age Cut-Off & Play Up Policy
- Background Checks of Volunteers
- Rules and Regulations
- General Principles





REGISTRATION

Soccer Registration

Registration begins June 1st and runs through August 2nd. The cost to register is \$85. A jersey is included with each registration.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We do have a financial assistance program for those that need it. Forms to request assistance can be obtained by visiting the website, www.hcprd.com or visiting our office at 708 S Grove St, Monday - Friday between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Practice Requests

Please let us know on the registration form if there are certain days that your child will not be able to practice/play because of church, scouts, school function, or any other conflict and WE WILL DO OUR BEST to accommodate your request. We cannot guarantee that all requests will be accommodated.

Coach Requests

Henderson County Parks and Recreation (HCPRD) will not be accepting any requests for coaches or for players to be on a specific team. HCPRD strives to create youth sports leagues by organizing teams based on geography and will strive to do our best to make sure all teams are balanced.





REFUND POLICY

- 100% refund if program or league is cancelled by HCPRD due to low registration.
- 100% refund if withdrawn before teams are placed and sent to the coach.
- 50 % refund once teams have been placed, once practice begins, and uniforms have been ordered.
- No refunds given after after September 1, 2026.

All extenuating circumstances will be assessed by the Parks and Recreation Director and a final decision will be made.



TEAM SELECTION

Teams will be selected by HCPRD staff. There will be limited input from coaches on team placement. Teams will be placed with geographic location as the prime determinant in addition to the school zones. We will also try to form a balanced league to the best of our abilities.

Coaches will call all player's parents to inform children of their first practice as soon as possible. Parents can expect this call around mid-August (no later than August 19th).



PRACTICES & GAMES

Soccer Practices

Starting no earlier than August 24th .

First Practices: Each team will get one weekday practice throughout the season. Late season practices may be cancelled for make-up games if necessary.

Soccer Games

Games will begin on March 21st .



PLAYING TIME

HCPRD will be implementing an evenly distributed playing time model. All players must play at least half of a game.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

When the weather becomes questionable, games may be cancelled and rescheduled. When the decision has been made, the recreation department will contact the team's coaches and they will be responsible for communicating with the parents of their team. The department will make every effort to play all of the games.

The call in number for Youth Soccer weather updates is 828-698-5101 and will have an updated message as game status has been determined at the following times:

After 1:30 PM on school days

After 7:30 AM on Saturday mornings

The HCPRD website, www.hcprd.com, will also be updated with cancellation information.



TRANSPORTATION

The HCPRD policy is that recreation staff (this includes all volunteer coaches and officials) may not transport participants in their privately-owned vehicles. Volunteer coaches are directed not to transport participants but to assist parents in coordinating the transportation of participants (car pools).



PROGRAM WAIVER

Engaging in any athletic competition involves an assumption of risk on the part of those who choose to participate. All parents must sign and acknowledge they have read the HCPRD Waiver form.



AGE CUT-OFF & PLAY-UP POLICY

Soccer age groups are based on each player's current grade level.

HCPRD requires a written formal request from parent/guardian for a child to play in the next higher grade level. HCPRD staff will consider the request with the following guidelines:

- Player is above average ability
- Player is physically equal to older players

This written request must be received by HCPRD staff at time of registration.



BACKGROUND CHECKS OF VOLUNTEERS

Since youth sports organizations are responsible for the children in their programs, they must be aware of the potential risks and safeguards that must be taken to protect participants and the community in which the program operates. Volunteers in youth sports are considered staff and should be recruited, screened, trained, supervised, and evaluated the same as would be done if the staff were paid. The law does not differentiate between paid vs. volunteer staff.

Therefore, regardless of the position in a youth sports program, volunteers must be treated as though they are applying for a job. The time, energy, and costs invested in screening are much less than if an incident of abuse or neglect occurs in the organization.

Volunteers are considered anyone who serves with the youth sports league in any capacity. All coaches, assistant coaches, league presidents, league coordinators, and volunteers are required to have background checks completed annually.



Behavior/Sportsmanship

All PLAYERS must show respect for coaches and officials.

All COACHES must show respect to players and officials

All PARENTS must show respect to players, coaches and officials.

Ejections

Any physical or verbal abuse towards a referee/staff member, coach, or players/parents will not be tolerated. Profanity used by a player or coach towards a referee will be an automatic ejection (red card). Such actions could result in the immediate forfeiture of the game in progress and the possibility of the offending party being banned from Henderson County Parks and programs for up to one year. It is a North Carolina State Law that threatening a game official is a Class I misdemeanor offense, punishable by fine or jail time.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR PARENTS

Athletes and coaches will not be able to perform at their best if parents do not have a clear understanding of the philosophies of the youth sports program. The following is a guideline for parents:

- Understand the daily pressures a child faces. Youth sports should be an outlet and place for a player to have fun. Encourage your child and allow him/her to have a good time.
- Remember that your child learns more from your actions than your words. Practice good sportsmanship by being respectful to players, parents, and coaches on both teams.
- Parents should appreciate the efforts made by both teams. It is good sportsmanship to applaud a good play made by the opponents.
- Parents should support the coach and understand that coaches are volunteers. It is inappropriate for a parent to coach a player who is on the field. Not only does it devalue the coach, it also confuses the player.
- Parents should not embarrass their child by calling attention to themselves through loud or rude behavior.
- Don't be a coach - be a parent. Offer encouragement and positive reinforcement. A sure way to dampen your child's enthusiasm is with constant criticism.
- Parents should encourage discipline by having their children arrive on time for practice and games.
- Parents should help their children realize that belonging to a team requires commitment. Regular attendance and being prepared are necessary for the team to function smoothly.
- Parents should volunteer their services whenever possible. This shows the participants the value of being a team player.
- Parents should respect the officials and their calls. It is okay to disagree, but inappropriate to belittle or attack verbally or physically.
- Parents should refrain from criticizing any of the officials decisions and should never go onto the field while the game is in progress to dispute a call.

Any questions about calls or decisions should be handled in an appropriate manner by the coach of the team during a timeout or between halves.



PARENT AGREEMENT

By completing my child's registration for the HCPRD Soccer League, I hereby agree that if I (or other parent, guardian, or guests of my child) fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing while attending, coaching, or participating in a HCPRD youth soccer event, I and/or my child will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination.

1. Verbal Warning issued by a league, HCPRD organization or a HCPRD official who is authorized to issue such warning.
2. Written warning issued by a league, HCPRD organization or a HCPRD official who is authorized to issue such a warning.
3. Suspension or immediate ejection from a HCPRD youth soccer event issued by a league, HCPRD organization or a HCPRD official who is authorized to issue such suspension or ejection.
4. Suspension from multiple HCPRD soccer events issued by a league, HCPRD official who is authorized to issue such a suspension.
5. One season, multiple season or permanent suspension issued by a league, HCPRD organization, or a HCPRD official who is authorized to issue such a suspension.