



YOUTH SOCCER PARENTS MANUAL

Spring 2024

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REGISTRATION

Soccer Registration

Regular registration Begins December 4, 2023 and runs through February 4 2024. The cost to register is \$65. A jersey is included with each registration.

Late Registration

Late registration begins February 5, 2024 and runs through February 11, 2024. Late registration includes an additional fee of \$10. Children registered after this deadline will be put on a waitlist and placed on a team IF there is availability.



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 that are focused on fun with balanced rosters.



REFUND POLICY

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- 100% refund if withdrawn before teams are placed.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

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 a prime determinant in addition to school districts and skill as secondary determinants.

NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE AFTER TEAMS ARE PLACED.

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 to late February with practices beginning the week of March 4th.



PRACTICES & GAMES

Soccer Practices

Starting no earlier than March 4th.

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 23rd.



PLAYING TIME

HCPRD will be implementing an evenly distributed playing time model. Under these rules the child that plays the most will only be able to play in one more segment of the game than the child that plays the least.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

When the weather becomes questionable, games may be cancelled and rescheduled. When the decision has been made, the recreation department will call the team's coaches. 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).



INSURANCE

Engaging in any athletic competition involves an assumption of risk on the part of those who choose to participate. All youth soccer players registered through HCPRD receive a supplementary insurance policy through the NC Youth Soccer Association. Details can be found at hendersoncountysoccer.org



AGE CUT-OFF & PLAY-UP POLICY

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

HCPRD requires a written formal request from parent/guardian for a child to play in the next higher age group. 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.

Consent/Release Form – each volunteer must submit online form to authorize a background investigation by NCYSA.



RULES & REGULATIONS

Game Forfeiture

Forfeits will be avoided if at all possible. Teams without enough players may borrow players from the opposing team, or the game can be played with a lower number of players on the field. Referees and league staff should be consulted to in these situations to determine the best course of action.

Red & Yellow Cards

Yellow and/or Red Cards will be given for any action deemed unacceptable or dangerous by the referee(s) of that game. Cards may be given to players, coaches, or parents/spectators, and will be tracked throughout the season by Henderson County Parks & Recreation staff, in conjunction with the game officials.

- Anyone who earns three yellow cards over the course of the season will be asked to meet with Henderson County Parks & Recreation staff and may be subject to further discipline and/or suspension.
- Any player that receives a Red Card will miss the remainder of that game, and a minimum of one subsequent game. Any adult that receives a Red Card will be ejected from the premises for the remainder of that day and may be subject to further discipline and/or suspension. Anyone who receives a red card will be required to have a conference with the league director before they will be able to attend another game.

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. Such actions will 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.