



YOUTH SOCCER PLAYBOOK

DEAR PARENTS/PLAYERS:

The purpose of this playbook is to give you a better idea of what to expect before and during the soccer season. We've addressed many common questions that parents ask, but if you have any additional questions please give us a call at 847.850.2146.

YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

The Buffalo Grove Park District Soccer Program is a recreational/instructional league designed to provide each player, regardless of ability, with a positive sports experience. We stress learning, safety, sportsmanship, and fun. Parents please support your young athlete with encouragement and good sportsmanship at all games and practices.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Soccer players need to supply their own:

- Soccer ball (for practice – K thru 5th grade use a size 4 soccer ball and 6th thru 8th use a size 5).
- Shin guards (worn under the socks and are mandatory for all practices and games).
- Soccer cleats or gym shoes (mandatory for practice and games).
- Buffalo Grove Park District issued uniform (mandatory for games – uniforms are an additional cost).
- Water bottle (for practices and games).
- Please see additional equipment information below.

Football, baseball and metal cleats are not allowed to be worn for safety reasons. If the player wears glasses, a fitted eyeglass strap is required. No jewelry should be worn with the exception of medical jewelry. Children with starter earrings may wear them but they must be taped on both sides of each earlobe prior to the start of the game. A mouth guard is recommended. In cold or wet weather, the player may wear suitable clothing under the uniform. No baseball caps are allowed.

PRACTICE / PLAYING TIME

Players are expected to attend all scheduled practices. Players that go to practice must play at least 50% of the game. Those that have unexcused absences may receive less playing time at the coach's discretion.

INFORMING THE COACH

Parents, it is very important that you contact your coach if your child is not able to attend a practice or game each week. The coach and the team are counting on their players/teammates to show up for practice and games and need to prepare accordingly if a player will be absent. The Park District coaches volunteer their time and it is considerate to keep them informed of any absences from practices and games during the season.

CONFLICTS

If your son/daughter is planning on participating in other activities, you may experience practice and game conflicts throughout the season. It has proven to be very difficult for our coaches to make practice and game time decisions for players that are busy in other activities. It also puts unneeded pressure on the young athlete in regards to team loyalty and commitment.

PRACTICES/GAMES/MAKEUPS

Practice days are assigned based on the information you provided at registration, but the Park District cannot guarantee you will be placed on one of the practice nights you requested. Please contact the Park District by the assigned date on your receipt if you have any changes in your child's practice day request. We will make those changes on your registration form. After the deadline, if your child is placed on a practice night that you circled on the registration form you may not be able to change the night of your child's practice. Your coach will provide team game and practice schedules and other specific team information that you will need. Practices are scheduled to begin any time after the head coaches meeting. Games will be played on Saturdays throughout the season. There might be weekends where teams have more than one game to fit them all in. If there is bad weather, games may be canceled rescheduled by Park District staff. Rescheduled game dates/times will be emailed to coaches and posted on the park district website.

GAME DAYS/EVENING GAMES

Games are scheduled at Willow Stream Park. Game days for all divisions will be played on Saturdays, and if necessary, Sundays and/or weekdays. Saturday games begin as early as 9 am and could go as late as 3 pm.

GAME FIELD LOCATIONS

All games are played at Willow Stream Park. Each field (at Willow Stream Park) is designated a color, which is painted on the upper back supports of each goal. Your game schedule will include what color field your child's games are played on.

GAME CONDITIONS

Sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate and the Park District must determine the status of games. Games are rarely played in perfect weather. There will be some days that we must play in cold, windy, snowy and rainy conditions. Please call the **Rainout Hotline 847.235.6857 Ext: 5** if you are uncertain about the weather and field conditions. Games may be delayed, canceled for the day or canceled for the entire weekend. The rainout hotline is updated on game days only (when inclement weather is in the area). You can also register for email and text alerts by visiting bgparks.org or by downloading the App Rainoutline.com (search Buffalo Grove Park District).

TEAM SELECTION

The Soccer Coordinator selects players for each team based on their previous experience, days available for practice, and (if rated) skill evaluation from previous season(s). Teams are redrafted each season. Coaches are not allowed to "draft" their own players.

JERSEYS

All players must wear a Buffalo Grove Park District issued jersey for games. Players are not allowed to play without wearing the correct jersey. The home team will wear black jerseys and the away team will wear yellow jerseys.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY

We hope that all parents take an active interest in their child's soccer season. You are welcome to attend all practices and games. Cheer on your team. Please exhibit good sportsmanship and proper behavior at all times. Remember that this is their game, and win or lose; we hope that they have fun and learn more about soccer fundamentals and teamwork.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

Part of the Mission of the Buffalo Grove Park District is to provide safe and wholesome programs, parks and facilities for our residents and guests. The Behavior Policy has been established to help fulfill this mission. We ask all staff, volunteers, participants and spectators to help us in our effort to provide the best possible environment to enjoy our recreation activities. The Behavior Policy is available for viewing at the Alcott Center or on our website at bgparks.org. Questions about this policy and the disciplinary procedure should

be directed to the Director of Recreation and Facilities, or to a Superintendent of Recreation at 847.850.2100.

HEAD COACH & PARENT SOCCER TRAINING

Your child's coach is required to successfully complete training to be certified by NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association) prior to the start of the season. These sessions help coaches understand rules, the philosophy of our program, and how to coach young athletes without unnecessary pressure. Coaches must also become certified in the NYSCA's anti-bullying program. Head volunteer coaches are also required to turn in criminal background checks. Finally, a Hands-On Coaches Clinic is scheduled prior to the start of each season at Willow Stream Park. All parents are welcome to attend the training to learn more about the game of soccer and to coach your child from home. This training is hands-on so please dress for physical activity and bring a soccer ball. Our coaches are volunteering their time and any support that parents can provide is greatly appreciated.

FRED BORNSTEIN COACHES AWARD

This award is given to a deserving soccer coach the first Tuesday in August at the Park District's National Night Out event. If you feel that your coach has shown exceptional ability in teaching the game of soccer and demonstrated fair play and sportsmanship to your child's team, we encourage you to nominate him/her for this award. The form is available on our website (bgparks.org) or by contacting Brian O'Malley at 847.850.2146 or brian@bgparks.org.

LOST AND FOUND

The field supervisors will keep all items found during the season at the Willow Stream Shelter #1 location. The Shelter is open only during regularly scheduled games on Saturdays. Please make sure that your name is clearly labeled on all your personal items.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any additional questions, please call 847.850.2146.