

BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT FALL 2008 youth soccer



PLAY BOOK



DEAR PARENTS / PLAYERS:

The purpose of this manual is to give you a better idea of what to expect before and during the soccer season. We've addressed many of the common questions that parents ask, but if you have any additional questions please give us a call at (847) 850-2121.

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.

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 to show up for practice and games and need to prepare accordingly if a player will be absent. **Coaches volunteer their time and it is only considerate to keep them informed of any absences during the season.**

PLEASE KEEP YOUR COACHES INFORMED IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT!!!

GAME DAY – Because of the number of players for this program, games for all grade divisions will be scheduled for Saturday ***OR*** Sunday and possibly Saturday ***AND*** Sunday depending on the number of teams in each division. **The majority (if not all) of the girl's games will be played on Saturday's. The majority (if not all) of the boy's games will be played on Sunday's.** Saturday games will begin at 9:00 a.m. and could go as late as 5:00 p.m. Sunday games will begin at 12:00 p.m. and go as late as 5:00 p.m. All teams will play an eight-game season.

PRACTICES - GAMES - MAKEUPS – Your child's coach should contact you by **August 22**. If you will not be at home when the coach calls, your child **will not be dropped** from the team. You are always welcome to call the park district office to get your coach's name and phone number after **August 22**. **Practice days are chosen based on the information that you provided on your registration form, but the park district cannot guarantee you will be placed on a practice night you requested.** Your coach will provide team rosters, 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 in August. The first games will be played the weekend of September 6 & 7. The last games of the season are scheduled for the weekend of October 25 & 26, although some divisions may end earlier or later. Rained out games will be rescheduled by Park District staff. If an entire day's games are rained out, they most likely will be rescheduled on the same day, but at the end of the season. Coaches will be e-mailed confirmation of all rescheduled games and posted on the park district website (<http://www.bgparkdistrict.org/youthsports8.htm>).

EQUIPMENT – Soccer players should supply their own soccer ball, shin guards (worn under the socks) and soccer shoes. **FOOTBALL AND BASEBALL CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE WORN.** If the player wears glasses, a fitted eyeglass strap is required. **NO JEWELRY, OR EARRINGS MAY BE WORN. THIS INCLUDES PIERCED EARRINGS.** A mouth guard is recommended. In cold or wet weather, the player may wear suitable clothing under the uniform. No baseball caps are allowed. Players should also bring a water bottle to practices and games. Kindergarten through 4th grades should use a size 4 soccer ball, and 5th grade and older use a size 5 ball. If 4th & 5th grades play in a combined division they will use as size 4 soccer ball.

UNIFORMS – *All players must wear a Park District-issued uniform for games.* Players are **NOT** eligible to play without wearing the correct uniform.

SPORTS CONFLICTS – If your son/daughter is planning on participating in another sport, you may experience practice and game conflicts throughout the entire season. This 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. If you have further questions concerning this situation, please contact the Soccer Department at (847) 850-2121.

PROGRAM REFUNDS – If your child will not be able to participate in Soccer, you may request a refund by using the Refund Request form, available at the Park District office. Refunds may be requested until **Friday, August 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** **A \$5 administrative fee will be charged.**

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 the previous season(s). **Teams are redrafted each season. Coaches are not allowed to "draft" their own players.** Each Head Coach is allowed to choose up to TWO assistant coaches per team.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER TEAM – Players will only be transferred at the discretion of the soccer coordinator, only for valid reasons and when there are acceptable openings on other teams. **Car pool, coach requests, school requests and friendship requests cannot be accommodated.** Possible transfers take time and do not happen right away. Remember! We are trying to keep the teams as fair as possible.

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 coaches' discretion.

GAME CONDITIONS – Sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate and the Park District must determine the status of the games. We cannot always play in perfect weather. There will be some dates that we must play in cold and wet conditions. Please call the at **Sports Weather Hotline (847) 850-2192** if you are uncertain about the weather and field conditions.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY – We hope that all parents take an active interest in their child's soccer season. Come to 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 the game of soccer and teamwork.

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 Saturday's and Sunday's. Please make sure that your name is clearly labeled on all your personal items.

FRED BORNSTEIN COACHES AWARD – This award is given to a deserving soccer coach each July. If you feel that your coach has shown exceptional ability in teaching the game of soccer and demonstrated fair play and sportsmanship to his team, we encourage you to nominate him for this award. The form is available on our website (<http://www.bgparkdistrict.org/youthsports8.htm>) and at the Alcott Center.

COACHES TRAINING – Your child's coaches are required to attend NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association) training sessions prior to the season. Coaches that successfully complete the training are certified with the NYSCA. These sessions help coaches understand rules, the philosophy of our program, and how to coach young athletes without unnecessary pressure. They are also required to turn in criminal background checks. Our coaches are volunteering their time and any additional support that parents can provide is greatly appreciated.

COMPLAINTS, COMMENTS AND KUDOS – We appreciate your comments regarding our program. If you have a comment, complaint, or praise, please call the Park District. This includes comments regarding your coaches, referees or Park District staff. Please consider calling immediately. The sooner we receive your call, the sooner we can act on your suggestions.

PICTURE DAY – Pictures are taken by TOTAL IMAGE STUDIOS of Grayslake, IL. **Your coach will inform you of day, time and location of your team's pictures.** Pictures are always "optional" but we encourage each family to consider this colorful keepsake of the season. Total Image Studios will mail the schedule for picture day to the coaches and the coaches will inform you the exact day and time of your team pictures.

GAME FIELD LOCATION – All games are played at Willow Stream Park. Each field is designated a color, which is painted on the upper back supports of each goal. Your game schedule will include what field your child's games are played on. There is also a directional map in the information kiosk located near the main entrance of the park at shelter #1 and on the park district website (<http://www.bgparkdistrict.org/youthsports8.htm>).

QUESTIONS? – If you have any additional questions, please call (847) 850-2121.

<http://www.bgparkdistrict.org/youthsports8.htm>
Updated soccer schedules – Willow Stream soccer field map – Soccer Drills – Parent's Play Book
Soccer Rules – Team Picture Information – Volunteer soccer coach information and application –
Fred Bornstein Memorial Award nomination form

