

I just signed up for TYA Soccer ...



What Happens Next?



Intramural Leagues (Ages 4 through 18)

You've just signed your child up for TYA soccer. You're looking forward to the fun and excitement of the upcoming soccer season, and can't wait for the beginning of the season. So, what happens next?

LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY

The TYA soccer program is intended to provide a positive experience in an organized sport for all participants. We encourage family, friends and relatives of our players to come out and cheer for them. Please recognize, however, that a significant portion of this experience, positive or negative, is a direct consequence of the actions, language and behavior of the coaches and spectators. Remember, regardless of the score, it is still our intention to provide a positive experience for all participants. Please keep these considerations in mind as you cheer on your team from the sidelines!

VOLUNTEERS

TYA is an entirely volunteer-based organization. We receive no funding from any municipality or other government agency. There is a significant amount of work required to organize and administer organized youth athletic activities such as this soccer program. Therefore, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** A schedule of soccer meetings is printed in the newsletter. Won't you come out and lend a hand?

TRAVEL TEAMS

Travel teams hold try-outs in April through early May. Travel is open to all boys and girls registered with TYA. There are three try-outs, and we encourage the prospective player to make as many try-outs as possible. Any player not selected for a travel team, will be placed on an age appropriate intramural team. Players that make a travel team are not eligible to play on an intramural team.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Over the next several months, the TYA Soccer Executive Committee completes preparations for the upcoming season. These activities include processing registration forms, assigning/recruiting head coaches, establishing the season schedule, preparing team rosters, organizing and ordering equipment, uniforms and field equipment, planning for the end of season tournament, organizing a Picture Day, and a whole host of other activities.

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ASSIGNING HEAD COACHES

Based on the number of players who sign up in each league, the number of teams needed is determined. Registration forms are evaluated to determine the number of volunteer coaches available. If there are an insufficient number of head coaches for a particular league and you signed up as an assistant coach, you may be contacted and asked to assume a head coach role. If more head coaches have volunteered than are required, you may be asked to assume an assistant coach role.

ROSTER PREPARATIONS

The soccer director, intramural coordinator, registrar and volunteers will prepare rosters of players for each team. In the U6, U8, and U10 leagues, an attempt is made to honor any special requests indicated on the registration form (e.g. "Please put on same team as Johnny Smith"). In the U12 and U15 leagues, **such requests cannot be honored**. The emphasis in these leagues is to establish an equitable balance of skill across all teams in the league based on player evaluations from the previous year.

COACHES MEETING

In the beginning of July, all intramural coaches (head coaches and assistants) are invited to attend a Coach's Meeting at Bustard Road Park. At this meeting, the philosophy and procedures for TYA Intramural Soccer and specific logistical details for each league will be reviewed. Coaches will also be presented with an information packet including team rosters, season schedules (practice and games) and other relevant information. All the coaches will be receiving an email letting them know when this meeting will occur.

INFORMATION LETTER

Each head coach will be asked to contact all members of their team an information letter including a letter of introduction, team roster, practice schedule and maps to the fields. You should receive these by the third week of July.

FIELD USAGE

In the past, TYA Soccer uses the fields at Towamencin's Bustard Park. We also use Hatfield's Clemens Memorial Park. We also use several Elementary School fields: General Nash, Walton Farm, Inglewood and Gwynedd Square. Some of the local churches have graciously allowed us to use their property as well, including Plaines Mennonite Church and Christ United Methodist Church.

You may be wondering why TYA does not use Fisher's Park. Towamencin has declared Fisher's Park to be "passive" facility. "Passive" means that no organized activities are allowed in the park.

Once the numbers of teams have been determined for each league, part of the scheduling activity is to determine where all these teams will play.

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EQUIPMENT

Coaches will be provided with a team equipment bag at the coaches meeting. The equipment bag should include two soccer balls, Laws of Soccer booklet, cones, pinnies, whistles, and a deck of training cards containing various drills. Prior to the first practice, each field will be lined, and goals setup with nets.

Players must provide their own shin guards, appropriately sized soccer ball, a water bottle and proper soccer shoes. We highly recommend the players wear cleats, but this is not a requirement. All players **must wear** shin guards. Players without shin guards will not be allowed to participate in practices or games. Also, we recommend a mouth guard for players with braces. All leagues use a size 4 ball, with the exception of the U15 leagues, which use a size 5 ball.

TEAM PRACTICES AND GAMES

Team practices are scheduled to begin the **week of July 20-23**. The teams meet twice a week for practices and games. Historically, the U8, U10, U12 and U15 boy divisions play on Mondays and Wednesdays. The U8, U10, U12 and U15 girl divisions play on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Co-Ed U6 teams play on Monday and Wednesdays. Generally, after the first four practices, games begin and continue to the end of the season culminating in the "End of Season" tournament. In place of some practices or game, TYA may provide one or two clinics for the players. In the U15 and U12 leagues, we have joined into an agreement with Harleysville Soccer (HSA), to play interclub games. We are planning on replacing 4-6 intra-club games with games against HSA intramural teams.

UNIFORMS

Each player in the TYA soccer program will be provided a team shirt, a pair of shorts and a pair of socks. Uniforms are typically distributed to each team prior to the first game. Uniforms are ordered based on the sizes specified on your registration form. Two coach's shirts will be provided to each team.

Players are requested to wear the TYA supplied uniform at all games. Moreover, the TYA supplied uniform should not be altered in any fashion (e.g. no names imprinted on the back). A player not wearing the TYA supplied uniform (shirt, shorts, socks) may be declared ineligible for that game.

SPONSORS

TYA solicits local businesses to sponsor our teams. Imprinted on the front of all team shirts is the name of the sponsor. TYA also acknowledges our sponsors in our newsletters and in newspaper ads as a way to say "thank you for your support". Sponsors also receive a plaque with their team's photo at the end of the season. We encourage you to patronize our sponsors and mention TYA.

Sponsor application forms are available on the TYA web site (<http://www.tyasports.org>), at registration or contacting Chadd Shaw at (tyaexecutivedirector@verizon.net)

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PICTURE DAY

A league-wide Picture Day will be arranged for individual and team photos, scheduled for **SATURDAY, September 12**. Parents will be offered the opportunity to order individual and/or team photos. Pictures are received back from the photographer prior to the end of the season.

On picture day, coaches in the U10, U12 and U15 leagues are asked to provide names of players for the All-Star team for their league. The number of teams in the league determines the number of players selected from each team. Also on Picture Day, coaches are asked to provide an evaluation of each player on their team.

TOURNAMENT DAY

Tournament Day for U6, U8, and U10 will be held on **Saturday, September 26**. Tournament Day U12 and U15 will be **Saturday, September 19**. Also, the U12 and U15 teams are expected to attend the Harleysville Intramural tournament on **Saturday, September 13**. The first and second place teams in each league will be given an award. This tournament can only be possible if enough volunteers sign up to help organize the tournament. A player who begins the season on an intramural team, then joins a travel team after Labor Day, is still eligible to play for the intramural team in the "End of Season" tournament.

SNACK BAR

As a service to the families and friends of our participants, TYA Soccer attempts to operate a limited-service snack bar at Bustard Road Park. This will only be possible if sufficient volunteer interest can be generated to run these facilities. As of the beginning of March, there will be no Snack Bar service at Bustard Park due to lack of a coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering to be the Snack Bar Coordinator, please sign up at registration or talk with Quentin Apple or Andy Vose.

ALL-STAR TEAMS

This is another position that has become open since last year. If you are interested in coordinating the All Star program, talk with Quentin Apple or Andy Vose. The coaches in the U10, U12 and U15 leagues select players for their leagues All-Star team. Based on the number of teams in the league, a coach will select a number of players from their team. The All-Star teams will participate in a number of tournaments specifically designed for Intramural All-Star teams from other local municipalities. No travel teams are allowed in these tournaments. These tournaments are one-day events and occur during the first three weekends of November. The teams practice during the month of October to prepare for the tournaments. A player who begins the season on an intramural team, then joins a travel team, are not eligible to play on their leagues All-Star team.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on any of these programs, please see our website, www.tyasports.org, or contact Andy Vose or Quentin Apple.

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SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

By participating in TYA Soccer, we/I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child's participation by following this Parent's Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth soccer event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the children first at all times.
- I will remember that the game is for children and not for the adults. I will do my very best to make soccer fun for my child.
- I will not bring alcohol or tobacco products in the vicinity of fields of play.
- I will not coach my child or any other player during a game, unless authorized by my child's coach or an official of TYA. If I do not agree with a coaching decision or a referee decision, I will refrain from vocalizing my concerns in front of the children.
- I will treat players, coaches, fans and officials with respect and good manners at all times.
- If a coach, official or TYA representative calls to my attention that my child is not treating coaches, players, officials or fans with respect, I will counsel my child on his/her need to do so. I will explain that failure to correct such an attitude may result in disciplinary action by TYA, which may include expulsion.
- I will help with my child's team by assisting the coaches and manager as needed.

If I fail to abide by the above Code of Conduct, I recognize that I may be barred from attending youth soccer events sponsored by TYA, in the sole discretion of the TYA Soccer Committee. I agree to hold the TYA Soccer Committee and TYA Board of Directors or representatives harmless.

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PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

I hereby pledge to provide a positive attitude and be responsible for my participation in youth soccer by following the TYA Player's Code of Conduct:

- I will attend every practice and game that it is reasonably possible for me to attend and will notify my coach if I cannot attend.
- As a recreational player, I will expect everyone on my team to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- As a travel player, I realize that I may not receive an equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, fellow soccer players, fans and officials with respect, good manners and common decency.
- I will refrain from criticizing and uphold the authority of referees who are assigned to the game in which I participate.
- My teammates and I deserve to enjoy our soccer experience and will let my parents/guardians and coaches know if it stops being fun.
- I will seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing our community and TYA.
- I will encourage my parents/guardians to be involved with my team and TYA in some capacity because it is important to me and to TYA.
- I will not let soccer interfere with doing my very best in school.
- I will remember that youth soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I will strive to treat others as I wish to be treated by others.
- I will obey the laws of the sport of soccer.

If I fail to abide by the above Code of Conduct, I recognize that I may be barred from attending youth soccer events sponsored by TYA, in the sole discretion of the TYA Soccer Committee.