

Friends of Clark Park
Clark Park Youth Soccer League
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Return By: 9/20/05

Fall 2005

About Our Program

Clark Park Youth Soccer League (CPYSL), a program of Friends of Clark Park, provides soccer instruction and intramural games for girls and boys on Saturdays at Clark Park. CPYSL emphasizes enjoying the game of soccer while learning soccer skills, in a “low-stress” atmosphere. Every child plays every week. Players must be at least 5 years old by Sept. 30, but not yet 12 on Sept. 1 (i.e. born between Sept. 1, 1992 and Sept. 30, 1999). The season will begin Sat., Sept. 25 and continue each Saturday (weather permitting) for 9 weeks, through Nov. 20. Ages 5 through 8 usually take the field at 10:30 AM; ages 9 through 11: at 12 noon. Each 90-minute session includes both skills training and a game. All (or nearly all) sessions take place at Clark Park. Occasionally, we go to a college game or other soccer event, and usually we have a picnic at season’s end. For rain-out info, call (215-552-8186) after 9 AM on Saturday morning (for afternoon players, after 11 AM); there are no make-up dates.

Children are assigned to teams primarily by age. Age groups usually are: 5 - 6; 6 - 7; 7 - 8; and 9 - 11. We may place a child with unusual skill, size or other factors, in a different group. If you want your child placed in a different group or on a particular team, send a note with your registration. We try to accommodate such requests, although we can’t always do so. Most teams have 2 coaches and 14-16 players. All teams include girls and boys.

We expect each child to have a parent, guardian or other adult present each week, in case of injury or other problem with your child, and to take your child home safely at the end. Because CPYSL is volunteer-run and charges very low fees, we require that, for each child you register, you must help on one Saturday during the season, either by bringing a snack for the child’s team or by helping with the field and equipment (for morning players, by coming ½ hour early; for afternoon players, by helping put away equipment). You will need to sign up on Sept. 25 for one of the remaining dates and tasks, so bring your calendar and have a few dates in mind.

Players must wear shin guards to protect against stray kicks, and a mouth guard is recommended. Because of our generous sponsors, shin-guards may be ordered in advance until Sept. 12 for just \$5 per pair, pre-paid (see registration form). A limited supply may be available for purchase on Sept. 25. Each child must have health coverage; if your child doesn’t, call 800-484-5437 (Pa.’s CHIP program) now about free or low-cost coverage, but go ahead and register your child for CPYSL now. We don’t want to turn any child away.

All our coaches are volunteers, and most have completed a coach-training program through the Eastern Penna. Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA), of which CPYSL is a member. We invite you to join us and become a coach/ assistant coach; free training is available. Call us (215-552-8186) for info.

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Soccer at CPYSL is fun and exciting. Players should come prepared to learn from their coaches, to participate in practices and games, and to cooperate with their fellow players, not to “clown around”. We expect all players to play fairly. Soccer can be a little rough, and players should expect to be hit by the ball and kicked in the shin from time to time. However, this is **not** ice hockey or pro football. Players are **not** allowed to push, trip, shove, hit or deliberately kick another player. “He did it to me first” is not an excuse. Cursing and verbal abuse are not allowed in CPYSL. If a player (or parent) breaks a rule, he or she and perhaps his / her team may be penalized. If a player (or parent) breaks rules or disrupts sessions repeatedly, he or she may be told to sit out or even to leave the field early that day. We may insist that a player’s parent closely attend sessions to supervise a child. If the problem continues, the player may have to leave the program.

How to Register Your Child(ren) for CPYSL

CPYSL’s teams often “fill up” so register promptly. Registrations are taken “first-come, first-served” basis after September 9. All registrations postmarked before Sept 10 will have the same priority. Enclosed are the forms you need to register your child(ren). Complete one CPYSL Player Registration form (two-sided) for all players in your household, and sign **both** sides. Also complete and sign an EPYSA form for **each** child. Figure your fees and dues and write your check or money order to “Friends of Clark Park” for **at least** ½ the “Total of Fees and Dues” plus \$5 for each pair of shin guards you want (we will get shin guards if they have been e ordered by Sept. 15). **Mail form(s) and payment by the ‘Return By’ date at the top of p. 1,** to our Post Office Box. (Please don’t hand-deliver them, we go by the postmark). Within 12 days after you mail your completed forms and payment, we’ll write, email or call you to confirm whether r your child(ren) have a place. **Incomplete forms and those sent without at least one-half payment, may be returned – but see cost to play below.**

Cost to Play

The cost of registration depends on how many children you register and whether you are already a member of FOCP. All children registered together must live in the same household. The CPYSL Season Fee and the EPYSA Fee are required for each child. The FOCP Dues are required for each family. For example, the total cost for **one child** who’s not already an FOCP member is **\$32**; for a 2nd child in the same household add \$22 for a total cost of **\$54 for two children**. (If you think you are already an FOCP member, check the “Exp. Date” on your winter FOCP newsletter’s mailing label: if the date is 5/05 or earlier, you need to pay the dues again now with your registration. FOCP membership is good for 12 months.) Add \$5 per child if you purchase shin guards from CPYSL. A **scholarship**, if you need one, is available for the 2nd half of the total of fees and dues, but you must pay the 1st half of the total fees and dues with the registration. *We have a new scholarship program this year so that everyone can play; if you cannot afford the first ½ payment contact CPYSL.* With scholarship, the total cost for one child is \$16; for two children in the same household, the total is \$27. (Add \$2.50 per child for shin guards.) Please don’t send us a check that will “bounce”; if your bank won’t honor your check, we may void your registration and charge you the fee our bank charges us: \$10.

We look forward to another good season of youth soccer at Clark Park, and we hope you join us.

CPYSL is a program of Friends of Clark Park, a non-profit corporation dedicated to improving Clark Park. CPYSL receives financial support from the Philadelphia Activities Fund, Inc. and several other Sponsors.