



HEADS UP

NAPERVILLE YOUTH SOCCER PARENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2024 NYS SEASON!

Welcome to the spring Naperville Youth Soccer season! This newsletter contains important and helpful information regarding the season. Please review and contact your coordinator (listed below) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you on the field!

WHO WE ARE

NYS MISSION AND GOALS

The Naperville Youth Soccer Program is a recreational program that emphasizes fun and learning; prioritizes each child’s opportunity to be part of a team, learn new skills, socialize, and be active; and reinforces the importance of sportsmanship. We ask our coaches to ensure each NYS participant will...

- Enjoy play and equal opportunities for participation
- Gain a better knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the game
- Learn good sportsmanship, teamwork, responsibility and discipline
- Feel a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem
- Enhance social skills and enjoy the camaraderie of playing on a team
- Learn and develop soccer skills and maintain the desire to continue playing soccer

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship depends on all of us and is a key aspect of all Naperville Park District athletic programs. We ask that coaches and parents help set and maintain a positive and encouraging tone not only for their players, but also for opposing teams, players and referees. The NYS program is meant to be a positive experience where players at any level and ability can have fun, learn and grow at their own pace. Demonstrating and encouraging good sportsmanship is vital to the continued success of the program. Thank you for working together to instill good sportsmanship with our players.

NYS REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND JERSEYS

LEVEL	SOCCER CLEATS/ GYM SHOES	SHIN GUARDS	NYS REVERSIBLE JERSEY	BALL
Academy	X	Recommended		Size 3
Pre-K – 2nd Grade	X	X	X	Size 3
3rd – 6th Grade	X	X	X	Size 4

There is no required equipment for the practice-only NYS Academy program with the exception of a water bottle and size 3 soccer ball. For all other age ranges, shin guards and a NYS Reversible Jersey are required. Each player is responsible for purchasing their own NYS Reversible Jersey. Jerseys can be purchased at one of the following locations:

- Fort Hill Activity Center, New @ \$18.00
- Play It Again Sports, Used @ Various Pricing



NYS GAMES

RULE HIGHLIGHTS

LEVEL / FIELD SIZE	PLAYERS	PERIODS	SUBSTITUTES	OFFSIDES	REFEREE
Prek + K Micro Field	5 v 5 No Goalie	6, 6-minute periods with 2-minute breaks	Unlimited, recommend at end of each period	Not applicable	Coach or Parent Volunteer
1st Grade Micro Field	5 v 5 With Goalie	6, 6-minute periods with 2-minute breaks	Unlimited, recommend at end of each period	Not applicable	Coach or Parent Volunteer
2nd and 3rd Grade Small Field	7 v 7 With Goalie	4, 10-minute quarters with 5-minute halftime	Unlimited, allowed at stoppages	Not applicable	Park District Ref
4th and 5th/6th Grade Medium Field	9 v 9 With Goalie	2, 30-minute halves with 5-minute halftime	Unlimited, allowed at stoppages	Enforced	Park District Ref

Across all levels, no scores or standings are kept, with the exception of for reporting purposes. There is no overtime or tie-breakers. Headers and side-tackling are not allowed at any grade. Coaches are asked to assist with keeping the game scores close and ensuring each player has the opportunity to play every position throughout the season. In order to prevent scores from being run-up, coaches may switch player positions, have players use their weak foot, require a certain number of connecting passes before trying to score, mix up players between the teams, etc. A survey will be submitted by the home team after each game to ensure this guideline is being followed.

GAME SCHEDULE

A seven-week game schedule will be played beginning Saturday, April 6 and concluding Saturday, May 18. The rain date for games that are canceled by the Park District is Saturday, June 1.

The Park District does not reschedule games when conflicts occur with outside activities. Please inform your child’s coach if they will not be available for a game. In the event that players are missing, coaches are encouraged to play short sided or share players from the other team to ensure that games take place as scheduled. If coaches decide to cancel a game, they can reschedule that game during one of the team’s practice time and practice location. Game fields cannot be reserved for non-Park District sanctioned make-up games.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

RAINOUT LINE

Information regarding game field closures is communicated via The Rainout Line at 630-883-4242 as well as on the web at <https://napervilleparks.org/cancellations> . You can also sign-up for alerts to be sent directly to your phone or e-mail.

PRACTICES

Due to the size of Naperville, the District does not cancel practices based on weather. It may be pouring at Arrowhead, but blue skies at South Pointe. Therefore, coaches are responsible for making cancellation decisions for practices based on the weather and field grass conditions at their practice location, and communicating cancellations directly to their team. Soccer staff does not inspect practice areas.

GAMES

Please note soccer is an all-weather sport and players should dress accordingly. Games will be played in rain and light snow provided lightning isn’t present and the fields are in a safe, playable condition.

On Saturdays when the field conditions are questionable, soccer staff will inspect game fields and make a decision on game field playability by 7:30 am. Coaches and parents should check the Rainout Line prior to every game regardless of current weather conditions as conditions from the week prior can impact field playability. The Park District generally will not cancel games based on weather predictions, but rather solely on field conditions, as weather conditions can vary greatly throughout each area of town throughout the day.

After 7:30 am, referees and coaches are responsible for determining field playability and weather safety at game time. Game time cancellations may occur based on the conditions present at game time.

REFEREES WANTED

The Naperville Park District Youth Soccer program contracts with Official Finders for the assigning of soccer referees. Official Finders can provide the training, equipment and support that you need to become a ref. These positions offer excellent employment opportunities for those looking for a flexible schedule and way to get involved in the community. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a soccer referee, please visit <https://www.officialfinders.com/job-application-page> to fill out an application.

NYS HOMEPAGE

At our homepage napervilleparks.org/napervilleyouthsoccer parents, coaches and referees can easily access information pertinent to our soccer program. Included on this page are all volunteer forms, coordinator contact information, the NYS manual, referee signals, and uniform information. Additionally, you will be able to find game schedules, field locations and maps, and the current NYS newsletters. Please take a moment to acquaint yourself with the NYS homepage.

IMPORTANT DATES

Week of March 17	Coaches Contact Team
Week of March 25	First NYS Practice
Sat. April 6	First NYS Game
Tues. May 7	Fall 2024 NYS Resident Girls and Academy Registration Opens 12:00 pm
Wed. May 8	Fall 2024 NYS Resident Boys Registration Opens 12:00 pm
Thurs. May 9	Fall 2024 NYS Non-Resident Registration Opens 12:00 pm
Sat. May 18	Last NYS Game
Sat. June 1	Rainout Date

NYS LEAGUE STAFF

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