

2010 Saratoga AYSO Spring Soccer Head Coach Information Packet

Thank you for volunteering to coach a team! The information in this packet will answer many of your questions. Please consult the Saratoga AYSO Web page for additional information.

Coach Registration:

Coach positions are filled first come first serve. Come early to spring registrations. If you can't make the early registration date, please e-mail spring@saratogasoccer.org. Some coach spots may be available at regular registration.

Co Coaches must complete an official AYSO Coach training class and must have completed Coach Safe Haven. There will be some limited training classes offered for this Spring season. The U5, U6, U8 and U10 classes are in Feb/March, 2010. Coaches and Co- Coaches that are not already trained or cannot commit to attending the training classes are ineligible to coach in Spring.

The Head Coach Form will allow you to designate one Co- Coach and "core group" of 3-6 players including your Co-coach's child. For U12 and up, you can also include an optional 2nd co- coach request. However, this will ONLY be honored if sufficient co- coaches sign up. You can also designate 2 alternate players to be used only if some of your core 3-6 players not register. Your core group is generally from your Spring or Fall 2009 Saratoga AYSO team. This allows for some continuity from season to season. For younger divisions, this meant to have friends play together or to simplify carpooling. Selecting a core group of 3-6 players is not meant to allow coaches to create a super team. If proper balance is not possible, some of your core players will be reassigned.

Being named a core group does not guarantee a player a place in the league. Players MUST register and are accepted on a first come first serve basis. You should contact all players and their parents to encourage them to register early. Players per team will be limited: U8: 8 players, 6v6; U10: 9 players, 7v7; U12: 12 players, 9v9; U14 and up: 17 players, 11v11. Additional players will be placed on a waiting list pending additional Coaches. Priority will be given to players whose parents volunteer to be Coaches, Referees, Spring Board Members or who fill other jobs critical to Spring Soccer.

Team Formation:

Teams will be formed starting from the "core group" designated on the Head Coach Form. The Spring League Director and Spring Division Managers will review the core group for each team. They will establish ground rules for balancing teams within each division. The ground rules will be intended to result in balanced teams for ALL age divisions (based on Fall 2009 evaluations). This process means that you are not "penalized" if you do not name a core group, if you name only a few players, or if you name players that you enjoy coaching but that are not highly rated. Players not named in any core group will assign to teams to balance all teams. Players listed on more than one core list will be assigned with the coach they played with in the fall, or randomly assigned to one of the teams that listed the player. If your core players result in an imbalanced team, core player requests may not be honored.

The league determines uniform colors for Spring.

Co-Coaches:

If you make arrangements with a specific person as a Co- Coach, you should name them on your Head Coach Form. Their child must be listed in your core group of 3-6 players. Only people who intend to fulfill the duties of Co-Coaches, including the completion of training, may be named. U5 and U6 all coaches are considered co-

coaches. We will allow one co- Coach for U8. For U12 and up, we allow an addition 2nd assistants only if sufficient coaches are available.

Players Age and their Division:

In Spring Soccer, players will play in the same division that they played in the fall. This allows for consistency throughout Area 2J.

Spring Schedule:

U5 though U12: Games are Saturdays. First games towards the end of March. Last games are in late May or early June.

U12 PCSSL and U14 and up: Games are on Sundays. First games are beginning March and end on May 23rd. More complete schedules are coming soon.

U5 and U6 Spring Program:

As in fall, we will have both a girls and a boys division for both ages. We will play all games in Saratoga at Redwood Middle School. To make the format more flexible and to better serve the kids, we will have our USSC professional soccer coach available for most of the season to help the coaches lead the practices, organize the games and to monitor progress. For each division, all the players will be placed on to one “team”. This “team” will be split up on game day based on skills and interest. That way, every game will have equal players and balanced play, regardless of who shows up each weekend. We need 4 to 8 co-coaches per division. So you can plan on One large team party per division! Each Division will have an hour on Saturdays in which to practice and then play. New players and coaches will be accepted to these programs and we would really like to get every kindergartner in Saratoga playing, so spread the word.

U8 Spring Program:

If sufficient players register, we will play all games in Saratoga at Redwood Middle School. If not we may combine with Region 64 in West San Jose or Region 35 in Cupertino. Each team needs to have a Coach and if enough coaches register then a Co-Coach, too. U8 team will have one practice during the week. New players and coaches will be accepted to these programs, so spread the word.

U10 Program:

We are hopeful that we will have enough teams to play only other Saratoga teams this spring (No Travel). If not, travel will be required. If we have an odd number of teams, teams may play a co-ed game once during this season. These are played with modified procedures to protect players and insure that it is fun. U10 will have at least one practice a week and at most 2 practices per week. We will have complete coach training available for U10.

U12 Area 2J Program:

We will play home games at Redwood Middle School. Away games will be in nearby West San Jose and as far as Prunedale. Travel is required. If we have an odd number of teams, teams may play a co-ed game once during this season. These are played with modified procedures to protect players and insure that it is fun.

U14 Area 2J Program:

For interested players, we participate in the Area 2J “pick-up-game” program. This is organized for maximum fun and minimum complications. Practices are once per week. Games are on Saturdays. Teams are formed every weekend from the available players.

U12 PCSSL, U14, U16 and U19 Program:

AYSO Saratoga will compete in the Pacific Coast Spring Soccer League (PCSSL). It is a joint AYSO/CYSA District 1. We hope for at least one Girls team and one Boys team from each division. Games will be played on Sundays. Games start in early March and go through mid-May. Our teams will play CYSA Class 3 teams. This will offer a greater number of competitive teams with which to compete. The rules will closely mirror the AYSO rules that you are familiar with. Exceptions will be provided to each coach with the game schedule. Half of our games are normally Home games and will be played in Saratoga. The other games are away games and could be as far north as San Francisco and as far south as Watsonville. Travel is required. Do not register for Spring Soccer if you are unwilling to play these away games or cannot play on Sunday! **New rule is that to play in PCSSL the player must have played in AYSO in Fall 2009.**

Regular Registration:

December 11, 2009	6-7:30 PM	Argonaut Elementary School
December 12, 2009	9-11AM	Argonaut Elementary School
January 6, 2010	7 PM – 8 PM	Argonaut Elementary School
January 12, 2010	6-7:30 PM	Argonaut Elementary School
February 3, 2010	7PM – 8PM	Argonaut Elementary School

Tentative Schedule for Spring Soccer: Times can change.

Mandatory Coaches Meeting / Team assignment:

AYSO (U5-U12) Mandatory Meeting

March XX, 2010 - TBD depending on division TBD

PCSSL (U12 PCSSL & U14+) Mandatory Meeting/ Schedule distributed TBD

First day for practices:

March 15th (Mon) U8-U12 [February 8th (Monday) U12 PCSSL, U14 – U19]

AYSO (U5-U12) Season Schedule Distributed:

Preliminary: March 20

Final: March 25

First Game of Season:

March 27 (Sat) [March 7 for U12 PCSSL, U14+ (Sun)]

Last Game of Season:

May 22 or June 5 [May 16 for U12 PCSSL, U14+ (Sun)]

Spring Program Contacts:

Registration forms and more information can be found at: <http://www.saratogasoccer.org>

All other questions: spring@saratogasoccer.org