

August xx, 200x

The opening of the soccer season is just a few weeks away and practice is about to begin. I've spoken with many of you on the phone over the past week and know many of you from previous seasons. I'd like to use this letter to talk a bit about how we see kids' soccer.

My assistant coaches and I come to this season with lots of energy, enthusiasm and a thoughtful approach to teaching soccer. Our primary goal this season is for all of our children to want to come back and play again next year. To accomplish this, we want the kids to have fun, learn fundamental soccer skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of playing on a team.

Typically, players at this level have a range of experience. Some have already been playing for a couple of years and are getting to be accomplished players; a few are just learning the game. No matter the skill level of the player, we intend to give everyone equal amounts of practice and playing time and will rotate players through a variety of positions on the field.

Practices

In order to learn the game—and learn to play as a member of a team—attendance at practice is key. Our team practices will be on _____ afternoons at _____ pm at _____ field.

The Club has provided professional coaches to work with us on fundamental soccer skills and will be with us on the field for at least one day per week of our practices.

Our practices will usually be composed of fundamental individual and group skills, small sided scrimmages and lots of games. Please plan to have your player at practice, dressed and ready to go at least 5-10 minutes before we begin to warm up.

Games

We don't have our schedule yet, but expect it by the end of August. We ask that all players arrive *no less than 15 minutes before game time* since our starting lineup will be chosen from those players present at that time! (The kids need that time for warm-ups and we need that time to organize our team for the game.)

Parent Participation

The Tiburon Peninsula Soccer Club is a parent-intensive organization. In order for us to provide the best experience for all of our children, we ask that everyone support our team in a couple of very specific ways.

- First and foremost, it's important to recognize that at this level winning is not everything. Theoretically at least (in the U-7s and U-8s), we're not supposed to keep score and we, as coaches, will actively work to keep the scores "close." While we all want the kids to do well and we'll cheer heartily, we want to keep everything positive and in perspective. The object is for the players on both teams to enjoy playing.
- To this end, we ask that you not only support the kids on the field, but also our referees and officials.
- It is all too confusing at this age for the players to hear a variety of voices 'coaching' them. Please cheer your mightiest for the players from both teams, and allow us to do the coaching!

- The kids get very hungry from all that energy expended on the field; we'll ask everyone to pick at least one week that will be their week to provide game snacks. Our team parent will be contacting you to sign up for these weeks.
- Finally, please be on time to practices and games. Most of our kids can't wait to play and from our experience it's both embarrassing and discouraging for them to show up late.

We think we have a great group of kids and are going to have a fun, exciting season! We're not sure who's going to have more fun, them or us!

Our first practice will be on Wednesday, August xxth. Players should wear cleats and shinguards (worn under knee-length soccer socks) and should bring a water bottle and a size ____ soccer ball.

Uniforms jerseys will be provided by the league; in addition, your player will need black soccer shorts, black soccer socks, shinguards and soccer shoes. These are available at Soccer Pro in Marin City (discount for TPSC families), Big 5, Sunset Soccer in San Rafael (mention that you are from the TPSL & get a 10% discount), T&B Sports, etc. Cleats must be soccer cleats, not baseball cleats (i.e. rubberized spikes, not metal or hard plastic).

Absolutely no jewelry is allowed to be worn by soccer players. This includes necklaces, pierced earrings/studs, "Lance" wristbands, watches, etc. In compliance with CYSA safety rules, referees will not allow any player from participating with jewelry (please don't ask us to intervene, we can't!).

TPSC Code of Conduct

Attached to this letter is a copy of the TPSC Code of Conduct. Please review this with your player and return it to the first practice. As coaches, we will do our utmost to live up the responsibilities and trust you have placed with us as your children's coaches.

We've been asked to remind you that dogs, alcohol and tobacco are all forbidden from TPSL fields.

TPSC Website

Everything you ever wanted or needed to know about Tiburon soccer can be found on the www.tiburonsoccer.org website. This includes equipment, schedules, Laws of the Game, contact information and rainout postings.

We look forward to meeting all of you over the next few weeks. If you have any questions about the team, the Club or the season, please feel free to contact me.

Coach
phone:
email: