

Parent Orientations

Parent orientations are designed as an educational experience for parents with children participating in soccer. In order to understand the purpose of YMCA Sports (soccer) and gain all the information necessary to help your child get the most out of their soccer experience, attendance at one of these orientations is strongly encouraged. Please keep in mind that the orientation is designed for ALL parents, whether your child has played 10 seasons of soccer or if this will be their first season. All parents are encouraged to attend. *(Due to limited space, parents are encouraged to attend without their children, thank you)*

Orientations will take place:
September 9th and 12th, 11:30am. Oakbrook Childcare Gym

About Micro Soccer...

Micro Soccer is designed for 3-year-olds ONLY. There are limited cases where a child may turn 4 during the season and still be able to participate in the Micro league.

The Micro season is divided into two instructional sessions. Session 1 takes place in weeks 1-4. During the first four weeks (on Saturday mornings only) children will come dressed in uniform for "practice" with their coaches and their team. These practices will be comprised of fun soccer drills and games to teach the players the very basic skills of soccer - direction, use of their feet (not hands), and teamwork. Session 2 takes place in weeks 5-8. During the second four weeks (on Saturday mornings only) teams will have actual "games" versus other Micro teams. While the games are played on a purely instructional level, players will use what they have learned in the first session in order to play in game-type situations during the second session. Players will receive reinforcement of skills and teamwork.

League Structure

The league is structured according to the following age divisions:

- o Micro-Soccer: 3 years ONLY
- o U6: 4-5 years
- o U8: 6-7 years
- o U10: 8-9 years
- o U12: 10-11 years
- o U14: 12-13 years
- o U16: 14-15 years
- o U18: 16-17 years

Age Restrictions: Please be advised that age divisions are set up to accommodate players of that particular age. If you wish to move your child up to an older division, we will allow it. However, keeping an older child back in a younger age division is not permitted unless mental or physical limitations preclude a child from participating at their age level. Birth certificates are required at the time of registration in order to verify the age of players in each division.

Coaching and Refereeing

Interested in becoming a coach or referee? Please contact the Sports Office at 821-1028, 819-7005 or by e-mail at JonathanL@summervilleymca.org for more information.

Coaches Meeting: August 25th at 6:30pm in the Oakbrook Childcare gym.

Referee Meeting: TBD

Micro Coaches Clinics: September 5th and 12th at 10am at the Oakbrook Sports Complex (attend one)

Christian Mission and Character Development

At the YMCA we strive to develop players' character and implement Christian principles through 3 main practices:

- o Messages of the Week - Each coach is given a booklet containing lessons with a Christian emphasis. These booklets contain stories and testimonials from professional athletes as well as biblical stories that teach the values the YMCA is dedicated to: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Throughout the season, coaches will be communicating these messages to players. We hope that you will talk about the messages with your child and reinforce the lessons at home.
- o Prayer - Before the start of each game and after the final whistle blows, both teams gather around the center circle for a prayer. The prayer can be lead by a coach, a player, a parent, or the referee. We encourage you to take part in the prayer by volunteering to lead it, having your child volunteer to lead it, or by taking part in it from the sideline.
- o Character Wrist Bands - Each coach will be given a supply of character wrist bands. There are four different bands: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Coaches will be rewarding players who display such qualities with these wrist bands. It is our hope that by being recognized for displays of good character, players will continue to take such actions in their everyday lives at home, school, and on the field of play.