

HUMBOLDT YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

PO Box 6784~Eureka, CA 95502

PARENTS HANDBOOK

Parent's Code:

- Children have more need for good example than criticism.
- Make athletic participation for your child and others, a positive experience.
- Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition.
- Be kind to your child's volunteer coach and officials.
- Applaud good plays by members of BOTH teams.
- Do not openly question the judgment or honesty of the officials.
- Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by working TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT.

Players Code:

- Play the game for the games sake.
- Be generous when you win; be graceful when you lose.
- Always be fair, no matter what.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Accept the decisions of the official without argument.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
- Conduct yourself with honesty and integrity.
- Honestly and wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of your teammates and your opponents.

INTRODUCTION

Many parents of youth soccer players have limited background in the sport and often little information about the HYSL organization. In an effort to provide the best possible soccer experience for you and your children, the Board of Directors of HYSL have prepared this handbook for your information. We believe that the more you know and understand, and the more you participate, the more enjoyable the season will be for everyone. This handbook should answer many of your questions. If you have additional concerns or questions, feel free to contact a Board member or member of your area's club.

ORGANIZATION

HYSL is a member league of the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and is part of District V (extending south into Marin County). Our league is comprised of two clubs that represent the central and south geographic areas of Humboldt County, serving over 1500 players. Eureka Youth Soccer (central) includes Eureka, Freshwater, Kneeland, King Salmon, Humboldt Hill and Field's Landing; Eel River Youth extends from Loleta, Ferndale, Fortuna, Hydesville, Carlotta, Rio Dell, Scotia, Redcrest to all the communities south to Garberville. Each club has officers and Club board members that represent their area on the Executive board of HYSL.

As parents of registered players, you are members of HYSL. We encourage your input to your club and the Executive board on any aspect of HYSL. Club meetings are held at varied times and locations, check with your local club for dates and locations; HYSL Executive board

meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at St. Joseph's Hospital, 3rd floor at 7pm.

LEVELS OF PLAY

The vast majority of our HYSL players participate in local recreation or Division IV level play. All registered players are eligible for these teams and no tryouts are required. Experience levels on the recreational teams varies from first-time players to those with several years of experience. As a league, we encourage fun, fair play, and camaraderie, as well as downplay the importance of "the win". The stress put on young players "to perform" is not appropriate at the Division IV level.

Division III is a DEVELOPMENTAL level of soccer. Designed to introduce the more competitive player AND coach to Division I (upper level). Division III was designed as an intermediate step for players, competing against other Division III teams in the League, as well as outside Humboldt County.

Division I represents the highest level of play. These teams travel in regular season and for tournaments. Some travel to other countries for tournaments.

Every level of play is dependent on the success of HYSL to provide the best RECREATIONAL program possible.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW ARE THE GAME SCHEDULES ESTABLISHED?

Following registration in the spring, teams are formed and coaches secured. Based on the number of teams in each age group and the availability of fields and referees, a schedule of games is established. Each club schedules their own U6 through U10 age groups, U-12 ,U14, and U16's are scheduled league wide because there are normally fewer teams in these age groups. Generally, teams are split into North and South, and every effort is made to ensure an equal number of home and away games for each team. Games are played on Saturdays(occasionally on Sundays), and coaches will distribute schedules as soon as they are available.

DO WE PLAY WHEN IT RAINS?

YES!!! Games are canceled ONLY if there is the possibility of damage to the field, or injury to players. Your club should have a phone number that your coach may call to check on field closings.

HOW ARE AGE GROUPS DETERMINED?

Age groups for teams are established in 2-year increments according to CYSA regulations. Players are not allowed to play below (younger than) their designated age group.

WHAT CONSTITUTES ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT?

Hard casts, or splints (even if padded), spectacle or face guard, helmet, hats, caps, visors, earrings, rings, and watches are illegal equipment for youth league play.

WHEN CAN SUBSTITUTIONS BE MADE?

Substitutions are allowed before a goal kick, on possession throw in, after a goal is scored, at any injury, and at the referees' discretion. A referee may allow for a "sub-break" when there has been no opportunity for substitutions.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Many things! As is the case with most volunteer organizations, most of the work is done by a relative few. However, your club board and HYSL need your help. Here are several ways in which you can enhance the quality of soccer in Humboldt County.

- Serve on your club board. Call a board member or attend meetings and get acquainted.
- Be a coach. As our organization grows, we continually have a difficult time finding enough coaches. We sincerely do not want to have to disband teams for lack of coaches. Most of us started out saying “I don’t know anything about soccer: but you can always learn. HYSL sponsors clinics each year to help you get started.
- Be a referee. Finding enough referees for all the games is always a problem. Referees are the only paid participants of HYSL. For people who really want to learn soccer and to help the league, becoming a referee is the way to go. Call the message Hotline for information about licensing clinics.
- Be a team parent. Each coach needs the help of several parents to handle phone calls, refreshments at games, and a host of other details. Please volunteer.
- Field Maintenance. Keeping the playing fields in good condition and preparing them for games is a major effort, especially when the rains begin. If you can help, please call our message hotline.

HOW CAN I BECOME A TEAM SPONSOR?

Each year, each club tries to secure a sponsor for each team in their club, but it is always difficult. If you or your business would like to sponsor a team for \$150 per season, please call your club’s hotline.

WHAT ARE THE CLUBS AND LEAGUES RESPONSIBILITIES?

Each of the two clubs operates under the HYSL umbrella, following the policies and procedures in HYSL by-laws. The League sets the season schedule, registration fees, clinics, and ensures that each club is supporting HYSL programs (Division III/IV and Class I). Each club is free to develop new fields, fund-raise, improve communication within their geographical area, and enrich the existing programs, as the club board directs. Referees, field maintenance, uniforms, equipment, scheduling (U6-U10), recruitment policy, sponsorships, are all administered at the club level.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY REGISTRATION FEE?

First, \$12 goes directly to CYSA to register your child and provide insurance coverage. \$8 covers HYSL operating expenses (printing costs, mailings, clinics, coaches and sponsors dinner, etc.). The remainder stays in the individual clubs and is used to pay referees, purchase uniforms, player scholarships, maintain fields, pay field usage fees, and buy new equipment. Sponsors’ fees help cover many of these expenses.

WHAT ABOUT INSURANCE?

As part of your registration fee, CYSA provides insurance coverage for players and coaches. This is a “secondary coverage” for expenses beyond those covered by your personal medical/accident policy. This coverage applies ONLY to injuries sustained while participating in CYSA/HYSL sanctioned activities.

If an injury occurs, here is what to do:

1. Notify your coach and have him/her file a CYSA accident report(it is in the coaches manual, forms section).
2. Copies should be made, to give to League Registrar, and club president.

3. File a claim with your own insurance company.
4. If your policy does not fully cover the required medical treatment, ask the coach for a league policy claim form.
5. Complete and submit the form per the instructions.

GUIDELINES AND/OR POLICIES

Some of these are established by CYSA and others by HYSL. Some involve parent behavior and you should read them carefully and help ensure that all people associated with your team follow them. Please note that there are some special rules for U6 & U8 play designed to enhance the soccer experience for the younger players.

1.

Age Group	Game Length	Ball Size
U6	15 min. halves	#3
U8	20 min. halves	#3
U10	25 min. halves	#4
U12	30 min. halves	#4
U14	35 min. halves	#5
U16	40 min. halves	#5
2. Team size. U6 teams may have 8;U8 teams may have 10;U10 may have 12; all others may have no more than 18(16 is recommended). Please note that there are some special rules for U6 & U8 play.
3. All uniformed recreational players who are physically able, **MUST** play at least one-half of each game. However, a coach may elect to not play a player for reasons of discipline, but must notify the player, parent,referee,and other coach **PRIOR** to the start of the game.
4. **Special U6 & U8 rules**
 - Game will be played on a reduced-sized field with only 5 players (U6) or 7 players (U8) on the field.
 - U6's will play with **NO GOALKEEPER**;U8's play with a goalkeeper.
 - All free kicks will be indirect and no penalty kicks will be awarded.
 - Players will be allowed a second chance following an incorrect throw-in.
 - No official standings will be kept. Every team will be a "winning"team.
 - **PLAY AND FUN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.**
5. If a color conflict occurs with uniforms, the home team must change or reverse their jersey.
6. Home team must provide a suitable game ball.
7. Regular season league games that end in a tie, remain a tie. Overtime and shoot-outs do not take place in regular league games.
8. When only one referee is present, each team must provide one linesman to assist the referee.
9. As hard as we try, there may be times when no referee shows up for a game. When this happens, the coaches will agree on who is to referee the game (usually one person from each team). In such instances, remember that the substitute referee may not be fully informed of the laws of the game. Be tolerant-you may be asked to ref a game at some time. The main job is to assure player safety! League insurance covers situations with substitute referees.
10. **Complaints and Protests.** Please try to resolve these issues with your club board. Disagreements with the calls of a referee are not entertained as formal protests. Complaints about uniform sizes or colors, individual playing time issues need to be addressed at the club level. General or specific complaints about matters pertaining to

HYSL will be received and considered by the executive board but must be received, in writing, mailed to HYSL, PO Box 6758, Eureka, CA 95502.

11. It is against the laws of the game to challenge the calls of the referee.
12. Coaches **MUST** confine themselves to the area within 10 yards to either side of the midfield line. Also, it is illegal for parents and other spectators to wander along the sidelines or endlines coaching or advising players. It is also illegal for anyone to stand behind or near the goals.
13. Shinguards are **MANDATORY** for practice and games. They must be worn **UNDER** socks.
14. A player who has been cautioned (yellow card) **MUST** leave the field of play at least until the next possible substitution.
15. Slide tackles are **BANNED** for all U6, U8, & U10 recreational teams.
16. Parents and spectators are to stand on the opposite side from the players and coaches.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOCCER RULES

1. **Ball out of play.** When the ball goes **COMPLETELY** across one of the field's borderlines, it is ruled "out of play". The field is bordered by two end lines, called "goal-lines", and two sidelines, called "touch-lines".
 - A throw-in is awarded when the ball crosses the touchline, with the team last touching the ball losing control. If an improper throw-in is made, the ball is given to the opposing team for a throw-in at the same place.
 - When the ball crosses an end line (but not into the goal) one of two things occur, depending on which team kicked the ball out. If the attacking team puts the ball out (a missed shot on goal), the defending team is awarded a goal kick from the goal keepers box. If the defending team kicks the ball out (across the goal line they are defending) then the attacking team is awarded a corner kick, from the corner of the field nearest to where the ball went out.
2. **Fouls, free kicks, and penalty kicks.** There are a number of major and minor fouls in soccer (holding, pushing, spitting, swearing, charging, high kicks, hand ball, tripping, dangerous play, etc.). For serious fouls, a player may be issued a formal warning (yellow card) or even ejected from the game (red card). Usually, however, the opposing team is simply awarded a free kick from the place of the foul. Such a kick may be direct (player may kick the ball directly into the goal) or indirect (another player must touch the ball before the goal can be scored). When certain fouls are committed within the person's (who has fouled) own penalty area (large box near goal) the attacking team is awarded a penalty kick, taken one-on-one with the goalkeeper.
3. **Offside** is one of the more technical infractions to understand, as it involves position, timing and intent. A player is in an offside position when in the defender's half of the field and fewer than two defenders are nearer the goal than the player. The penalty is called when, in the referee's judgment, the offside player is seeking an advantage from the position at the moment when the ball is kicked or played by a teammate. A player cannot be offside when in possession of the ball or when in his/her own half of the field. Also, no offside can be called at the same time of a throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.
4. The referee is in complete charge of the game. He/she is solely responsible for keeping the time of the game, for allowing substitutions, and for calling fouls. In many cases, certain fouls are judgment calls made at the referee's discretion. Players, coaches, parents, and other spectators violate the laws of the game when they openly argue with the referee. The referee can eject a coach from a game for the behavior of his team's supporters.

