



## MICRO/MINI SOCCER INFORMATION

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## **OVERVIEW**

**The Mini Soccer Program (MSP)** meets for seven Saturday only sessions that last 45 minutes for Pre-School 1&2 (3 and 4 year old) and 60 minutes for Pre-K and Kindergarten (5 and 6 year old) each. Kindergarten (6 year old) teams will also have one practice each week. We will try to have make-ups for sessions that are rained out. We may not be able to make up more than one session.

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN** as there will be few emails. New information will be posted when ready. Feel free to be patient and wait for your questions to be answered or email [msp@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:msp@loudounsoccer.com) if you see errors, omissions or need advice.

**Coaches** – Please pay attention to the dates in the Coaches Corner if they say Mini Soccer Program or MSP. You *may* attend any of the meetings but please be aware that we have our own meetings for training and distribution of equipment .

The parents, coaches, spectators as well as the players are here to have fun learning the game of soccer. The Program Director and Trainers will do everything they can to assure that you have a positive soccer experience. Should you have any questions, concerns or comments at any time, please do not hesitate to email [msp@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:msp@loudounsoccer.com). We can only improve with your help.

### **Pre-School 1&2 (3 and 4 year old) Micro Soccer Formats –**

Soccer activities will be conducted by professional trainers who have a special talent for working with the youngest of players. A volunteer coach will manage the team and assist the trainers all seven weeks. Emphasis is on enhancing player abilities in a fun environment. Players will participate in age appropriate drills and games that will help build a solid foundation for skills to be learned later. Please do not expect the same “structure” and games for the Pre-School 1 age group that you see older players do. The Pre-School 2 age group will start to play games (one “team” playing another) when they are developmentally able (some teams will start in the Fall season, some may start in the Spring season). Once sessions are assigned they will meet at the same time each week.

### **Pre-K and Kindergarten (5 and 6 year old) Mini Soccer Format**

Players will be assigned to a team that will be coached by Parent Volunteers, who will be mentored by our Professional Trainers the first three sessions. Players will participate in age appropriate instruction for the first 20 minutes of each session, have a small break and then transition into The Big Game. Games will be played under the Dual Game Format. The Dual Game format allows for teams of 8 players to play two small-sided (3 v 3 or 4 v 4) games at the same time on side-by-side fields. Each Coach and Assistant will run one side (with the help of the trainer for the first 3 weeks) of the field... balancing players as the game continues and matching up levels of play to get the optimum playing situation on each side. Don't worry, the fields are very close to each other, and parents will be allowed to sit around the two fields, so minimum seat moving is required to get the best view of your tot. Parents may not sit behind the goals.

Pre-K and Kindergarten teams will play once a week at the same time each week on Saturdays (some locations may have times change by no more than an hour) – their fields will change to play other teams (field #1 to field #2 for example) but the facility will remain the same. The Kindergarten teams will also have one practice a week.



**Please note** – your Internet Provider needs to accept mail from [misp@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:misp@loudounsoccer.com). You will also receive emails from your coach, the Age Group Coordinator, your commissioner, and the Loudoun Soccer office, so please make sure you can receive and read these.

## **REGISTRATION QUESTIONS**

### **Q. May I request to be on a team with a certain player or coach?**

**A.** Yes! Requests should be made at the time of registration in the Special Request area. Please understand that all “requests” are considered, however sometimes there are reasons that they can not be accommodated. Requests made within 30 days of the start of the season may not be considered.

For instance, if 13 Pre-School 2 players all request the same coach, 2 players will not be able to be placed on that team as the maximum number of players is 11. The fair thing to do in this case is to use the date and time of registration to place the players on the team.

Requests may be for things such as a certain coach or to play with a friend. Whole teams may be put together as long as there is a volunteer parent coach and assistant coach. But please remember that while we do our very best, there are no guarantees or refunds if we are unable to meet requests.

Requests to play with a player in an different age group or Town Of Play are difficult to do as the Age Group Coordinators can not see outside of their own players or the players not be registered at the time the teams are put together. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Q. We live in Ashburn and have friends that live in Sterling. Can we play in Sterling on their team?**

**A.** YES! We can place both players on the same team if they register early enough, both players fit into the same age group, register for the same Town Of Play (Sterling) and they each request to be on the others team in the Special Request area during the registration application.

### **Q. I registered my child. Will my child be placed on a team?**

**A.** All placement in Loudoun Soccer is based on registration date – first come, first served. Families who enroll their child early in the process are more likely to be placed, and more likely to have a special request accommodated.

### **Q. I registered my child. When do I hear from a coach?**

**A.** A few weeks before the start of the season parents will be able to log into their account and see the coach/team information but may not have any coach contact information so it is important that coaches contact parents as soon as they can log and and see their roster. Please use all contact information available to try and reach parents (email, cell phone, work phone). Parents who do not hear from the coach within two weeks of the start of the season should reach out to the coach.

### **Q. Are teams co-ed or single gender?**

**A.** All Micro Pre School 3 and 4 teams, and Minis Pre-K teams are co-ed. For Minis Kindergarten teams, we try our best to form single gender teams, as our Rec 1 (Grades 1-2) program is also single gender. For towns with smaller enrollment, Kindergarten teams may be co-ed.



**Q. Who do I contact if I have a registration question?**

**A.** Please email [info@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:info@loudounsoccer.com) with any questions concerning registration such as – What age group is my child? Can my child play if their birthday is xx/xx/xx? Is there room on a team? Where do I find my password? How do I change my email address? Where do I send a Proof of Age? I could not find the Special Request area when I registered so how can it be added? Where do they play?

**VOLUNTEER QUESTIONS**

**Q. What does a coach do?**

**A.** Pre- School 3s and 4s coaches are more like Assistant Coaches or Managers in that they communicate with the parents of their players with information but leave the training to the professional trainers. LS provides professional trainers all 7 weeks. The Coach helps the trainer on the field if needed. The coach also works with the Age Group Coordinator to distribute jerseys, end of season awards and pictures to the team.

The Pre-K and Kindergarten (5 and 6 year old) coaches differ in that the professional trainers lead the first three weeks of the season and are assisted by the volunteer coaches, who will take charge of the last four sessions. Kindergarten teams have one practice per week, which are also led by the volunteer coach – Pre-K teams do not have practices.

Time required: Pre-K coaches approximately 1 hour on the field each week, Kindergarten coaches approximately 2 hours per week – in addition to any communication and planning time.

**Q. I would love to help coach but I have no experience – playing or coaching. Can I still coach?**

**A. YES!** One of the driving forces behind the creation of the Mini Soccer Program was the need to help coaches feel comfortable. Coaching the Pre-School teams is very easy – it's more like being a team manager. The coach will communicate with the team families, have their picture taken with the team, distribute the pictures and end of season awards, and follow the lead of the professional trainers (who run the sessions).

The Pre-K and Kindergarten (5 and 6 year old) coaches do a little more – there are professional trainers leading just the first three sessions. The volunteer coaches use these sessions to learn the basics of running a session, gather a portfolio of games/activities and gain confidence for running the next four sessions. We also have an extensive amount of resources on our Coaching Education page to help.

**Q. What does an AGC do?**

**A.** An Age Group Coordinator (AGC) is typically a volunteer who assembles the teams under the supervision of a Commissioner. An AGC utilizes the registration database to assign coaches and place players. Additionally, the AGC works with the Commissioner to distribute equipment and end of season awards to coaches. The amount of time required varies on the experience of the AGC and the number of teams. After the season starts it requires less than an hour a week (if that).

**Q. What does a Commissioner do?**

**A.** There are Commissioner in charge of each Town of Play. The Commissioner works with the MSP Director and volunteers to organize the season. Commissioners make sure that everyone



has everything they need to do their job. Time required: a few weeks of 10 hours a week during pre-season followed by weeks of 1 to 2 hours. Time required depends on skills of individual.

**Q. I'm interested in volunteering – who do I contact?**

**A.** Please contact Daryn Patricio, Mini Program Manager, at [daryn.patricio@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:daryn.patricio@loudounsoccer.com).

**EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS**

**Q. Are jerseys provided? Where do I get them? Can I purchase more?**

**A.** Jerseys are included in the cost of registration. They are distributed at the first Saturday session of the season.

There may be extra jerseys available to purchase at the Loudoun Soccer office for those who wish to purchase one. It is advisable to contact the office at 703-777-9977 to confirm office hours and availability. The address is 19798 Sycolin Rd, Leesburg VA.

**Q. Do the players have to wear cleats?**

**A.** Players should wear whatever shoes they want so they are comfortable. At this young age, they may not wear the shoes long enough during the season to “break them in” so sneakers may be better. Also, it is less stressful on parents when the players aren't having a bad shoe day. Imagine having your 4 year old wake up at 5am so he can put on his cleats for a soccer session that starts at 2pm. The choice is yours.

**Q. What equipment do we need?**

**A.** Players need to wear weather-appropriate clothing and shin guards (mandatory), and athletic shoes – soccer cleats or gym shoes. Baseball and football cleats are NOT permitted. Families should also provide their own water. For more information on uniforms and equipment, visit <http://www.loudounsoccer.com/rec/uniforms/>

**Q. Can my child wear jewelry?**

**A.** Unfortunately no. Wearing jewelry is a safety hazard for both the child wearing it, and for the other players on the field. DO NOT pierce your child's ears before or during the soccer season. They are not permitted to play with earrings in (even if they're taped or covered with bandages).

**SCHEDULE QUESTIONS**

**Q. When are schedules available?**

**A.** Schedules are typically available one week after team assignments are published (for Fall – typically late August; for Spring – typically late March).

**Q. Do the Kindergarten (6 year old) teams have a weekday practice?**

**A.** Yes, the Kindergarten (6 year old) teams have practices once a week (the coach decides the day of the week and time – typically 5pm or 6pm). Practices start the week prior to the first session so be sure to communicate with your coach concerning all team details. Some Blackout dates and Holidays may force a practice to be moved or cancelled.

Pre-School and Pre-K teams only meet on Saturdays.

**Q. Our team will be missing a lot of players one week. Do we have to forfeit?**



**A.** There are NO forfeits in the Mini Soccer Program. The players that show up on the field will divide up and play. Sometimes that means that they play with their team and sometimes they may play with the other team so the teams can balance out.

**Q. When will my child play “real” soccer with refs, larger fields, and standings?**

**A.** Youth soccer players – especially those ages 3-6 – are too young to play “real” soccer. Loudoun Soccer organizes league play beginning at 1st grade, where children play 4 versus 4 on smaller fields, allowing them opportunities to develop their skills, decision-making, and passion.

Most of the players ages 3-6 are not ready for “real” soccer yet – whether it’s from a physical, social, or emotional standpoint. It’s more important that players at this age have fun with these first soccer experiences, so they feel safe and comfortable before they’re placed in a more structured, competitive environment.

Youth soccer is a journey – often rushing into things can be detrimental to each player’s passion for the game.

**Q. It’s raining. What do we do?**

**A.** Most fields utilized by Loudoun Soccer are allocated by Loudoun County Parks and Rec. LCPR decides whether grass fields are open or closed during inclement weather. Loudoun Soccer utilizes an alert system through [rainedout.com](http://rainedout.com) for last-minute field closures.

Unless otherwise communicated, sessions are on as scheduled. Sessions are held in light rain – please dress your child for the weather.

**HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**This is a list, in no certain order, of items that are good to know:**

- **Special requests** (like specific coaches, teammates or times) **must** be made at the time of registration.
- **Changes may not be made within 30 days of the start of the season** so please take care of this early. There are no refunds for denial of requests.
- Please make sure that the family name or phone number is on your child’s size 3 soccer ball. There’s nothing in the first aid kit to mend the broken heart of a kid who lost their ball. If the name or number is on the ball, we can return the ball.
- **NO PETS ARE ALLOWED ON ANY SCHOOL SITE.** No pets are allowed at any field. Polite compliance is expected.
- Loudoun Soccer participates in a risk management program called Kidsafe. All volunteers must complete a Kidsafe application, which will be used to run a criminal background check. All volunteer positions, including that of coach are conditional upon the completion of the investigation. Volunteers may be asked to relinquish their position depending on the findings. Please write clearly and contact [Kidsafe@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:Kidsafe@loudounsoccer.com), if you have an issue or question.
- Parents need to bring a method of payment on picture day.
- Behavioral problems – parents are to deal with unacceptable behavior of their own children. If a parent has unacceptable behavior, please speak to the trainer or Site Coordinator. Loudoun Soccer does not tolerate abuse in any fashion – verbal or physical towards other parents, players (yours or others), coaches, trainers or guests.
- Remember our reason for being – a FUN introduction to soccer. Please enjoy the kids, their desire to be one with the ball and to wear themselves out.



- There are no outside practices allowed.
- An adult should never be alone with the players (always have at least 2 adults). All youth information is confidential and not to be sent in emails, posted on the website, sold or given to anyone or any entity for other than the intended purpose for which it was given and can only be given to the player's custodial parent.
- Parents should keep an eye on siblings visiting the playground or wandering around. Siblings are not allowed on the field with the players (this includes other children of the coach and/or assistant coach).
- The Coach should carry a first aid kit or assign the task to one of the parents.
- Please do not allow children to stand on soccer balls.
- There are to be no goal tenders, long lines to wait in, or penalty kicks as we want to keep the ball in play as much as possible.
- Coaches should always have an extra ball or two in their hands so they can throw it in to keep the game the going when the ball leaves the field. Parents should give stray balls to the coaches. Parents are not permitted to throw in balls.
- The coach's paperwork packet contains picture envelopes to distribute and/or other items to share with the parents.
- Kidsafe applications for coach and assistant coach are on the website as are parent & coach Code of Conduct forms and Medical Release forms that need to be signed by all parents and kept by the coach/assistant coach at the field during sessions.
- The Loudoun Soccer Office Location – 19798 Sycolin Road, Leesburg, VA
- Uniforms – parents purchase jerseys at the time of registration. Watch for postings and emails concerning distributions. Parents are responsible for jersey pick-up. There are no formal requirements for shorts or socks. Our league colors are red, black and white. Please dress players for the weather.
- While there are no prizes given for the most errors found on the website, anytime you find something amiss, please let us know so that we may correct it.
- Smoking is prohibited on/near/around the fields.
- Fields must be cleaned by each team after each session.
- Loudoun Soccer provides an end of the season award for each player.
- Loudoun Soccer is a volunteer based organization. All of the coaches are volunteers who are donating their time to work with the kids so they have a great soccer experience. Please don't forget to tell them **Thank You** at the end of the season.

## **PARENT INFORMATION**

Thank you for choosing to have your child participate in Loudoun Soccer's Mini Soccer Program. We have professional trainers that will be working with the players as well as volunteer coaches and assistant coaches, however, you also play an important role in the program. Please note the following guidelines that will help all involved have the best possible soccer experience.

- Check the schedule every day before leaving for the field – know the time and field number.
- Volunteer to help the coach when asked. It won't hurt and it's a resume builder.
- Check the Mini Soccer page of the website weekly as emails will be kept to a minimum.
- Encouraging children in a positive way is most welcome. There are no winners or losers – just soccer players having a great time.
- We are here to have fun, learn some soccer and enjoy being/watching kids.
- This is not a drop-off program. There needs to be a responsible adult in attendance for all players.



- Do not ask to have younger/older siblings join either the skills & drills or the games – it's an insurance issue.
- Older siblings (under 18) may *not* help coach on the field during sessions – it's an insurance issue.
- Set up the goals at the beginning of the session.
- Do not bring pets of any type. They are not allowed at any site. Please share this with others the first day to avoid future issues. Polite compliance is expected.
- There is no smoking at any site.
- ALL trash (this means every little straw wrapper) must be picked up from around the fields. Play Rock, Paper, Scissors if you must and the loser is the Trash Czar, but please make sure to leave only footprints.
- Do not bring items with nuts or nut oils. Not only do we have players with allergies, but, there are siblings that get into the snacks, while not being watched, that may have allergies.
- Please watch or make sure to have someone watch siblings during the sessions. We are a community of families that treasure our children and can not imagine the pain if one of them is violated/disappears.
- Players must have a size 3 ball, shin guards, water and dress for the weather. Again – ALL players must have shin guards. Players can not be on the field if they do not have shin guards – it's an insurance issue. Please equip your child properly.
- Know your team number and the coach name.
- Check the website before arriving at the field, especially in bad weather. League wide cancellations may be posted on the Home page. Cancellations may also be made by the site coordinator during the middle of the day as weather conditions dictate (this is called Game Time Decision) so teams may have to go to the field and check.
- You are responsible for dealing with your child's misbehavior. Please report parent misbehavior to the site coordinator (Trainer of the first field of each location) or Daryn Patricio at [mvp@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:mvp@loudounsoccer.com).
- Parents should encourage players from the sidelines not from behind the goals.
- Coaches & Assistant coaches only will kick/throw balls back onto the fields.
- Please make sure to thank the coaches, assistant coaches and trainers. They are caring people who share themselves with us so that we can have a good time.
- Most sites generally have Port-A-Potties, however, you may want to make sure you don't have to use them.
- Happy soccer player/parents arrive a little early to avoid the stress of being late. But, if you are late, it's perfectly okay.

## **FINDING TEAM INFORMATION**

### **RULE #1, 2 & 3 – DON'T PANIC**

Parents should access coach and team through the Registration area. The schedules will be on the Mini Soccer page as soon as they are available. Schedules for the first day are posted as they are available and the remaining schedules will be posted as soon as possible.

Teams are formed by very caring Age Group Coordinators. Your player may be moved from one team to another to fix errors or balance teams until the day before the season starts. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING DURING THIS PROCESS.**

Please be aware that all of the information for you to be able to log-in is online.





When the teams are formed and the system allows parents to see it, please follow the directions below.

It is very important that you (or whomever you send to the field with the player) know the Team Name the league generates for your team (U5PUR12 for example) AND the coach name (Rubin for example). You will use this information to find the Schedule when they are posted. When the Picture Schedule is released, it will have something like U5PUR12 not something like "Terrapins" so please remember or make a note of it.

It is illegal to send youth information over the internet so DO NOT EMAIL OR POST player names, phone numbers, etc.

Coaches/assistant coaches should have their child on their team and twins/triplets should be together unless otherwise requested. Please email the MSP Program Manager, Sean Maxwell, if a change really needs to be made. Coaches can click on the team link next to their name to see the roster.

We try to accommodate all Special Requests that were submitted prior to end of the Special Request deadline or 30 days prior to the start of the season, however, it may not be possible to grant them. Also, mistakes will be made, so thank you for your understanding and patience while we try to accommodate everyone. Special Requests are not guaranteed and refunds will not be granted if we cannot accommodate them. The team number should to be included in any correspondence.

Player/team **placement and times may change** so you are urged to keep re-checking until the start of the season.

**You are urged to not wait** until a few days before we start to find your team information – we don't want anybody to drop through the cracks. Please feel free to contact the coach if you have not been contacted at least one week prior to the first session.

REMEMBER – this is for fun and we're all in this together for the kids. We will do our best to make sure everyone has a super positive experience.