

FAQ for VCYSA Recreational Soccer

Where can I find out more information about VCYSA soccer?

- Check out our website at www.vcysa.org or follow us on Facebook. You can also download TeamApp and search for Vigo County Youth Soccer Assoc.

When will I hear from my coach?

- For the Fall season, but the end of July/beginning of August.

When is the Fall season?

- Games will begin on Sunday, August 16th.
- The season is 8 weeks long.

What does my child need to play?

- Soccer cleats are highly recommended (cannot use any other type of cleat) and shin guards are required for all players for every practice and game (shin guards go inside of the socks).
- A soccer ball is encouraged but not required.
- We will provide each player with a game jersey (dri-fit) and a pair of soccer socks.
- Most players will wear black athletic shorts or black sweatpants for games.

Where can I purchase soccer gear?

- Academy Sports, Pacesetter Sports, Coaches Corner and soccer.com have a wide selection of soccer cleats, shin guards, balls and accessories.

What size ball is used for each age group?

- 4U – size 3 ball
- 5U/6U – size 3 ball
- 7U/8U – size 3 ball
- 9U/10U – size 4 ball
- 11U/12U – size 4 ball
- Middle School – size 5 ball

How long are games?

- 4U – 4-4 minute quarters per game
- 5U/6U – 4 - 8 minute quarters per game
- 7U/8U – 4 - 10 minute quarters per game
- 9U/10U – 2 – 25 minute halves
- 11U/12U – 2 – 30 minute halves
- Middle School – 2 – 30 minute halves

How long does practice last?

- 4U – 45 minutes
- 5U/6U – 45 minutes
- 7U/8U – 1 hour
- 9U/10U – 1 hour 15 minutes
- 11U/12U – 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes
- Middle School – 1 hour 30 minutes

What items are prohibited during a game?

- FIFA laws of the game prohibit anything, which is dangerous to a player or other player.
- Glasses can be worn.
- You may play with a cast on your arm.
- Earrings are forbidden.

Can I choose what day/time my child practices?

- No. VCYSA will schedule all practice days and times this season and all practices will take place at our complex.

Where are games played?

- Games are played at the VCYSA soccer complex located at 990 W. Springhill Drive, Terre Haute, IN 47802.

What day are games played?

- Games are typically played on Sunday afternoons at either 1:00, 2:30 or 4:00.
- The game schedules will be posted on our website and on TeamApp.

How are age groups decided?

- The soccer calendar year begins on August 1st of each year. The date the state uses is 2021 for the 2020-21 soccer season. You subtract your child's birth year by the soccer year to find out their age group. For example: birth year of a child is 2014. Take $2021 - 2014 = 7$. So this particular child would be a U7 player.

How are teams formed?

- Players are placed in their appropriate age group, based off of their birth year.
- We then place new players on a team.
- Next we look at all requests.
- We DO NOT allow players to play "up" or play "down", outside of their age group. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Age groups are as follows:
 - 4U
 - 5U/6U – we call this 6U
 - 7U/8U – we call this 8U

9U/10U – we call this 10U
11U/12U – we call this 12U
Middle School

Can I request a specific coach for my child?

- Yes, we do accept requests, **but we do not guarantee them**. You must indicate this on the registration form under coach/player requests.
- Only half of a team can be from requests.
- If there are too many requests for a coach, we select the half that registered first, based on registration date.

When are coaches selected?

- We will select coaches after registration has closed.
- All recreational coaches are volunteers.

Can I request to have my kids play on the same team?

- Yes, if they are in the same age group.
- You must indicate this on the registration form under the coach/player request section.
- We do not automatically place siblings on the same team unless there is a request to do so.

Once teams have been formed, can my child switch teams?

- No. Once teams have been decided, the uniform order is placed.
- We cannot make adjustments after the uniform order has been submitted, as additional costs are incurred.
- If an adjustment has to be made (due to an extenuating circumstance) there will be an additional cost, that the parent will be responsible for.

What are pods?

- Pods are used for our 4U, 5U/6U and 7U/8U players.
- Pods are a larger group of kids that train together.
- For each game the pods will break into 2 teams each to face off against another pod.
- The 2 teams within a pod will vary from week to week.
- Games will occur at the same time on adjacent fields.
- At halftime players can be substituted from one team to the other within their pod.

Why do we have pods?

- The kids' learning is based on the concept of PLAY-PRACTICE-PLAY. This uses scrimmaging to provide the opportunity to learn by doing.
- Having more players allows for forming weekly teams that will create even play for teams thus making it more **FUN** for all the kids. In the end it is all about the **FUN** for the kids.

How many players are on a team?

- 4U – up to 12 players per pod
- 5U/6U – up to 12 players per pod
- 7U/8U – up to 16 players per pod
- 9U/10U – up to 12 players per team
- 11U/12U – up to 14 players per team
- Middle School – varies but up to 18 players per team

How many players are on the field during a game?

- 4U – 3 v 3
- 5U/6U – 3 v 3
- 7U/8U – 4 v 4
- 9U/10U – 7 v 7
- 11U/12U – 9 v 9
- Middle School – 11 v 11

When do we get their uniforms?

- Coaches will distribute uniforms on the first game day.

What if I ordered the wrong size jersey for my child?

- You can purchase a different one for a fee. You will need to contact Melissa Brown at melissa@vcysa.org right away.

Where do we sit for the games?

- Parents, guardians, friends, family, spectators must all sit on the OPPOSITE side of the field from the players and coaches.
- You **MAY NOT** sit on the same side as the players and coaches.
- You **MAY NOT** sit around the goals.
- If you are not sitting in the correct spot, you will be asked to move.
- Players need to listen to the coaches and be able to hear them.

Are families of players required to volunteer?

- Yes. Each family is required to volunteer 2 service hours each season.
- This can be fulfilled by volunteering for field day, serving on our board, being a coach or assistant coach, working during our Spring tournament, etc.

Do you offer a volunteer buyout if I am unable to volunteer my time?

- Yes. Every family is required to pay a \$25 buyout fee if they cannot volunteer for 2 hours.

You can also go to our website and pay for your buyout with a credit or debit card. You can also go to our website and pay for your buyout with a credit or debit card. Click this link to do the volunteer buyouts:

<https://www.vcysa.org/Default.aspx?tabid=736236>

Select “pay for volunteer buyout”.

- You can send in a check or money order for your buyout to:
VCYSA
PO Box 2003
Terre Haute, IN 47802
In the memo section write volunteer buyout and your child's name.

My child has decided not to play this season. Can I get a refund?

- No. There are no refunds, after registration closes. Please go to our website for more details.

What does my registration fee cover?

- Registration fees are subsidized by other sources of revenue generated by the Club. These sources can include sponsorships, concessions and tournament income. Currently, registration fees make up approximately 75% of the income collected by the Club on an annual basis.
- The major cost is associated with the mowing, fertilization, seeding and maintaining of 42 acres of grass. These actions occur on an on-going basis throughout the year even though our seasons will end. The continued maintenance with gravel and grading of the parking lot will add to that cost. Other expenses are shown, but it's not an all-inclusive list.
 - Insurance
 - Background checks for all coaches
 - Security
 - Building and equipment repairs
 - Uniforms
 - Equipment
 - State fees for every player
 - Referee fees
 - Trophies
 - Coaching education
 - Personnel costs

What if I have an issue with my coach?

- Please contact the commissioner of the age group that your child is in.
- 4U – Teresa Dwyer – teresa.dwyer@indstate.edu
- 5U/6U – Scott Bowers – jhsbaseballcf19@yahoo.com
- 7U/8U – Chris Lozier – chris.lozier@smwc.edu
- 9U/10U – Chris Meyer – chris.meyer@gibault.org
- 11U/12U – Jim Pendergast – jwp@woodburngraphics.com
- Middle School – Jim Pendergast – jwp@woodburngraphics.com

What is the VCYSA Zero Tolerance Policy?

- VCYSA does not tolerate the harassment of Players, Referees, Coaches or Spectators.

- You may be asked to leave and even be banned from attending future games for excessive or repeated offenses.

Should I yell instructions or coach my child from the sidelines?

- You should only encourage all players when they do well.
- Let the coach's coach and the players play, as that is how they learn.

New communication app is being utilized club wide.

- As a club we are using TeamApp. This is a free app and you will receive an email to join. You can select if you would prefer contact through email or text or both. Coaches can communicate with their parents/guardians, the club can communicate to all of our soccer families. Eventually the schedule will be posted as well on the app. We will pull your information directly from got soccer so you do not need to request access. I will associate you with your child/grandchild/etc. When you receive the email please download TeamApp. The app is green with a capital T in the middle. We are requiring that all coaches to use this app for their teams, as all coaches will be required to keep attendance at every practice and every game.

Covid-19 – what is the club doing regarding this?

This is from Indiana Soccer – Imperatives for training and games

One of Indiana Soccer's goals is to assist member clubs in their effort to provide a safe environment for the players and their families to enjoy our game. The residents of the state of Indiana have done a tremendous job of following the directives of our state and local government and our state and local health departments to allow us to move through the stages of return to what will be considered normal. All have been emphasizing **that we are not done and not out of the woods**. The Indiana Soccer family is committed to demonstrating excellence in the mitigation fight against Covid-19. **Below is a list of imperative minimums expected until such time as the social distancing requirements are lifted by local and state governments.**

Coaches:

- Coaches are required to wear masks (bandanas/gators are acceptable) walking to training and through the greeting/initial instructions part of the session and anytime they would come within 6' of another person (includes other coaches).
- Coaches should have a designated side-line space for their personal & team equipment that complies with social distancing best practices.
- During training, **the coach may remove their mask** when they are greater than 6' from others, however, they should have the mask readily available when 6' or closer contact is inevitable. Coaches should always have a pair of gloves on their person just in case the coach needs to attend to an injured player. When attending an injured athlete, the coach must wear their mask and gloves.

- When the training session resumes, the coach may remove their mask and gloves as long as the coach maintains a minimum of 6' separation from others.
- When addressing the team, the coach must insist the players stand/sit a minimum of 6' apart. If the coach is a minimum of 6' from any other person, the coach does not need to be wearing their mask when addressing the players. The CDC says this type of gathering should not exceed 10 minutes.
- Coaches should be the only individuals handling team equipment (cones, training sticks, portable goals, etc...).
- Coaches are required to wear a mask during all pre-game introductions (opposing coaches, referees...).
- During games, coaches are required to wear a mask on the sideline. They may remove the mask to give direction to players on or off the field as long as they are a minimum of 6' from any individual.
- There should be no physical contact between players, coaches or referees pre or post game.
- When leaving the training/game or moving to another field, etc., coaches are required to wear their mask.

Players:

- Players are required to wear masks (bandanas are acceptable) when going to the field.
- Players should have a clearly marked side-line space, designated for them to place their personal equipment in compliance with the 6' minimum social distancing protocol.
- Players may remove their masks when training/warm-ups and when the games begin.
- Players are not to share drink containers, even from their own family.
- During games, reserves on the bench should be a minimum of 6' apart. If they are a minimum of 6' apart, they do not have to wear their mask. If they are closer, they are required to wear their mask.
- Players are to keep socially distanced apart when gathering to listen to a coach.
- There should be no physical contact between players, coaches or referees pre or post game.
- When leaving the training/game, players are required to wear their mask.
- Players for training: arrive at the field 5 minutes before training is to begin.
- Players for games: arrive at the field 25 minutes before game is to begin.

Referees:

- Referees are required to wear a mask (bandanas are acceptable) when going to or from the field.
- On the sideline, when there is more than one referee working the game, social distance yourself from the other referees (minimum 6' apart). The

club should have designated a space that complies with social distancing protocols for as many as three referees.

- Wear a mask during:
 - o Field inspection
 - o Introducing yourself to the coaches (stay a minimum of 6' apart)
 - o Team check-in (stay a minimum of 6' apart)
 - o Captains' meeting (stay a minimum of 6' apart)
- There will only be one captain per team.
- Referees and assistant referees **ARE NOT REQUIRED** to wear a mask during the game.
- Keep a mask in your pocket in case you need to be within 6' of a player. Maintaining 6' social distancing when practical.
- During the half-time break, if the referees can maintain social distancing (minimum of 6' apart), they are not required to wear their mask.
- There should be no physical contact between players, coaches or referees pre or post game.
- When leaving the game or moving to another field, referees are required to wear their mask.

Spectators:

- Ask all individuals who are 65 and above or who have an underlying at-risk health condition to stay home.
- Spectators are required to wear masks (bandanas are acceptable) when making their way to the designated side-line space for spectator seating. The club will have clearly marked areas that comply with social distancing protocols for spectator seating.
- Only family members living in the same home should be sitting closer than required by the social distancing protocol when attending games.
- Any type of bleacher/bench should be closed off for use unless they can be cleaned after each use.
- Spectators are not required to wear their masks when sitting in their designated viewing area as long as they are sitting a minimum of 6' from another household.
- When a spectator moves from their designated seating area, they are required to wear their mask.
- If spectators are interacting with other spectators (other families) at the field/complex, they are required to wear their mask and maintain the minimum social distance, 6' apart.
- Spectators for training and games: arrive at the field 5 minutes before the training or game is to begin.