

U8 Soccer

Program Objective: Travel soccer program where basic soccer skills are strengthened (passing, shooting, dribbling, throw-ins, trapping, goaltending) in conjunction with the introduction of some tactical concepts (offense and defense). Program is conducted through skill focused practices and the introduction of a structured 6 vs 6 game format (5 field players with a goalie).

Age Group: U8 year olds (2nd Grade)

Team Size / Formation: Each team consists of a maximum of 15 players (all boys or girls). Based on the registration for the fall and spring season, an attempt is made to keep the same players with each coach.

Uniform: Team Shirt, shorts, and socks are provided for full season (fall & spring)

Practices / Games: Coaches hold one weekday practice with games occurring on Saturdays. Practice days and times are determined by each coach and will be communicated to each parent prior to the season. The game schedule is formed the Town of Millbury and sent to all U8 coaches within 2 weeks of season start. Fall program runs for about 9 weeks from first Saturday after labor day. Spring program runs for about 9 weeks from second Saturday in April. Each game will follow the U8 rules.

Practice and Game location: Practice and games will be held behind the Balmer School

Field Size: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: None.

Flagposts: None.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: The goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

Ball: Each player needs to provide their own #4 ball

Player equipment: Each player should purchase cleats, shin pads, and a water bottle for each practice.

Coaches: Each team should have a coach and assistant coach. Each coach needs to be registered through the town program and be CORI checked.

Coach equipment: Each coach will receive an equipment bag with the following: (cones, ball pump, first aid kit, ice packs, practice pinnies, mesh ball bag, two #4 game balls, goalie gloves, and goalie shirt)