

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

When is my child old enough to play soccer & how are they placed in their respective age groups?

Players will be placed in teams of their respective age groups, or as close to their age groups as possible. Our Age Groups range from U5/6/7, U9/10, U10/11

How is my child placed on a team?

Players are placed on teams based on age, gender, and skill rating. Teams will be created based on the number of players registered and the roster sizes per age group. Team formation takes place as we near the season start date, and is subject to change based on team numbers, and skill level ability. Ultimately we rely on direction from management to guide our teams which are always in the best interests of the players.

Who do I talk to if I have questions about – My Childs Coach, Team, and Grade Level in which they have been placed?

If you have questions or concerns in relation to your child, coach, team, these are to be directed to your team manager in writing or on email. The manager of your team will be able to direct you with guidance that is provided and adhered to by our club policies which are noted on our club website with support from our Technical Director.

What if my child wants to play in a different age group?

Players are always encouraged to play within their age group. A request for an assessment can be made to the Club by a parent or coach after the start of the season.

Are there any requirements for those new to the Soccer Club?

Yes. You will need to submit /show proof of age to the Club in the form of a Acceptable documents include birth certificate, passport. Proof of age can be provided in person or by email.

When does the outdoor season start?

All divisions begin the week of February 1 (Could be subject to change)

This is the start of a 3-week pre-season during which time teams are adjusted, if necessary, to create a balance of skills and ages across each division.

When and where does my child play?

All games are played on the same day of each week. The fixtures will be posted on the Oakleigh Cannons Junior Website and may be subject to changes by May.

Divisions are scheduled for 2 practice session followed by a short break and then a game each week. Note Soccer Training may still continue over the school holiday's depending the coach and their availability.

How can I help?

We are always looking for many, many Volunteers! House League soccer relies heavily on volunteers to be run smoothly.

Each age group requires a volunteer Convenor to help administer the division, coordinate the teams and disseminate information.

Each team requires a Coach/Team Leader and the number of coaches required fluctuates based on player registrations year to year. All U9-U11 coaches are supported by the Club's Practice Facilitator, whose role is to format the weekly practices and assist coaches in carrying out the practice sessions. Individual coaches are not required to create practice drills independently. Enthusiasm,

patience, and a desire to teach children new skills is all that is required!

Due to insurance and requirements for working with minors, all coaches and assistant coaches are required to formally register with the Club and submit to volunteer screening protocols i.e. working with Children Check & registering with the FFV as a volunteer for the club.

There are many other roles with which we need help. Contact us and we'll find a good fit for you.

Where do we Park?

The entrance to Jack Edwards Reserve we have a soccer parking lot. Take Care and drive slowly when driving through the car park as this is a high traffic areas with cars entering and exiting as well as children arriving and departing from the ground.

What equipment do we need?

Shin guards are mandatory at all ages (including goalkeepers). Proper soccer shoes are needed for players U6-U18.

The Club provides jersey, shorts and socks to every registered player. You can get additional equipment/gear from Football Galaxy or Sports Mart or Rebel.

What should we bring to the field?

Wear your complete uniform. It is important to bring plenty of water regardless of the weather. Remember sunscreen and insect repellent. Some coaches will assign a rotation for the duty of providing a nutritional thirst quenching boost (oranges) for half time each week.

Can I drop off my child at the field and pick them up when soccer is finished?

Players and parents should arrive at the fields 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time so that you can safely travel from the parking lot to the assigned field. Please do not drop off children adjacent to the field area or stop vehicles in driveways. Children should not be left unattended at the fields. Should you need to leave, please arrange with a fellow parent to be responsible for your child?

For older youth, it is still the parent's responsibility to ensure that their youth is safely supervised. You must have arrangements in place in case of emergency - which includes being prepared for mid-session severe weather field closures. Do not assume that your team coach will take responsibility for your youth. In the event that you do leave your youth under another person's care, you must arrange for pick-up on time at their field. Please refer to the Club Policy on our website for further information and requirements.

What do we do if it is raining?

Soccer is played in the rain! Rare cancellations and lightning calls are made at the field by officials. If in doubt, please proceed to your field or check our Twitter account and web site for updates. Weather cancellations are customarily made at game time, not before, by Referees or Club Field Ambassadors. Note that any cancellation of early games does not necessarily mean cancellation of later game times on the field schedule. Weather conditions change and your team depends on having a full roster at each scheduled game, rain or shine. Cancelled games will not be rescheduled.

What do we do if it is really hot?

Oakleigh Cannons Soccer Club does not cancel soccer games due to extreme heat. History has shown us that most evenings, the soccer fields are some of the coolest areas in town. With appropriate precautions, we are able to have a great night at the fields. Parents can use their own judgement regarding attendance but soccer will be on.

What is the expectation of parents at the field?

Parents of U5-U7 players are expected to participate with their child on the field.

Other parents are encouraged to respectfully watch games and practices from the sidelines. Spectators are requested to sit on the opposite side of the field from the teams and coaches. This encourages youth to listen to coaches, watch their teammates, and become more of a team.

While it is tempting to criticize the referee in any sport, we ask that you please keep comments about the referee or their calls to yourself. Just as your child is learning the nuances of the game, so are our young refs learning how to be a good referee. Every year we lose a number of youth who have great potential because of the unwarranted commentary from the sidelines. Remember, every referee is someone's child too.

I'm not happy with the soccer program. Who do I talk to?

Start with your coach. If this does not resolve the issue, you can talk to the Manger assigned to your team. Still need help – put your concern in writing and address this on an email to your team manager, who will then forward the concern or query onto the Technical Director of the club.

Our aim is to make soccer a positive and enjoyable experience for each child that enters the club. Ultimately decisions will be based around the best interests of the children.