

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can you tell me a little bit about Evanston AYSO?

Evanston AYSO is an all-volunteer, non-profit youth soccer organization open to ALL CHILDREN between the ages of 4 and 18 (born between 8/1/90 and 7/31/05) who want to play soccer. We have approximately 1500 players. Evanston AYSO costs only \$90 per child to play a full season (fall 2009 and spring 2010). We had 1500 kids play last year, and have room for even more.

Our model is communitarian and non-competitive. We don't have tryouts, we don't keep score (at least officially . . . recognizing, of course, that all the kids 10 and up know the score), we don't have standings, we don't have stars who play all four quarters while others sit on the bench all game. And while all of our kids want to win, we try to teach them that fun is in the doing, of being part of a team, of having the chance to play a great sport, about the joy of just being out on that field and giving one's all. Our league actively promotes diversity, community, good sportsmanship. We do our best to create a positive environment for kids to have fun while learning how to play the greatest sport in the world.

In addition to our regular teams, we have a VIP program for children with physical, cognitive and/or psychological handicaps that may make a mainstream setting difficult.

How old does my child have to be to participate?

A child must turn 4 no later than July 31, 2009. There are no exceptions. All players **NEW** to Evanston AYSO must **PROVIDE PROOF OF BIRTH DATE** with their registration form. The Evanston AYSO program for the Fall 2009/ Spring 2010 season is available to children born between **August 1, 1990 and July 31, 2005**, no exceptions.

How do I Register?

Evanston AYSO registration is a two-step process. The first step is preregistering online at www.eayso.org. The second step is in-person registration. Remember that you need to print and bring your online registration form to one of the the in-person registration sessions. Detailed instructions, including times and dates of registration, can be found on our website at www.evanstonsoccer.org.

How does team placement work?

A child is placed on a team based on their age as of July 31. For example, a child who is 7 on July 31 will be placed onto an Under 8 team even if he turns 8 in November. The child will then play on the same team both fall and spring. NOTE: if your child has an

August birth date (i.e., turning 8 in August and going into 3rd grade) and wants to play with their classmates (on an Under 10 team), this request must be in writing & can be brought with the registration form to the in-person registration sessions.

Can I request a team for my child?

No. Due to the volume of registrations, we are unable to honor requests for team assignments, practice schedules, specific coaches or for placement with a friend. By design, your child's team will be composed of children with a range of soccer skills and experiences. Team assignments are based on player age, experience and ratings from prior seasons. Because special requests work to the detriment of this process, **NO SPECIAL REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Team practice schedules are determined exclusively by the team coach and manager. If you want your child to practice at a time that is convenient for you, consider volunteering to be the coach.

When do the Fall 2009/Spring 2010 seasons start?

All games are held on Sundays. The first regularly scheduled fall game will be on Sunday, September 12, 2009. The first regularly scheduled spring game will be on Sunday, April 11 or 18. Players will have one scheduled game per week.

When will my child's practice be held?

Practices for the Under 8 - Under 19 divisions will be held once a week at a time/place set by the Team Coach. Again, if it is important to you to have practice at a time that is convenient for you, consider volunteering to be the coach. For those children in the Under 6 division, practices will be held immediately preceding the Sunday afternoon game. There will be no additional weekly practice. (NOTE: If your child is unable to make the scheduled practice time, they will still play in their scheduled game on Sundays. Moving players works against the process of team balancing, therefore, we are unable to move players to accommodate a conflict with your child's practice time. We can, however, help your child find another team with which to practice)

Are refunds available?

All refund requests must be in writing and must include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope (e-mail is not acceptable as a refund request). Refunds are available for registrants ONLY if requested by July 1, 2009 (which is approximately when we need to order our uniforms). If requested by that date, 100% of paid fee will be refunded. After that until the start of the season, 50% of paid fee will be refunded. After the season

begins, no refunds. Mail refund request to: Evanston AYSO 2859 Central St. #192
Evanston IL 60201.

How can I help?

Great question!!! Evanston AYSO is an all-volunteer organization. The proven success of our program depends on the participation of involved parents -- like you. Get involved as a referee, a coach, an assistant coach, or team manager, or by helping with administration, equipment, fields, etc. It's easy and fun. Our goal is for 100% participation. The list below details some of the needs within the organization:

COACHES

We typically have 150 teams. Each team needs a coach and, preferably an assistant coach. That's a lot of coaches. So if you have any soccer background at all, or even if you don't please consider coaching (or at least assistant coaching). We will train you, support you, give you the knowledge and tools you need to be a great coach in our league. Even if you have no soccer background, coaching at the U06 and U08 level is a snap. More importantly, it is an extremely rewarding and fun way to spend time with your kid and to contribute to your community.

REFS

Ideally, we would have a ref at every game U-8 and up. Unfortunately, we lack enough refs to do that. So we need more of you to ref. As with coach, and even more so, you do not need a soccer background to ref. We will train you, and support you. You will get to wear stripes (which we supply), blow a whistle, and be the boss of your turf. You can ref your kids game only, or ref other games too. It's completely up to you.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

Assist the Regional Commissioner in all aspects of league operation. Handle special projects.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL COACH ADMINISTRATOR

Assist the Regional Coach Administrator in all aspects of coach administration. In particular, assist RCA in recruitment of coaches.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Assist the Registrar in all aspects of registration: preparation of materials, mailings, in-person registration sessions, data entry, etc.

REGIONAL REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR

Manage all aspects of Evanston AYSO referee business, including scheduling of referees.

DIRECTOR OF REFEREE RECRUITMENT

Recruit referees; on-going throughout year

COACH BAG COORDINATOR

Coordinate coach equipment bag preparation in August prior to start of season.

DIRECTOR OF REFEREE INSTRUCTION

Schedule referee trainings throughout the season; you do not actually teach the courses.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

Pickup/return of equipment

Assist at the James Park Fieldhouse with distribution/collection of equipment prior to first games/after last games, every Sunday during the seasons 11:30am-12:30pm and 4 to 6 pm.

Preparing coach equipment bags

In August, prepare approximately 160 coach bags to give to all the coaches with equipment, first aid kit, balls, etc.

Collecting coach bags/sorting equipment/assisting with trophy distribution

Last day of Spring season

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Various jobs throughout season may include collation of letters/mailings/information packets and/or working In-person registration sessions. To be contacted via e-mail on an as-needed basis.

FIELDS COMMITTEE

Assist the Fields Coordinator in all field-related needs including lining fields as needed; assessing fields on Sunday mornings for usage, etc.

SHOE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Coordinate the Fall Shoe Exchange (held at the Soccerfest over Labor Day Weekend) and the Spring Shoe Exchange (held on the first day of the Spring season)

BOARD SECRETARY

Attend monthly board meetings; take minutes; send out to board members via e-mail.

* * *

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please email our Regional Commissioner,

Steven Levine, at commissioner@evanstonsoccer.org

