



# NW KICKERS SOCCER CLUB

## What you should know and expect .....

### HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Welcome to the world of traveling soccer. NW Kickers Soccer Club (“Kickers”) is the oldest traveling soccer program in the state of Minnesota, originating in 1955. We are a member of (as are all of the other teams in our district) the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and we follow the rules and guidelines they provide. The “rules of the game” are mandated by FIFA and US Youth Soccer Association. The Kickers Soccer Club is a non-profit organization run solely by volunteers donating their time and expertise in providing our participants the best experience possible with the wonderful game of soccer. We encourage all parents to become a part of the club. Our website is [www.nwkickers.org](http://www.nwkickers.org)

An integral part of our soccer experience is the professional training provided. This training is paid for by you through club fees and monies earned through our annual Classic Kickoff tournament held in May of each year. We have contracted Fergies Soccer Academy (F.S.A.) for our professional training and each team receives 20 hours of training. Additional training is provided at the team or individual’s own expense.

### DISTRICTS/LEAGUES

MYSA has divided the state into four districts. The teams in these districts are broken down by gender, age (9 and under – U9, 10 and under – U10, etc.), and skill level. For the U9 & U10 teams, skill level is broken designated by Maroon and Gold, with Maroon the higher playing level. These two young age groups are considered “non-competitive” and scores are not kept. At U11, skill level is designated by Classic 2 (C2) and Classic 3 (C3), with C2 the higher playing level. At U12 and U13, skill level is designated by Classic 1 (C1), C2 and C3. Starting at U14, a Premier Division starts for those highly skilled teams. There are only six teams in each age group at this playing level. The C1, C2, and C3 levels are used through U19 to allow players to participate at their own skill level.

The teams in the district compete against each other in league games during week nights. At the end of every game, U11 and above teams input their scores on the MYSA website and the standings are updated. Each team has the option of whether or not they will participate in the State tournament held at the end of the year. The rankings of how well the team performed in the season determines your placement for this tournament. Winning your district championship advances your team to the state tournament. League winners automatically advance to the state tournament. Teams that earn 75% or more of their possible points in league play are promoted to the next playing level. Teams that earn 25% or less in league play are demoted to the next playing level. For Premier status, promotion is won by the league champion that advances the farthest during the state championship.

# THE SOCCER YEAR

## Open Tryouts

- Tryouts are held early August and all players should attend.
- Birth year guidelines are established by MYSA.
- Required for play – soccer cleats, shin guards, ball
- What you will need to bring is the registration form, registration fee and a completed medical release form.
- The Director of Coaching, team coaches and trainers will evaluate the players.
- The Girls Director, Boys Director, and Director of Coaching meet with coaches and managers soon after tryouts to select players for their teams.
- Coaches verify with players selected that they want the spot on the team.

## Pre-Processing Day

- Pre-Processing is held in early February.
- All players and one parent should attend
- Pre-Processing is very important for the players and coaches. Attending will make everything a much smoother process for everyone.
- Here you will pay club and volunteer fees, order uniforms if needed (all separate checks), submit copy of birth certificate if not on file, complete medical waiver form if not on file, complete registration form if new player, and have a picture taken for the player's pass.
- What you will need to bring is a check book and any information to complete any form listed above.

## Coaches and Team Submittals to MYSA

- Submittals are due early March
- All coaches, assistant coaches and managers are required to complete an online background check. The Risk Management Director confirms that they have completed this process.
- Note: Managers are not given passes. Keep this in mind when listing who you want as your contact for MYSA. Contacts are given passes.
- Teams can consist of: 1-contact, 1-coach and 3-assistant coaches. Make sure all e-mails are up to date.

## Player Submittals to MYSA

- Submittals for players are due early April
- To submit a player for their pass - all of the following must be completed:
  - registration form
  - registration fee
  - club fee
  - volunteer fee
  - copy of the birth certificate
  - playing up form, if required

## **MYSA Distributes Player and Coaches Passes**

- Passes are sent late April
- In order for the passes to be released from the Registrar, players must have all fees paid, birth certificate on file with the Registrar, and the Kickers Code of Conduct signed.
- About this time coaches will receive a packet of information on the player. This will consist of registrations, medical forms, pictures and rosters that the registrar has obtained.
- Each player and coach must sign the back of their pass, have a photo ID attached, and then laminate the pass. The club has two laminators to check out.
- These passes are very important. They must be provided to the referee before each game or the player/team can not participate. It is recommended that the team coach or manager keep possession of these passes during the season. NO PASS – NO PLAY!

## **Outdoor Practice**

- Outdoor practice starts in early April by teams.
- Each team receives 20 hours with a hired Trainer, and teams will schedule with FSA on dates and times. It is recommended that on nights when a team works with a trainer, they spend 30 minutes after their session to play small sided games to incorporate the skills they have just learned.
- Coaches should have copies of all the players medical release form in case a severe injury occurs.

## **League Play**

- League games start mid May.
- What you will need for games are the laminated passes and completed MYSA Line-up Form.
- For each home game, you need to pay the referee(s) in cash, provide Corner Flags, and a game ball.

## **Tournaments**

- Each team selects which tournaments they would like to participate in.
- Listing of tournaments is on the MYSA website [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org)
- Tournaments will list what age groups, playing level and gender they will be offering. Dates, fees, and locations will also be posted.
- We host the Kickers Classic Kickoff each May. This is when the Kickers offer many opportunities for families to earn their 5 hours of volunteer time. Each Kickers team is requested to participate and help out. This tournament also helps prepare teams for the start of league play.
- Make sure you have Medical release forms, rosters and passes when you register your team. Helpful tip is to have all of these in alphabetical order, this makes check in much smoother.

## **Fall Season**

- Registration for the Fall Soccer Season begins in July and team will play at the next age level.
- Coach, team and player submittals due to MYSA early August
- Consent and disclosure forms for all coaches, assistant coaches and managers are due to the Risk Management Director. These need to be completed yearly and MYSA runs from Fall to Fall.
- Late August passes are available from the registrar to distribute. Again, for players to receive their pass, they must have all fees paid, registration and birth certificate on file.

## **Winter Training**

- Optional indoor training for players
- Normally runs from November to March
- Low cost to allow players to improve their ball skills and conditioning
- FSA provides training program in nearby gymnasiums or other training locations