

# RECREATIONAL SOCCER FAQ'S

## **When will I know what team I'm on?**

You will hear from your coach sometime after August 23rd, when the coaches receive their rosters. Most coaches will email or phone their players within a day or two, although some may be on vacation that week.

## **Will my friends be on my team?**

Maybe. But you WILL make new friends when your team starts practice. We do place 3-4 players from the same school on a team, so each team will have 3-4 school represented on it. Once you play in LGUSL for a few years, you will have a few friends on every team you play!

## **When will I find out our practice time? How many practices are there each week?**

When you hear from your coach, on or after August 23rd, she or he will let you know the practice schedule. Practices will begin the week of August 30th. Teams U6-U9 practice once per week. Older teams often, but not always, practice twice a week.

## **What is the practice schedule? What if I can't come to the practices?**

There is no way to assure when your child will or won't practice, unless she/he is in U6. That age group always practices on Friday afternoons or evenings. (So the info is fresh for the game the next day!) There is one other way to select his practice day and time: coach! The coaches put in their preferences for day, time and field that works best for them. This happens in late August, so you won't know your kids' practice schedules until then.

Practices fit into one of two time slots: 3-5pm or 5-7pm. Within those time slots, coaches may use only one or 1- 1/2 hours of that time. There is always someone on the team who has to come late or leave early. That should be fine with any coach. This is Rec soccer, and kids should be able to do many other activities also!

Since this is Rec Soccer, every player ALWAYS gets to play at least 50% of every game! In the extreme case where a player can't attend practice, he or she will still be able to play at least half of each game. But it's more fun for everyone if the players participate in practices, so try to be flexible with other commitments, or attend part of a practice when possible.

## **When does the game schedule come out? When are games played?**

The game schedule comes out shortly after the rosters are distributed. You should have access to the schedule by August 30th, although changes to the latter part of the season are possible. All teams in U6-U12 play their games on Saturdays. The game times vary between 9am and 4pm, generally, so all the teams in an age group can play each other at least once over the season. The U14 through U18 teams play teams outside LGUSL, so some games can be on Saturdays or Sundays, and about half the games are out of the immediate Los Gatos area, but not too far.

## **Do we have refs?**

Depending upon the number of available refs, U10 and older should have refs at all games. U6 through U8 will be refereed by the coaches, and U9 will have refs for about 50% of games. We can always use more refs. If you are interested, please contact our Referee Commissioner, AJ Escobar (ajtescobar@yahoo.com), for information on the next referee classes.

## **What is expected of parents at the games?**

During games, the coaches and players sit on one side of the field, and parents and fans sit along the opposite sideline. NO ONE should ever be behind the goal, either coaching or harassing. Fans are expected to cheer and encourage good play for BOTH teams. Parents need to refrain from COACHING -- just general cheering is asked. Let the coach address the players. Also, parents should NEVER speak to the refs or lines people. Let them do their best, and realize that they are trying. If you are unhappy with a call, keep the thought to yourself, or sign up for our next reffing class!

## **My child's birthday is in August, so he will be in a lower age group than his classmates. Can't he play with them? He's really athletic!**

LGUSL stands strictly by the age group matrix, and we do not allow Rec players to play up or down at all. Every year there are a couple of kids one day on either side of the age cut-off, but we can't make exceptions. That is our policy and CYSA guidelines. We work hard to keep kids together by age and to form balanced teams that allow for a developmental and enjoyable season.