

# **OTTAWA INTERNATIONALS SOCCER CLUB (OISC)**

## **Youth Recreational Soccer**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **2011**

#### **1- Why do we need to register early?**

Soccer is the largest sport in the region - over 40,000 players and constantly growing. In the last ten years our club has grown from 600 to 2,400 players, which has resulted in real growth pains. The youth recreational program operates on a first come first served basis. As you know the city has not had many new soccer fields especially in the former City of Ottawa. We have limited number of sites available for games and practices for youth recreational soccer.

In the U13 age group we have a north and south orientation in terms of home and practice fields. In order to ensure that you get assigned on a team within your geographical area, we encourage you to register early. Request to be placed on teams with specific volunteers, or team mates will be entertained but again only on a first come basis. Once team numbers reach 21 players in specific home field regions, additional players are placed on teams in need of additional players and site preferences cannot be guaranteed. There is a limit of 25 players per youth recreational team. This number will only be reached when all teams have equal numbers. If we cannot field sufficient numbers for additional teams, late registering players run the risk of not getting their site preference and/or not being placed on any team.

Registrations after April 1<sup>st</sup>, run the risk of missing competitive try outs and placement on teams with preferred friends and coaches. We have limited abilities to form odd numbered teams in U15 and U18 age groups. Once teams reach capacity, we do not have the option of creating additional teams subject to increased demands. Early registration is your primary option to ensure your preferences.

#### **2- When is the last date for registration prior to the start of the regular season?**

The regular season starts the first week in June. Prior to the start of league games, we have two weeks of practices starting the middle of May. We advise that registration forms be submitted no later than the end of April in order to ensure participation in the first practice of the season and the start of league play. The club required a minimum of three to four days to process registration forms and register players with the OSA and to ensure that they are fully insured with the provincial, regional and league authorities.

Players will not be allowed on fields until full league registrations are in place and their coaches and managers are advised accordingly. We do accept players up to July 30<sup>th</sup> but only if there is available room on specific teams. Players run the risk of not being able to find spots on teams within their age group or specific teams with friends or preferred coaches if they do not register early. It is not advised that you leave registration to the last minute as the club cannot guarantee a spot on any team let alone a team of your choice.

### **3- Are there any new fields this year?**

Youth REC for 2011 will be adding Hillcrest H.S. for U18 home games. We have made plans to use Brewer Park for Thursday evening MU13 games this year ( July and August only). We hope to obtain St. Pius X for Tuesday practices for U13 mixed teams. We presently have the following fields for use:

U13 Mixed: OTLC, Brewer and Bruff Park for games (Thursday)

U13 Girls : OTLC, Bruff Park for games (Tuesday)

OTLC, St. Pius X and Fielding P.S. for practices (Tuesday and Thursday)

U15 Mixed and Girls: OTLC and Bruff Park for games (Monday and Wednesday)

OTLC and Fielding P.S. for practices (Monday and Wednesday)

U18 Girls and Mixed: Hillcrest H.S. for games (Monday and Thursday)

OTLC Practices (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday subject to availability of coaches)

### **4- How are players assigned to teams?**

As each registration is received and entered into the database, the player is given a date received and a sequential number. Players are applied to teams by their receipt date as per their site request.

Players are assigned to teams along with volunteer coaches. If a team has a Coach(s), we fill the team to a limit of 21. Once all teams reach the limit of 21 then each recreational team may be filled to a maximum of 25 players. These additional players are placed at the discretion of the VP youth REC after discussions with the team volunteers.

Our standard is to have one coach, one assistant coach and one manager/trainer on each team. If a team does not have a coach, we fill the team to three (3) players less than the limit and any parent/player that wishes to coach this team will skip the cue and the parent and child will be on the team. If a team has no coaches or a very small number of registrants, we identify this as early as possible and contact the players and try to offer alternative placements.

### **5- What are the player ages for each group? Why mixed teams and girls teams?**

U13 players born in 1999, and 1998

U15 players born in 1997 and 1996

U18 players born in 1995, 1994, and 1993

Mixed teams are generally composed of mostly boys but discrimination laws prohibit us from excluding girls from boys teams thus they are classified as mixed teams. In the past we have fielded numerous mixed teams in all age groups with a few girls. Even in U18 mixed, we have seen a growing number of girls participating on these teams. Girls teams cannot include boys. Please remember that this is recreational soccer and as such there is a wide range of skill sets exhibited by all players. For the most part, girls fit right in with mixed teams at any level and many of the teams from outside Ottawa carry anywhere from 2 to 8 girls on their mixed teams.

**6- Can an over age player play on an under age team? Can an under age player play on an over age team?**

Siblings can play on the same team provided that the oldest player is playing within his or her designated age group. The underage sibling can play up an age group. An overage player cannot play down an age group. In order to register an over age player to a lower age group, a special request must be made to the league by the club and the league must obtain approval from the EODSA. This process takes considerable time and over age players must wait until they are fully registered before they are allowed to play. This privilege is not granted readily. Extenuating circumstances need to be demonstrated for this to be approved. Since we are playing in an inter club league, it must be demonstrated that there will be no advantage gained from playing an overage player on a team.

**7- Are all coaches assigned?**

Some coaches return from year to year but we require many more coaches and managers each year to replace those who cannot return or who are coaching new U13 teams for the first time. It is important that parents volunteer for these positions. Youth REC is a volunteer driven program. Last year we had over 295 players, and over 40 managers, assistant and head coaches. We are looking forward to your continued strong support so please be a volunteer. In the even that we cannot find a volunteer coach for any specific team, we try to find paid coaches from within the club with coaching or playing experience. In some cases the club offers these club volunteers a small remuneration to cover their transportation and incidental costs. In some cases, where volunteer coaches do not possess technical skills to coach, we try to find technical assistant coaches to help with the team, especially during practices.

**8- Once I register, when will I hear from the club again?**

Within a few weeks, you will receive an email confirmation that your registration has been received and processed. The coaches will be supplied with the player's names the week of April 26 and they will contact their players. The coaches/managers will receive the team supplies the first week of May. The season starts on May 16, which is the first day that the field permits are valid. The first Festival is June 18 and 19 and the team photo will be taken at this time.

**9- Does Youth REC provide refunds to players?**

All requests for refunds must be in writing (email) to the VP Youth REC indicating the reason for such a request. Prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, full refunds less an administration fee of \$25, will be permitted for situations such as not being able to receive your primary site choice or moving out of the district. Prior to July 1, where a player suffers a season ending injury, a refund will be issued based on a pro-ration of time, OSA and league fees and less an administration fee of \$50. No refunds will be issued after July 1.

**10- My child would like to try-out for competitive but does not want to lose the Youth REC site. What should we do?**

The club recommends both the Youth REC program and the Competitive program for player development. The club ensures open and fair try-outs for youth REC players at the U-11 to U-18 competitive levels. For a youth REC player that is interested in trying out for

competitive, the Club recommends that your child register with youth REC and indicate on the registration form that you wish to be called for the competitive program try outs. This will ensure that the player is contacted for the competitive try-outs and will also hold the youth REC spot at your site until the competitive teams are selected. If you return to youth REC, you have a pre-assigned spot on a team. If you are selected for competitive, your entire youth REC fee will be applied to your competitive fee and you will simply have to pay the difference. Please note that the competitive try-outs start right after the March Break and you should register real early so as to be contacted in time. Please note that those trying out for competitive teams will need to pay the try out fees in addition to their youth REC fees. Try out fees are non refundable.

### **11- Who referees the youth REC regular season and festival games?**

We use qualified and trained referees for the festivals and regular season games. These referees are assigned by our club for all home games and directed by league rules and regulations. League rules indicate that referees need to be at least two years older than the age group they are refereeing. The performance of referees is monitored by referee assignors, the club and the league. The purpose of this program is to train and develop young referees. There is a zero tolerance policy for the abuse of referees that is enforced by the league.

### **12- What are the basic duties of a team manager?**

Managers' Basic Duties are:

1. Work with the coaches so as to contact all the players concerning team information. Be the conduit between the site convenor and the coaches.
2. Pick up or arrange for pick up of equipment and uniforms at the club house in late April.
3. Organize a parents meeting at the first practice for the coaches and parents. One coach works with the players while the other coaches attends the meeting, which should be run by the coaches.
4. Make sure that each team member has submitted a complete health form and that the coaches must at least read and know.
5. Distribute equipment and uniforms at first practice (remember to bring pump and black marker for balls).
6. Confirm who will be participating in each festival and let the coach know two weeks in advance if the team will not be able to field a team.
7. In the event that are insufficient players available for regular season games the manager will be required to contact the club, the league and the coach/manager from the other team to ensure that a replacement games is rescheduled and that referees are contacted 48 hours prior to game times.

### **13- What are the attendance commitments for a player?**

This is recreational soccer played in an intra club league. As such there is an implied commitment to attend practices and games throughout the summer to ensure that sufficient players are available to field a team for all games and ensure meaningful practices for players and coaches. A commitment to participate for the majority of the season is requested by coaches and teammates.

Youth REC schedules two practices a week between May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> and one game and one practice for each week for the months of June, July and August. All players should inform the team manager of their availability both for practices, games and festivals. For the all age groups, it is imperative that all players let the manager know their vacation schedules so that team volunteers can ensure suitable numbers during both home and away games. When insufficient numbers are available for certain games, the manager and coaches need to make suitable arrangements to have the game rescheduled. Four one day festivals are scheduled throughout the summer, all during weekends. See item 15 for further details.

#### **14- When do practices and games start?**

The City of Ottawa field permits start on May 15 and we run from May 16 until the last week in August. The weekday permits start each night at 6 PM. We ask our coaches to try and start the practices between 6:00 and 6:30 though sometimes coaches availability may affect this along with limited field times.

League games for U13 and U15 divisions start between 6:30 and 7:00 PM during June and July. League games played in August start between 6:00 and 6:30 PM due to reduced daylight conditions. Home games for U18 teams will be under the lights and start at 8:30 PM at Hillcrest. Actual start times will be posted for each game on the league web site. Please visit the schedule pages frequently to verify the start times of each game as they will vary throughout the season and for each club. The league will make every effort to have a later start time for those games that will require greater travel times for away teams.

#### **15- When and where are the festivals?**

Festivals are set up such that they are generally a one day affair. Sometimes mixed teams play one day and girls teams the next day and sometimes when team registrations are limited (such as in July) both mixed and girls teams will play on the same day. During festivals, all teams will play against other teams registered within the SSSL. No scores are kept since these are not tournaments.

During the June festival, all teams from OISC are requested to attend since team photos are taken. The yearend festival is also mandatory since league mementos are distributed along with club mementos.

June 18 - 19 Festival- Leitrum Park (mandatory) team photo sessions

(Saturday U13, U15 and U18 Girls)

(Sunday U13, U15 and U18 Mixed)

July 9 Ben Franklin Festival, Nepean Hotspurs (to be confirmed) (optional)

(Saturday U13, U15 and U18 Girls)

(Saturday U13, U15 and U18 Mixed)

July 23 Chesterville Fair (to be confirmed) (optional)

(Saturday U13, U15 and U18 Girls)

(Saturday U13, U15 and U18 Mixed)

August 20 – 21 SSSL Year end festival Kemptville, KCAT (to be confirmed) mandatory

August 20 (Saturday Sunday U13, U15 and U18 Girls)

August 21(Saturday Sunday U13, U15 and U18 Mixed)

## **16- Youth REC Uniforms?**

DSP and REC have had the same style uniforms for the last 10 years. A full uniform kit consists of a pair of black shorts and a pair of socks and a pair (two) of jerseys, one red and one white and both have the same number so that when games are played, the home team wears Red and the visiting team wears White. Uniforms are available in adult small, medium, large and extra large sizes. Occasionally we may have a special order for an XX large uniform. We encourage members to reuse and recycle these uniforms within the program and the club. These are available only through the club via registration forms at the beginning of the year and through our office administration during the year. Please note that the use of competitive uniforms in youth REC teams is not allowed. In the past we have had to deal with perceptions of competitive players playing on youth REC teams. It easier for us to not allow REC players to wear competitive uniforms for league games than give the perception that we are playing illegal players.

Only youth REC uniforms provided by the club are allowed for use by teams and players playing for our club in South Side Soccer League. No other uniforms will be allowed for league and festival play.

## **17- Gently used soccer equipment**

OISC as a club collects gently used soccer equipment and provides these to needy groups. If you wish to donate, we collect these at all the OISC festivals at the information tent.

## **18- Will I be able to get a Children's Fitness Tax Credit?**

Your youth REC registration does qualify against the \$500 Children's Fitness Tax Credit. To reduce the administrative burden to the club, we issue these receipts in January of the following year.