

## 2024 Youth Soccer - Park District

Hello coaches, thank you all for stepping up and making a difference in our children.

We have a new director that will be helping with the soccer program. He's a young man from Kewanee who played, reffed and coached Kewanee Park soccer. He also played the sport for the Kewanee boilermakers and is currently an assistant coach for the same. You will see more of him during your practices and games. Please help me welcome, when you see him, Eddie Leon to the team.

We are hoping for better weather coming up and excited to see our kids in action. I hope we answer all questions you may have with this email. Here are some things we are working on.

- Rosters will be sent out to coaches on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, or until we know all coaches received the email.
  - o After you receive the teams draft, please make sure you have your child in your team. If you see anything incorrect, let me know right away so we can make the changes necessary.
  - o If there are any changes, we will send out the final draft for team, you should be able to contact team members at that point.
  - o It is good to get ahold of parents as soon as you get your roster, introduce yourself and give them the information they need such as practices, schedule and snacks.
  - o Please have **ALL parents** verify their child's age and name after you send them the message.
  - o I have attached a copy with slots for you so that parents can volunteer taking snacks for after games.
  - o Ask parents for volunteers to help out with the team, even if there are two coaches, it's good to have at least a couple other coaches to help out. This helps out for training and becomes an easier process for parents to volunteer in upcoming years.
  - o Coaches cancel their own practices because of emergencies or weather. Directors will only cancel games if needed.
  
- We have ordered some balls since we do not have enough. Please take care of equipment and when season is over, turn it back in so it can be stored and used for future seasons.
- We will hand out soccer balls, a training shirt to be used as goalie shirt and a few cones to help out with practices.
- My goal is to hand out this equipment before practices begin at Northeast Park. We will give you detailed information on where to pick up and what time.

- Shirts will be ordered and will be handed out as soon as we get them. We will have coaches pick up at Northeast at a certain time, if not, they will be at the park office for you to pick up in the later days.
  
- I've sent a rules attachment for you to see, if we see that any rules need to be changed, we will do that by letting all coaches know. If you have any questions about any soccer rule, please ask us.
- We will back you up coaches, so if you were to have any issues with a parent, let us talk to them, you are all volunteers and there's no reason why you should put up with negative people. Be assured if a parent comes and complains about your "coaching style," I will gladly ask them if they want to coach or tell them they should've signed up to coach.
- No changes will be made after roster is finalized, if it were to be made, it will be because I made a mistake, but not just for any unjustified reason.
- Practices: I will send out some links I've sent in the past hoping they would give you a start with your practices.
- If you want to change a practice because you could be busy, look at the practice schedule and see what's available and let us know as soon as possible.
  
- Now, I know many of us get competitive, but let's try to make it fun for kids. Let's give a chance and encourage kids to try all the positions and have a **rotation**. Let's try to be fair with kids by putting them in about the same amount of play time. I usually don't have a problem with this, but I always "throw it out there."
- Please be respectful to officials, these are kids and some of them get nervous because of what is said to them. Just know they will make mistakes, step up for them since they are also in learning mode.

We hope we answered some or most of the questions you all might have.

Thank you,  
Alex Bermudez,  
Eddie Leon,  
Directors