



**2011 PARENT’S INFORMATION and ORIENTATION**

On behalf of the Colchester Youth Soccer Travel Committee we would like to thank you for your interest in our program. We are a group of volunteers dedicated to providing your children with an enjoyable experience, while instilling an appreciation for the game of soccer.

We feel it’s important for all parents to have a clear understanding of the commitment involved, both from a time and financial perspective, and our expectations for our coaches, parents and volunteers.

The following information will help to give you a clear understanding of the travel soccer program.

<p><b>Important time frames</b></p>	<p>2011 tryouts are scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of June 5<sup>th</sup> on the JJIS soccer field. CYS will advertise in the local papers and on the CYS website <a href="http://colchestersoccer.org">colchestersoccer.org</a>. Candidates will be expected to participate in both tryouts. Those selected for teams will be notified within two weeks of the final tryout date. Those not selected for a team will also be notified during the same timeframe.</p> <p>CYS will host a travel camp the first week of August (8/1 through 8/5). It is recommended that all players attend. Camp will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday of that week at the Colchester Rec Plex, JJIS and WJJMS soccer fields.</p> <p>Practices will generally begin the second week in August and the season officially begins Labor Day weekend. The season will end by Thanksgiving at the latest.</p> <p>On Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a Friendly tournament against Tolland at the RecPlex from 11:00 – 5:00 that day. All Colchester teams will play all Tolland teams to get ready for the season.</p> <p>Most teams will also play a winter indoor season that lasts nine weeks.</p>
<p><b>What is the time commitment?</b></p>	<p>Your child will have two 90 minute practices each week. In addition, there will be one game per weekend unless there is a tournament or a make-up game. There are four district away games each season. Most of those games are within one hour of Colchester.</p>

	<p>Your child will also participate in two to four tournaments each fall. The tournaments CYS generally participates in are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enfield – Labor Day weekend</li> <li>• Manchester – weekend after Labor Day (coach optional)</li> <li>• Rocky Hill – Columbus Day weekend</li> <li>• Barrington, RI – Mid-November (coach optional)</li> </ul> <p>Tournaments consist of two games on Saturday and two games on Sunday. Most parents stay in Rhode Island for the weekend for the Barrington Tournament.</p> <p>In addition, the U11 – U14 teams participate in the fall State Cup tournament, which is a single elimination tournament. Games are played throughout the season and may be played in any town in Connecticut.</p>
<p><b>What are the costs involved and is there financial aid available?</b></p>	<p>There is a financial commitment that can be significantly more than the recreational program. The approximate fee breakdown is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration - \$85.00</li> <li>- Tournament Fees: Approximately \$140.00</li> <li>- Soccer Camp: \$110.00 (Cost will vary per team depending on number of players attending. If fewer than 12 players sign up the cost will be higher.)</li> <li>- PDO (Paid Development Officer): \$45.00</li> <li>- Uniforms: \$51.75 (Not every year). The conflict jersey costs \$15.75. <b>U9 and U10 players will have to purchase uniforms for the fall 2011 season.</b></li> <li>- Accessories (back pack and warm ups): Approximately \$120.00 (optional)</li> <li>- In addition, all players are required to have shin guards, cleats and an appropriate sized soccer ball (size 4 for U9-U12, size 5 for U13 and U14).</li> </ul> <p>Winter indoor fees are approximately \$80.00 per session. (Some teams participate in two winter indoor sessions.)</p>
<p><b>When are payments due?</b></p>	<p>Payments are due in two installments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration and camp and uniform fees are due at the time your child is informed if he/she has been selected for a travel team.</li> <li>- All remaining fees are due by Labor Day weekend.</li> </ul> <p>The team manager will collect all fees and checks should be made payable to "CYS."</p>
<p><b>What paperwork is required?</b></p>	<p>In addition to the registration and CYS medical release form (part of the registration form), a copy of your child's birth certificate will be required. In addition, a separate medical release form is required for each tournament in which your child participates. Finally all parents, players and coaches are required to sign the CYS code of conduct form.</p>

<p><b>What team will my child play for?</b></p>	<p>Children will be placed based on their grade as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- U9 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>- U10 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>- U11 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>- U12 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>- U13 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>- U14 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade</li> </ul>
<p><b>Can my child play Premier and Travel?</b></p>	<p>Generally, yes. For the U12 through U14 classifications, any team having a single premier player will have to play in the district classic division meaning your child’s team may be forced to play against older children.</p> <p>There are no price discounts from CYS for children playing on Premier teams.</p>
<p><b>How are coaches selected?</b></p>	<p>Each coach goes through an interview process and is selected by the travel committee. They will be interviewed and evaluated on an annual basis.</p>
<p><b>How much will my child play?</b></p>	<p>The travel program is competitive and is not for every child. There are basic guidelines for playing time which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- U9, U10 and U11 teams playing RecPlus: Coaches will be required to play each child half of the available minutes assuming a roster size of 16 or under. This however will not be required on a game by game basis. The goal will be to have your child play at least half of the minutes over the course of the season but not every game. <b>IF YOU ARE EXPECTING EQUAL MINUTES FOR ALL GAMES, THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM MAY BE A MORE APPROPRIATE OPTION FOR YOUR CHILD.</b></li> <li>- For the U11 Classic - U14 programs, playing time will strictly be at the discretion of the coach. In other words, no playing time is guaranteed.</li> <li>- Of course the effort displayed in practice and attitude can have a positive or negative impact on playing time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How many children will be on each team?</b></p>	<p>There are minimum guidelines that coaches must follow when recommending their rosters to the CYS travel committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teams playing 8v8 (U9 – U11) will have a minimum of 14 players.</li> <li>- Teams playing 11v11 (U12-U14) will have a minimum of 16 players.</li> </ul> <p>The Travel Committee may from time to time allow for exceptions to the above roster sizes. Examples would be if there are not enough players trying out to fill the minimum roster size or if there are two teams in one age group.</p> <p>Roster sizes above these minimums will be at the discretion of the CYS</p>

	travel committee.
<b>How are teams classified?</b>	<p>CYS is affiliated with the SECJSA (Southeast Connecticut Junior Soccer Association). The SECJSA recognizes only three age groups: U10, U12 and U14. In order to allow teams to play against their own age group, they classify teams into two subsets: RecPlus and Classis. The RecPlus classification would be appropriate for U9, U11 and U13 teams so while a U9 age team is technically considered U10 by the SECJSA, they can classify themselves as U10 RecPlus to play more age appropriate teams.</p> <p>Teams can also “play up” if they chose to play tougher league competition. This is left to the discretion of the coach and CYS travel committee.</p>
<b>How will teams be divided if there is more than one team per age group?</b>	<p>On occasion, there may be multiple teams in a specific age group. In these situations, at the discretion of the travel committee, there may be multiple teams. If this occurs, the teams will be divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the U9, U10, and U11 RecPlus age groups, teams will be divided evenly. CYS will provide impartial evaluators at tryouts who will select two or more equal teams. <b>Parents will not have input as to which team their child plays for.</b></li> <li>- For the U11 Classic – U14 age groups, there will be “A” and “B” teams selected at the discretion of the coach and CYS travel committee.</li> </ul> <p>These situations will generally occur in years where there are a large number of children trying out for a specific age group. CYS reserves the right, based on the availability of qualified coaches and field availability, to limit the number of teams in any particular age group.</p>
<b>How will we receive communications during the season?</b>	Each team will have a manager. That person will be your main contact during the season for administrative matters. In addition, information pertinent to CYS will be posted on our website <a href="http://www.colchetersoccer.org">www.colchetersoccer.org</a> .
<b>What does CYS expect from our parents?</b>	<p>CYS is run entirely by volunteers. There are many things that must occur in order for your children to have the opportunity to play soccer. From time to time, you will be asked to help with various tasks. These tasks include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Goal set up and dismantling</li> <li>- Field setup</li> <li>- Field painting</li> <li>- Fundraising</li> <li>- Fall pictures</li> <li>- Car pooling</li> <li>- CYS tournament participation and support</li> <li>- Assist the team manager with team specific tasks</li> </ul> <p>If asked, we expect you to do your part to ensure that we are able to give</p>

	<p>your child the very best experience possible.</p> <p>We also ask that you notify the coach at tryouts if you expect regular conflicts with practice or games. Some examples include children playing premier or other sports. We would prefer not to have children playing football on a travel soccer team as this has historically caused significant conflicts with CYS practices and games.</p> <p>If you are asked to assist with coaching duties, you must fill out a volunteer form and return that to your team manager. Parents may not assist with on-field activities without having completed the volunteer form. This form can be found on the CJSA website.</p> <p>The Travel Committee values the opinions of our parents. If you have suggestions or constructive criticisms, please submit those in writing directly to the Travel Director at <a href="mailto:travel.soccer@colchestersoccer.org">travel.soccer@colchestersoccer.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>What else do I need to know?</b></p>	<p>Here are a few tips that will be helpful in making your life easier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Always keep your child’s conflict jersey in his or her backpack.</li> <li>- Jewelry of any kind is never allowed to be worn during games.</li> <li>- It’s not a good idea to get your child’s ears pierced right before the season because they will have to take their studs out for practices and games.</li> <li>- Buy extra socks and have them available during games.</li> <li>- Buy your child a poncho because games are often played in the rain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Helpful Links</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colchester Youth Soccer: <a href="http://www.colchesteryouthsoccer.org">www.colchesteryouthsoccer.org</a></li> <li>- SECJSA: <a href="http://www.SECJSA.org">www.SECJSA.org</a></li> <li>- Connecticut Junior Soccer Association: <a href="http://www.CJSA.org">www.CJSA.org</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Contacts</b></p>	<p>Your team’s manager will provide a list of all team specific contacts once the season begins. This person will also be your main point of contact for all team related issues.</p> <p>Order forms for back packs, jackets and CYS merchandise contact can be found on the CYS web site.</p> <p>Contact information for the Travel Committee and the Executive Board are listed on the CYS web site.</p> <p>Parents concerned about the treatment of their child should address their coach directly in a professional and courteous manner. If there is not a satisfactory resolution then the Director of Travel should be contacted at <a href="mailto:travel.soccer@colchestersoccer.org">travel.soccer@colchestersoccer.org</a>.</p> <p>The current Director of Travel is Neil Goldberg.</p>

<b>Required Forms</b>	<p>All of the forms you are required to sign are attached to this document. Please complete all forms and return to your team's manager prior to travel camp which is the first week in August.</p> <p>Required forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CYS Registration Form</li><li>- CYS Code of Conduct Form</li><li>- UK International Medical Release Form</li><li>- Individual Tournament Medical Release Forms</li><li>- CYS Medical Release Form</li></ul> <p>Please note that both players and parents must sign the CYS Code of Conduct form.</p>
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Volunteer Form

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in Fall \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CYS is run entirely by volunteers. There are many things that must occur in order for your children to have the opportunity to play. You may be asked to help with various tasks throughout the season. Some of the routine tasks are identified below. Please identify at least one activity that you can support. Additionally, as the need arises during the season, you may be asked to do other tasks. Thanks in advance for your help.

Volunteers Needed (Please check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Team Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial field set-up (lining the fields at the beginning of the season)

\_\_\_\_\_ Goal set-up and dismantling at the beginning and end of the season

\_\_\_\_\_ Line painting during the season

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist Team Manager as needed

\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist Team Manager with specific tasks

\_\_\_\_\_ Housing camp instructors during week of camp

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please be specific if you have other ideas)

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\_\_\_\_\_