

# **RHINEBECK TRAVEL SOCCER**

## **THE TEAMS**

There are Rhinebeck Travel Soccer Teams for boys girls from ages 8 to 19. Depending on the age group, teams carry anywhere from 12 to over 20 players and placement on the teams is by competitive tryout. Parents are notified by telephone within a week of tryouts. At the coach's discretion, players who do not make the team may be invited to practice with the team. The Travel Program is part of the Rhinebeck Soccer League, which in turn is part of the East Hudson Youth Soccer League. The teams play games against travel teams from other towns in the EHYSL.

Under EHYSL rules the U9 through U11 age groups are considered developmental, which limits the size of the field, the length of the game, and the number of players on the field. In addition, all children must play at least half of a game. Standings are not kept.

## **THE COACHES**

Our coaches come from all walks of life, and most of them are parents of soccer players. They all live in the Rhinebeck area. Do not be surprised if your child's coach is also your neighbor, a friend, or the friend of a friend. Our coaches are volunteers. They are not professionals, nor are they paid. All of them love soccer and wish to impart their love for the game, and their knowledge of it, to young players.

## **THE SEASONS**

The year is divided into Fall and Spring seasons. Teams play approximately 20 games, divided evenly between the two seasons. The Fall season usually begins with practice on or about the last week of August and ends with the last game, on or about the second week of November. The Spring season usually begins with practice on or about the first week of April and ends with the last game on or about the third week of June.

## **THE PRACTICES**

Teams hold practices during the week, and the number of practices, and the times and locations vary by team. The younger teams may only practice two or three times per week and older teams may practice more often. Practices are usually a minimum of 75 minutes. Players should not miss practice without some explanation or communication with the coaches, and coaches have the discretion to bench players who miss practice.

## **THE FIELDS**

The Rhinebeck Soccer League currently has fields at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds off of Route 9, the Baptist Home off of Route 308, and at Stone Church Road across from the Transfer Station. The fields are maintained almost entirely with volunteer labor from coaches and parents.

## **THE GAMES**

Games are played on Sunday and usually start between 11 am and 2 pm. Developmental teams play shorter games of 60 minutes or less. Players should expect to arrive early to warm up before games. Paid referees are provided by the EHYSL.

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## THE TRAVEL

The location of away games can vary greatly, depends on the team's division, which can even change from Fall to Spring. Away games can be as close as Red Hook or Hyde Park, and as far away as Westchester or Orange counties. Parents should count on at least 2 or 3 drives of over an hour for each of the Fall and Spring seasons. The burden of long trips is often mitigated by car pooling.

## PLAYERS' AND PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Rhinebeck Soccer League is run by volunteers. There are no paid coaches or administrators. Practically every adult involved is doing it because they have a child playing in the league. Please keep in mind therefore that the coaches are parents of soccer players with the same demands on their time as other players' parents.

The following rules apply to all players and parents. Parents should read them carefully and be certain they and their children are prepared to comply before seeking a place on a travel team:

- **Attendance:** Everyone should plan to play every game and make every practice. Although the coaches understand that unexpected events may occur which may prevent perfect attendance, players (and parents) who know they cannot make such a commitment at the outset should not seek a place on the team.
- **Notice:** Parents **must** notify the assistant coach as early as possible when a child cannot attend practice or a game. Players who miss multiple practices or games without prior excuse may find themselves benched for games or, in extreme cases, asked to leave the team.
- **Punctuality:** It is important that players arrive on time for practices and games, and that parents ensure pick up of their players on time.
- **Field Maintenance:** Teams are required to attend to field maintenance a set number of times per season, usually about four times. With enough people, field maintenance can take as little as 15 minutes. One person from each family should plan to participate in field maintenance at least once, and preferably twice, per season.
- **Equipment:** Shin guards, a ball, and water must be brought by the player to all practices and games. There is no extra equipment and the teams do not supply water. Players are to arrive for games with proper uniform kit (gray jersey for away games; white jersey *and gray jersey* for home games; black shorts; long black (to fully cover shin guards; and proper soccer cleats, i.e., no toe cleats).
- **Game Snacks:** Parents should expect to organize with one another to provide fruit for the players during game halftimes. The coaches will not be involved in this process.
- **Communication:** If parents have questions or problems, or issues arise, they should speak to any of the coaches during practices or games (during breaks, please), or contact the assistant coach by phone or e-mail.

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- **Conduct** Parents *are* encouraged to cheer for their player and the team. Parents should *not* coach their player or other players either during practice or games. Applaud good plays by our team *and* by the opposing team. Most of all, allow the coach to coach, the referee to officiate, and the kids to play the game.

### THE COMMITMENT

Space on travel teams is limited and placement is competitive. For that reason, players should not seek a place on a travel team unless they want to play soccer and are prepared to devote considerable time and effort to the team. This program should be fun for the players, but it is also about developing skills for athletes who are serious about becoming competitive soccer players. Casual players who are unable to devote the time and attention described above should not seek a place on the team. This may also mean that players have to choose between sports. If a player wants to play soccer and another sport, then both the player and the parents should think seriously about which sport is more important to them. If the player cannot honestly say that soccer takes precedence over other sports with potentially conflicting schedules, that player should not seek a place on the team. Do not deprive a more motivated player of a place on the team if you know now that your child is unlikely to take the commitment seriously.

### HOW TO REGISTER

Go to the following website: <http://www.sportssignup.com/rhinebecksoccer.start?> and read and follow the instructions. Click the big orange link on top that says "Click Here to Login and Register". Follow the steps to register. **Very important:** you must print out the online "Registration Agreement", which needs to be signed and given to the assistant coach along with a 2"x2" photo with your child's name and team name (e.g., Joe Smith, Rhinebeck U11 Rowdies) on the back. If your child is playing for the first time you also need to provide a copy of his or her birth certificate.

**DO NOT REGISTER UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM THE COACH  
THAT YOUR CHILD IS ON THE TEAM**