



City of Broadview Heights Parks and Recreation Department

9543 Broadview Rd. 440-838-4522 www.BHRec.org

Samuel J. Alai, Mayor Paula Horner, Director

Every Question You Could Possibly ask about Soccer. Spring 2022 Edition

1. Who are you?

Me? My name is Gary Diehl and I am the Athletics Manager for the city of Broadview Heights. I run all the sports programs for the approximately 3000 kids that participate each year. I have been doing this for going on 12 years and surprisingly have retained much of my sanity.

2. Can I register my son or daughter for just spring soccer?

Yes. The system may put you on a wait list but we will do everything possible to get everyone on a team.

3. When is registration for spring soccer?

February 1st through February 28th.

4. When does the spring season start?

Saturday April 9th to Saturday May 21st.

5. When do practices start?

When it thaws. But probably not until April.

6. When does the season end?

May 21st.

7. When are practice times?

Coaches pick their own practice days and times. There is a section on the registration form asking for conflicts you may have. We try to put you on a team that does not practice on your conflict days but that is not always possible.

8. I want my child to play in a different age group. How do I do that?

The first thing you need to do is register your child in the age appropriate group based on his/her birth year. Then, you go to our website at www.bhrec.org, click on forms and then select "league change form." Fill that out and it will be sent to me. Then I can move him or her to a different age group.

Now, that being said, a lot of times parents want to move their kids because it's more convenient if they are on their sibling's or neighbor's team for "ride sharing." I get that. BUT, if you do that and it turns out that your child does not have the maturity of skill set to participate in the older league, we will move them back down to the age appropriate league. It's not fair to anyone to have a child playing in a league where they can't keep up.

9. Where are the practice fields?

There are maps of the fields here: <https://www.broadview-heights.org/267/Sports-Fields-Maps>

10. I have not heard from my coach yet and I am freaking out!

Don't freak out. Parents will typically hear from their coach 3-4 weeks after registration ends but most people call me 2 weeks after registration ends and are freaking out. Registration for fall ends July 31st. If you haven't heard from your coach four weeks after that, you can freak out. Or just email me and we'll figure out what happened. GDiehl@broadview-heights.org. Email is a lot quicker and easier than calling me by the way.



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11. My son or daughter wanted to play with friends and will be absolutely devastated if that doesn't happen.

We are usually able to put kids together who want to play together. But not always. If it is going to be a problem I will usually contact the parents ahead of time and try and address it.

12. We specifically indicated that we wanted to play with this friend and that friend and I just heard from a coach and we are NOT on the team that we specifically requested to be on! Why bother to ask if you are not going to honor our request. I am so angry right now and I want a full refund plus an additional 20% as punitive damages.

People always use the word "specifically" when they are really mad. Like was stated in item #8, we try to put kids together and make all the world a happy place. But it is not always possible. Often people don't specifically make a requests and then later decide they want to play on a certain team. Something that we should have psychically known somehow.

If we know what you wanted and can make it happen, we will. If we can't, sorry, but we just can't for whatever reason. But we will never offer a refund because a player didn't get on a team they wanted.

13. I indicated that my child cannot practice on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and now I see she has practice on Wednesday. What's up with that?

Although we do have a place on the registrations for practice conflicts, sometimes there is only so much we can do. We try to avoid conflicts but do not always have a team that practices on the most convenient day for a player. Sometimes there are conflict that just can't be avoided.

14. I volunteered to coach, why did I do that?

Because you are a wonderful parent and you and your child will cherish this time for the rest of your lives. And you get a free coaches shirt!

15. What does my child need for soccer?

Shin guards are a must. Rubber cleats are a good idea. Water bottle and a soccer ball. If you spent a bunch at the orthodontist, maybe a mouth guard. ~~And a burning desire to win at all cost.~~

16. When will the game schedules be available and where can I find them?

If all goes smoothly, about 2 weeks before the season starts.

The U9 and above schedules are located at www.SRSOnline.org

The U5-U7 should be available on the city's recreation website.

NOTE: Game schedules are subject to change for a variety of reasons. Always check with your coach about your upcoming game.

17. What time are games?

U5 and U6 games are at 9:00 AM or 10:30 AM. Noon if we have that many teams.

U7 games are at 9:00 AM, 10:30 Am or 12:00 PM

U9 and above games are throughout the day Saturday.

18. On the U5-U7 game schedules, it says "rescheduled" or "to be rescheduled" what's up with that?

Rescheduled means that the game has been rescheduled for the day and time shown.

For questions regarding Broadview Heights Sports programs, contact the Parks & Athletics Manager: Gary D. Diehl, GDiehl@broadview-heights.org 440-717-4063



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To be Rescheduled means the game is going to move but it has not been listed yet.

19. Where are the game fields?

There are maps to the game fields on the schedule online.

20. Where are the away game fields?

On the SRSL website www.srslonline.org there are maps

21. Huh? What the heck is the SRSL?

The SRSL is the Suburban Recreational Soccer League. It is the league we play in against other cities in the U9 and above age groups.

22. How long are games?

U13 and U15 games are 4 x 15 minute quarters

U9 and U11 games are 4 x 12 minute quarters

U7 games are 4 x 10 minute quarters

U5 and U6 games are 4 x 8 minute quarters or until they lose interest or start to cry.

23. How do I contact the other coach?

If you are a parent, you don't.

If you are coach, we will give you a list of contact info for the opposing coaches before the season.

24. When will uniforms be ready?

Typically, a week before games but that is dependent upon the vendor.

25. What do I do if a jersey is the wrong size?

Bring it to the rec center and they will swap it out for one that fits.

26. Do we get game balls?

Yep. Coaches one game ball per team.

27. Do we get cones?

Yep. About a dozen. Although that will depend upon availability. Cones are one of those weird things that became hard to find because of Covid. Along with bikes, pools, yeast and common sense.

28. What size balls do we use

U5 and U6 use #3 balls

U7 – U13 use #4 balls

U15 use #5 balls

29. Do we have referees?

U7 and above games have referees. Be nice to them, they are hard to find. More on that later.

30. Why are we playing games in other cities?

U9 and above teams play in the Suburban Recreational Soccer League (SRSL). The SRSL is made up of neighboring communities like Seven Hills, Parma Heights, Middleburg Heights. Broadview Heights is the largest of the member communities with the most teams. So we got that going for us. Which is nice.



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31. What are the rules?

You can find soccer rules by searching for "Laws of the Game" online. Each league also has specific rules for the age group. I will post those rules online along with the schedules.

32. Where can I get a copy of the rules?

Same as above

33. I don't like the rules. Can I change them?

No.

34. What about earrings?

Almost certainly someone will show up week one with earrings. She (or I suppose he) cannot play with earrings. There is no way around it. They have to come out, even if they were just pierced.

No. you cannot put tape over them.

I have actually seen a kid's ear get ripped up because she was wearing earrings. It was gross.

35. Can I bring a dog to our games?

No, there is actually a city ordinance prohibiting dogs on city property. Apparently some previous city council members hated dogs, or stepped in poo once. If someone does bring a dog to the game I will have to confiscate it, take it home and play with it.

36. Can I bring a pig to our game?

Technically yes, but don't.

And don't even ask about chickens.

37. How do I reschedule a game?

If you are a parent, you can't.

If you are a coach of a U5 or U6 team, just contact the other coach and come up with a time that works for both of you. There is no need to let me know.

If you are a coach of a U7 team, contact the other coach and come up with a day and time. If you want a referee, and you should, you will need to give me at least a week's notice.

If you are a coach of U9 or above team, it gets more complicated. I would strongly encourage you to try and not reschedule games. If it's just you (the coach) that can't be there, try to find someone to fill in for you. IF you make it clear that you cannot be there, someone will step up, albeit reluctantly.

If it is absolutely imperative that you reschedule, like every girl on the team is going to a girl scout camp out that weekend, then here is what you do. If it is your home game you start by contacting me, (Gary Diehl) and giving me some dates that might work. Keep in mind that there may be other games scheduled on those days and a field might not be available. I'll tell what is available. Then contact the other coach and see if those dates work for him or her. It can get very complicated finding times that work. Like I said, it's always best to try to play your game on the assigned date.



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38. Do we keep score?

U5-U7 we do not. And don't go there about how kids these days are a bunch of sissies and everyone gets a trophy and when I was a kid we played in bare feet on dirt fields. Their 6 years old! They don't care about winning. They care about snacks after the game. It's more the parents that care about 6 year olds "winning." Of course U9 and above leagues we keep score because when they turn 8, it's game on!

39. How do I report scores?

Coaches of the U9 and above teams report scores after each game. Before the season starts, I will give you a link to a website form where you submit scores. The score of your game will not appear automatically in the standings.

40. How do I know if a game is cancelled because of weather?

Soccer games are tough to call because we play in the rain and wind and heat and snow. However, if it's really bad or dangerous we will cancel games. The process however is somewhat difficult because the games take place all day Saturday and weather often changes throughout the day. So games may be cancelled in the morning and playable in the afternoon. In addition, we do not always have staff available at the fields to make the call.

If possible, we will update our rainout line with information. That number is 440-526-3996.

But, it is not always possible to update the rainout line in a timely manner on Saturdays, but this is a good place to start. We are evaluating other options to notify parents but at the moment the rainout line is it.

To complicate matters, often teams will be coming to Broadview to play their away games from as far away as Macedonia. They need to be contacted if our games are cancelled hopefully before they leave.

It gets more complicated if you are playing an away game. Even if games in Broadview are cancelled, that does not mean that your game at another city is also cancelled.

All that said, we will do our best but you still may end up coming to the field to find out your game is cancelled. I know that's a hassle but sometimes that's the best we can do.

And don't call the rec center to ask about your game. They don't know.

41. Can coaches cancel games?

U5 and U6 coaches can cancel their own games.

U7 and above coaches CANNOT cancel their own games. That decision must be made by me, the grounds crew or the referee. If you decide not to show for your game, we still have to pay a referee. If this happens we may decide that your game is not going to be made up and you will probably get a strongly worded email scolding you that will go in your permanent file.

42. What do we do if it's raining?

That was pretty much explained above but if it's just raining, you will likely play.

43. Can I have an extra practice?

Sure, look at the online practice schedule and see what is available. Just let me know so we don't have two teams showing up at the same time.



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44. I have tickets to the Cav's game or Indian's game (sorry, Guardians, geez) Saturday, can I move my game?

No. You need to give me your tickets and I will go to the game for you.

45. How many players are on a side?

U5 and U6 play 4v4 or 5v5, depending upon how many kids show up that day. You can adjust the number of players to make the teams even if you want, so you may end up playing 3v4 or 4v5 or whatever works.

U7 plays 5v5 without a goalie.

U9 and U11 play 8v8.

U13 and above play 6v6

46. The referee is really bad. I want to yell at him. Can I?

No. Absolutely not. It is very hard to find referees. Nationally there is a huge shortage because no one wants to get yelled at anymore. Most of our referees are kids and they WILL make mistakes. Referees make mistakes at all levels including professional games. And chances are the referee knows a lot more about the soccer rules than you do. Yelling at a 15 year old kid over a call at a recreational soccer game is stupid. Don't do it.

47. But the other team is playing too rough and the referee is not calling it. Someone is going to get hurt!

Well, what you think is rough someone else might think is just playing hard. It's subjective. Take two kids, give them a ball to chase after running at full speed, and some of them are going to bump into each other, get their feet tangled up, trip and fall. Some of the falls will look horrific. And then one or both of the kids will cry.

Someone will surely yell, "Come on ref! You gotta call that!"

Well, even if the ref did call it, the kids would still be on the ground crying. You'd still be mad. And most likely both kids will be fine once they stop crying. Do some games get out of hand? Yes. And the referees are given instruction on how to handle that. But yelling at them is not going to help.

If you are a coach and you think the game is getting too rough, take the referee aside and politely ask him or her to be more strict on the calls. Usually it's one or two players who are playing too rough and asking the referee to keep an eye on them is the best way to handle that.

48. What is offside

What? You want to yell at the ref about his or her calls but you don't know what offside is? Offside is basically "cherry picking." Here is the actual rule:

The law states that a player is in an **offside** position if any of their body parts, except the hands and arms, are in the opponents' half of the pitch, and closer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent (the last opponent is usually, but not necessarily, the goalkeeper).

Said another way, a player needs to have two opposing players between him and the goal if he does not have the ball or the ball does not have two players between it and the goal. Make sense?



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Here is a twist: A player can be in an off sides position but not be offside. They have to be involved in the play or somehow influencing the play to be called off sides.

Here is another twist: A player will be called offside at the point the ball is kicked. So the ball is kicked, then the attacking player runs offside, he is not offside if he was onside when the ball was kicked.

Or you could just watch the game and enjoy and not worry about making the referees calls.

49. Do we have goalies?

U5-U7 do not. Everyone else does.

50. Do we get goalie jerseys?

The city does not provide them. Some kids like to buy their own. You can get one for the team. Or, just bring a large tee shirt to wear. The goalie needs to be in a different color than both teams. We do not provide goalie gloves either.

51. Which side of the field do we stand on?

Coaches on one side parents on the other. Generally, if there are two fields back to back coaches stand between the two fields and parents on the opposite side. No one can sit or stand by the goals or the corners of the field either. If you do, I will have to ask you to move and I hate doing that because I usually get dirty looks or nasty comments when I do. Or they ask why. And I usually don't have the patience to explain it all so I just say "Because it's a rule." And then they get all snippy and things escalate and then Well, just don't sit there, OK?

Make sure you tell grandma and grampa this because they are usually the ones who sit there. And you know how grampa can be when you tell him to do something he doesn't want to do. Or it's the over-zealous parent who thinks it's a good idea to coach his goalie son or daughter from behind the goal. It's not. Just let them play and enjoy watching. It's a rec soccer game for heaven's sakes.

52. How many coaches can I have on the sideline?

Two is normal. Three is OK. Four or more is right out.

53. Why are we playing on a weekday? The registration said games are on the weekend. You're a liar!

Sometime there are conflicts and teams cannot play on a particular weekend. If there is an odd number of teams in the league, one team will have a bye week and will have to play a game on a weekday. I'm not a liar. As far as you know.

54. What is the maximum number of players on a team?

Double the number of players on a side minus the goalie. So:

U4 and U5 max is 8

U7 max is 10

U9-U11 max is 15(yea, I know that's a lot)

U13-15 max is 11.

Some teams may have one more but that is only if there are extenuating circumstances.

55. Why minus the goalie?



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Because every player should play a minimum of half the game. Not everyone wants to play goalie so if we included the goalie in the max total someone would not be able to play at least half the game. If you want to waste your time checking the math go ahead, but that's the rule.

56. Do you have any indoor soccer leagues?

Why yes we do. We have indoor league for U5 through U9 (maybe U11 if we have enough teams) that run in November and December. Don't worry, I'll inundate you with emails about it starting in October.

57. The fields are muddy! Who can I yell at about that?

No one. They just get muddy.

58. The grass too high! Who can I yell at about that?

Yep, it happens. Especially if we get a lot of rain and the fields are wet. They try to cut the grass on Thursdays but can't always get out there. We just have to deal with it. Yelling won't make it better.

59. It's raining, can we practice in the gym?

No. We have a lot of teams, if we let one do it everyone would want to do it.

60. Do we practice in the rain?

Eh, usually that is the coaches call. If it's really bad or if it will damage the fields we'll say no otherwise we'll say it's at the coaches discretion.

61. What is the "goal differential" rule?

In the SRSL league the goal differential rule say that if your team wins by more than 5 goals, you lose a point in the standings. More than 6 goals you lose 2 points and so on. The idea is to keep teams from winning by an obscene number of goals. The referee will ask coaches before each game if they want to keep or waive the rule. Coaches can choose to waive the rule prior to the game in which case either team can score as many goals as they like. Both coaches must agree to waive it otherwise it stays in effect.

62. Why is the other team not allowed to score?

Because of the goal differential rule above.

Coaches, if you chose to keep the goal differential rule and are on the losing end of it, do this: Take all of your defenders including your goalie and bring them up to play offense. The other team can't score so there is no need for defenders. Have the goalie stay at mid field to try and keep the ball on the other team's side of the field. Any opposing player that runs past the goalie will then be offside and you get the ball back.

If you are on the winning side, that is up 5 goals. Have your forwards and maybe your midfields just stand at midfield and do nothing until the other team scores and you can go back to playing normally.

Or waive the rule at the beginning and don't worry about it if you get beat badly. Or if you are the one doing the beating, be cool about it and stop running up the score.

Some city's team, hopefully not Broadview Heights teams, have no problem running up the score and I have seen some be total jerks about it. If that is happening to you, as frustrating as it is, please keep your



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cool and don't say anything to the other coach. I know it's hard, but when you do, it NEVER ends well. After all, if they are a jerk enough to run up the score on you, do you think they care if it bothers you?

63. Are headers allowed?

U13 and above only, but don't encourage it. It's a rec soccer game. Is a brain injury worth it?

64. What if our jerseys are the same color as our opponents?

Ask me for pinnies. The home team has to change color if they are the same. But make sure I get them back because they're expensive. Fun Fact: Pinnie is actually short for Pinafore which is a sleeveless apron like garment.

65. What is Gary Diehl's home address so I can go to his house and yell at him?

It's easier to just send me a nasty email. I have a file for them.

66. What if there is thunder or lightning?

Any thunder or lightning and the games are suspended for 30 minutes beyond the last heard thunder. Generally, that means the whole game will be suspended because if you start it up 30 minutes or more after the thunder it will back up all the other games.

67. What if it's cold?

In the spring it is cold sometimes. Dress warm. We've played in the snow before. Global warming or not, we still live in Northeast Ohio.

68. Our team lost all our games, who can I yell at about that?

Probably me. But if you requested a bunch of friends to play together then it's on you. If you really want to yell at me about your team's record you can, but it really won't change it will it? I also have a really long, well thought out response that after hearing it you will probably say, "Huh, I guess I shouldn't have yelled at him."

69. Do we get trophies/medals at the end of the season?

At the end of the spring season all U5-U7 teams get participation medals. U9 and above teams get trophies if they finished 1st in their division. And don't go there about the participation medals saying "When I was a kid we didn't get participation medals, it's turning this generation into a bunch of entitled snowflakes." They're six years old! It isn't going to make or break them either way.

And remember, it's a recreational soccer league for kids. It's just for fun. Enjoy it! Thanks!

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