



January 2017 Newsletter

Dear Horsham Soccer Parents: I hope that 2017 is off to a good start for you and your family. Before you know it, Spring will be here. In addition to warmer weather, that also will mean that it's time for...outdoor Soccer!!!!

This newsletter includes very important information regarding upcoming deadlines and events for the 2017 Horsham Soccer season.

The table of contents on the next page below will help guide you to several articles with a **LOT** of **important information** on the Horsham Soccer Association programs that will be available this year: (1) spring, (2) fall intramural, and (3) fall travel.

Click the blue hyperlinks to learn more about topics that may be important for your family.

The 2017 Board Members are already working hard on the planning and preparations for the coming season. We expect several new and exciting things to be part of our programs this year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! The life blood of our Club is the time that our soccer parents volunteer each year. Please consider volunteering some of your time to help make the 2017 soccer season a success. See the links below to learn more!

As we move forward through winter, I hope that you find this information useful in gearing up for the coming Horsham Soccer season!

On behalf of the HSA Board and with best regards,

Mike Tagliaferi, President, Horsham Soccer Association

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Registration Information, Deadlines and Fees	<p>Learn more about the cost and important dates to keep in mind when signing your kids up to play Horsham Soccer this year</p>
<p>2017 League Formats</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Age & team placement</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Spring League</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fall Intramural League</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Travel League</p>	<p>Descriptions and expectations for the 3 primary programs available at Horsham Soccer: (1) Spring, (2) Fall intramural and (3) Fall travel. Information is available, including: age groups, philosophy, eligibility, uniforms, picture day, trophies, tryouts, game locations, game format, game time slots, practices, ball sizes, select programs, professional training/ instruction.</p> <p>These sections are chock-full of information you will want to know!</p>
Travel Update	<p>Want to know more about the upcoming tryout process? Then you'll want to read up on this article, prepared by our Travel Committee.</p>
2016 Survey Results & Next Steps	<p>We asked for input, and almost 170 soccer families in Horsham let us know how they feel!</p> <p>Want to see how your friends and neighbors feel about the 2016 Season with our Club, and how we are now working to take the feedback forward into positive changes? Then read this!</p>
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – How can you help?	<p>Building from our Survey, this coming season we are setting up several committees that are available for all members.</p> <p>Being on committee gives you a chance to share your ideas, and to contribute with less of time commitment than being a coach or being on the board. Check it out!!!!</p>
Player Development Activities	<p>Club Members told us that they want to see more efforts at player development. So, in 2017 we are planning some exciting things to build a greater focus on player development efforts at Horsham Soccer. Look!</p>

Registration Deadlines and Fees for 2017 Soccer (Spring, Travel, Intramural)

Registration will be opening during early February. An email will be sent, announcing the opening of the online registration system. At our January Meeting, the Board approved the following fee structure for 2017:

2017 Spring Registration Fees		By 4/1**:	
Per Player		\$60	
**Spring Soccer: spots are not guaranteed for parents attempting to register their kids after 4/1			
2017 Fall Registration Fees	Before 4/1	4/1 to 6/30	After 7/1
1 Player	\$135	\$145	\$160
2 Players	\$240	\$260	\$290
3 or more Players	\$330	\$360	\$405

The 2017 travel tryout fee = \$20, and is used to pay for:

- a numbered tryout pinney,
- reserved indoor court time for 1 tryout per team, at SMG Warminster
- independent professional tryout evaluators (2010 birthyear only)

2017 League Formats

Horsham Soccer offers three separate soccer programs- **Spring, Intramural** and **Travel**. Please note the following:

1. **AGES & TEAM PLACEMENT:** All 2017 programs will have team placements that follow US soccer mandates for “age pure” groupings, with certain age groups combined to ensure adequate numbers for team making within each division.

This is a placement system based on your child’s birth year; **not** their school grade. Placement is defined by the following table.

Just find your child’s birth year in the left-hand column, and then follow across the row to find what age groupings apply for each Horsham Soccer Program:

Your child’s birthyear	US Soccer Age Division for Fall 2017	Horsham Age Groupings for your Child, per program highlighted for ease of reference		
		Spring 2017	Travel, fall 2017	Intramural, fall 2017
2013	U5	-	-	U6*
2012	U6	U6*	-	U6
2011	U7	U6	-	U8*
2010	U8	U8*	U8	U8
2009	U9	U8	U9	U10*
2008	U10	U10*	U10	U10
2007	U11	U10	U11	U12*
2006	U12	U12	U12	U12
2005	U13	U12	U13	U14*
2004	U14	U15*	U14	U14*
2003	U15	U15*	U15	U16
2002	U16	U15	U16	U16*
2001	U17	-	U17	U18*
2000	U18	-	U18	U18
1999	U19	-	U19	-

*NOTE: Age group is combined with older age groups for Spring and/or Fall Intramural Seasons

2. **Spring League (beginning April 2017):**

- a. Philosophy/Focus: Player development, sportsmanship, teamwork, physical conditioning, and FUN
- b. Eligibility: Kids Born in 2002 through and including 2012 are eligible
 - i. Both travel and intramural players are permitted to sign up
- c. Uniform: includes soccer shirt
- d. Picture Day: NO
- e. Trophies/Medals: NO
- f. Tryout: NO

- g. Location: All games are at Club fields
- h. Format:
 - i. U6 = 4 v 4, no goalies
 - ii. U8 = 7 v 7, includes goalie
 - iii. U10 = 7 v 7, includes goalie
 - iv. U12 = 9 v 9, includes goalie
 - v. U15 = 11 v 11, includes goalie
 - 1. **NOTE**: if total enrollment does include enough players, a 9 v 9 format for games may be necessary
- i. Game Day Time slot: 75-minutes to divide between game time, half time (5 mins) and warmup/practice time
 - i. **U6**: games = 4 x 8 minute quarters (32 mins of game time)
 - ii. **U8 – U15**: 2 x 25 minute halves (50 mins of game time)
- j. Game Days: Friday Evenings, Sunday afternoons
 - i. No more than 2 games per weekend
- k. Separate practices: no
- l. Ball Size:
 - i. U6 = 3
 - ii. U8 – U12 = 4
 - iii. U15 = 5
- m. Referees:
 - i. U6 – U15: coaches referee all games
- n. Select Program at season end: NO
- o. Professional Instruction included with registration fee: NO

3. Fall 2017 – Intramural (beginning August 2017):

- a. Philosophy/Focus: Player development, sportsmanship, teamwork, physical conditioning, and FUN
- b. Eligibility: Kids Born in 2000 through and including 2013 are eligible
 - i. only intramural players are permitted to sign up; carded travel players not permitted
- c. Uniform: includes soccer shirt, shorts, and socks
- d. Picture Day: yes, team and individual photo included as part of registration
- e. Trophies/Medals:
 - i. U6 – yes, participation
 - ii. U8 – yes, participation
 - iii. U10 – yes, Columbus Day tournament winners only
 - iv. U12 – U18 – yes, division winners only
- f. Tryout: NO
- g. Location:

- i. U6 – U10: All games at Club Fields
 - ii. U12 – U18: blended -some games at Club Fields, some travel to other Clubs
- h. Format:
 - i. U6 = 4 v 4, no goalies
 - ii. U8 = 7 v 7, includes goalie
 - iii. U10 = 7 v 7, includes goalie
 - iv. U12 = 9 v 9, includes goalie
 - v. U15 = 11 v 11, includes goalie
 - vi. U18 = 11 v 11, includes goalie
- i. Game Day Time slot:
 - i. U6 = 75 minutes to be divided between game time, time between quarters (5 mins, approx.), and practice
 - 1. Game time = 4 x 12 minute quarters
 - ii. U8 – U10 = 60 minutes
 - 1. 2 x 25 minute halves, 5 minute halftime, 5 minute float/spare time
 - iii. U12 – U18 = per Joint intramural league (JIL) rules
- j. Game Days: Friday Evenings, Saturday mornings, Sunday afternoons
 - i. No more than 2 games per weekend
- k. Separate practices:
 - i. U6-U8: yes, until season start
 - ii. U10-U18: yes, through season
- l. Ball Size:
 - i. U6 = 3
 - ii. U8 – U12 = 4
 - iii. U15 – U18 = 5
- m. Referees:
 - i. U6 – U8: coaches
 - ii. U10 – U18: paid, independent
- n. Select Program at season end:
 - i. U6: no
 - ii. U8 – U18: yes – depending on volunteer coach availability
- o. Professional Instruction included with registration fee:
 - i. U6: yes - 3 x 1 hour preseason session with trainers
 - ii. U8: yes – 3 x 1 hour preseason session with trainers
 - iii. U10: yes – 3 x 1 hour in-season session with trainers, for those interested to try out for select team
 - iv. U12 – U18: no

4. Fall Travel (Beginning August 2017)

- a. Philosophy/Focus: successfully playing against other area Clubs in a competitive environment (with a greater and more intense focus on Player development, sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical conditioning compared to Spring and Intramural programs) and having FUN.
- b. Eligibility: Kids Born in 1999 through and including 2010 are eligible
- c. Uniform: purchased by players
- d. Picture Day: yes, team and individual photo included as part of registration
- e. Tryout: YES – MANDATORY. Those trying out, but not making a team will be placed into a fall intramural team within their birth year.
- f. Location:
 - i. U8 – U19: blended - some games at Club Fields, some travel to other Clubs
- g. Format:
 - i. U8-U10 = 7 v 7, includes goalie
 - ii. U11-U12 = 9 v 9, includes goalie
 - iii. U13-U19 = 11 v 11, includes goalie
- h. Game Day Time slot: per Inter-county soccer league schedules
- i. Game Days: Saturday, Sunday times variable
- j. Separate practices:
 - i. U8-U18: yes, pre-season beginning in August (or earlier per coach and team preference) and throughout season
- k. Ball Size:
 - i. U8-U12 = 4
 - ii. U13-U19 = 5
- l. Referees:
 - i. U8-U18: paid, independent
- m. Select Program at season end: NO
- n. Professional Instruction included with registration fee:
 - i. U8-U18: yes, per coaching and team preferences
 - ii. The Horsham Soccer Board will be **strongly encouraging** Club Travel coaches and teams to take advantage of special packages being offered for our Club, available via the efforts and negotiations of our 2017 Travel Committee with local vendors.
- o. Other considerations for Travel:
 - i. Travel team players and families make a much bigger time commitment.
 - ii. Travel team game schedules are beyond the control of the Association.
 - iii. Team commitment to tournaments, indoor play and Spring activities depends on each team coach.
 - iv. There are additional costs incurred by players in the travel program.

1. These will include the cost of uniforms and selective items such as tournament fees.

Travel Update

The 2017 Horsham Soccer Travel Committee has been working hard to get ready for the 2017 Season. There are already helpful links where you can learn more:

- **Tryout schedule & calendar:** [tryout-schedule-2017](#)
- **Age pure mandate:** [age-pure-mandate-2017](#)
- **General 2017 Travel information:** [2017-travel-general-info](#)

NEW – Announcing, the HSA Travel Academy program: in the interest of continuing to grow our Club and offer new and competitive products, we are proud to announce the availability of our Travel Academy Program for 2010 birth-year players. Details are below:

- The Academy teams are designed to be an "all-inclusive" program.
- Horsham Soccer Association feels that the U8 and U9 age groups are at a critical age, where players benefit from the best available and most consistent training to develop their technical skills and lay a critical foundation for future soccer development.
- For this reason, we staff these teams with qualified coaches and trainers selected by our HSA Travel Committee and approved by our Board of Directors.
- The HSA Travel Committee, together with the Board of Directors, has also carefully thought through the scheduling and activities in each of these age groups for the entire year long travel season.
- Because this schedule is pre-planned, we build in all the costs associated with U8 travel teams, up front.
- In the past, the cost has been lower up front, however, managers would have to collect additional funds throughout the season for the tournaments, indoor seasons, etc.
- We have received feedback that parents prefer knowing the total cost up front. We have also received requests for more transparency in our pricing for travel teams.
- Listed below is the cost per age group, together with what is included in the costs for the season.
 - NOTE: Only with approval from the HSA Travel Committee and the Travel Director, are 2010 Travel teams permitted to deviate from this schedule of events.
- 2010 birthyear Travel Academy Costs:
 - The club registration fee for U8 (2010 birth year) for travel in the 2017-2018 season is \$275 per player.
 - \$135 for general registration before tryouts
 - \$20 nonrefundable tryout fee

- upon selection to team additional payment of \$140 is due within 48 hours to secure your child's spot.
- This cost includes:
 - General club costs allocated per player which include but are not limited to insurance, fall ICSL league fees, ICSL referee fees, field usage and maintenance costs, & equipment (pinneys, cones, team game balls)
 - 2 practices per week Mid-August – Mid-November
 - Paid Licensed Professional Trainer for the age group for 1 practice per week
 - Two tournaments (Colleen Reilly and 1 additional local tournament)
 - Spring ICSL/ROCK League and Spring Referee fees
 - Full Travel Uniform Kit which includes Home & Away jersey's, 1 pair of shorts, & 1 pair of socks

2016 Survey results and next steps:

The 2016 end of season survey is now closed, and the results are in. I would like to extend a big THANKS to the approximately 170 Horsham Soccer families that took time to let us know how we are doing!

The survey data are available here: [2016-end-of-season-survey-RESULTS](#)

Apart from the specific data for any given area, some themes and highlights that have been noticed and discussed by the board include:

1. **Player Development!** Our members are interested in seeing more investments and support for the development of our kids' soccer skills. The board is already engaging in negotiations with local vendors to secure good deals and rates for professional training options to benefit both our intramural and travel programs. More to come on this!!
2. **Communication, communication, communication!** Whether it relates to practice times, team formation, travel team selection, rainouts, game schedules or other topics, we heard that we can do better. As a result, we are re-vamping our approach to how information is shared. We will be working to improve the frequency, timeliness and value of the communications to the Club membership from the Board and Coaches.
3. **Coach Support and Development!** Many of our coaches are new to soccer, and need support, equipment and basic instruction on how to run successful practices, drills, etc. We will be working to ensure that coaches are all given a chance to get introductory packets, and to attend pre-season meetings to learn more about expectations and the support that is available to them.
4. **Fields and Facilities!** Many people had specific comments about the Clubhouse. In particular, some people had concerns about the restrooms. Many Club members may not know that the bathrooms are operated and overseen by Horsham Parks and Recreation. The Board is developing proposals for Parks and Recreation, to address some of the issues and feedback that we received for the upcoming seasons.
5. **Anybody hungry?** We've got a prescription.... MORE Snack-stand!

While the above is just a small sampling of the overall feedback, the Board is closely reviewing all feedback, and more information will be shared in future communications.

NEXT STEPS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

During the December and January Board Meetings, the Board reviewed and has endorsed the formation of several committees. These committees will be led by a Board Member, but may include volunteers from the General Membership too.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? [Click here](#) to learn more about the committees you can join!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – how can YOU help?

Join a 2017 Club Committee!! The list of committees currently available for General Members to join is listed here:

1. Coach and player education
2. Field maintenance and lining
3. Fall Senior Intramural coordinator – U12 and above
4. Fall Intramural coordinators – U6, U8, U10
5. Spring League – coordinators – U6, U8, U10, U12
6. Snack Stand
7. Colleen Reilly – planning and preparation
8. NEW – Fall 2017 Intramural Select Tournament -planning and preparation
9. Fund Raising

So, what is a committee member expected to do?

Depending on the committee:

1. **Respond to communications from the chair to provide your input, ideas and thoughts** regarding the activities planned and supported that committee.
 - a. Example – helping to plan and coordinate the team formation and player selection processes for intramural teams for ages 10 and above
2. **Attend any committee related activities or events to help.** This could include any number of things such as spending time helping at the fields or clubhouse, assisting with tournaments hosted by the Club or other activities.
 - a. Example – help to plan and execute coach meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials in advance of the season
 - b. Example – help participate in field preparation activities needed at season beginning and end to set up goals, grid and line fields, etc.
3. **Help with administration of weekly/daily club activities**
 - a. Example – work with the Board Member Lead/Committee Chair to ensure that the snack stand schedule, staffing, menu, inventory is managed so that the snack stand is open for business and available for our kids at the right times.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Just email to express your interest by clicking here: President@horshamsoccer.com

Player Development Activities

The 2016 End of Season survey confirmed that the Club Membership is interested in seeing more player development activities. We are pleased to confirm that the Club Board is actively working to address this in several ways:

1. **Engaging local vendors that offer professional coaching and training:** Our goal is to negotiate fair rates for a variety of training packages, benefitting kids in the intramural and travel programs. Pre-season and in-season opportunities are in the works for intramural, while the travel team coaches will be strongly encouraged to supplement their own practice regimens with supplemental instruction from well qualified professional trainers.
2. **Beefing up our Coaching support, education and equipment:** your child's volunteer coach will have the most direct opportunity and time to work on skill development with them. As such, our plans include providing coaches with a set of clear age appropriate expectations and suggestions for how to conduct their practices and training sessions during the seasons. In addition, we will also make new efforts to ensure that coaches know what types of equipment are available to them from the Club, for use during practice.
3. **Travel Coaches** – E-license course to be hosted at Horsham Soccer's Kohler Soccer Complex. Thanks to the efforts of our travel director, Nick Bellizzie, our Club will be HOSTING a course for our travel coaches to receive training, instruction and licensure to serve as travel coaches during this upcoming season. This is an important step in helping to equip our coaches with a consistent knowledge base and approach in preparing our travel players for the competitive travel environment.
 - a. EPYSA will be hosting the E level class at Kohler fields on **March 24-26**.
 - b. The Club will be reimbursing coaches that want to attend!!!!
 - c. If interested to attend, please see the below link:
http://www.epysa.org/coaching_education/scheduled_courses/
4. **Hosting Soccer Camps at our Kohler Soccer Complex:** We are exploring several options for area Partners to conduct training camps at our facilities. These camps would likely feature discounted rates for Horsham participants and present an opportunity to engage with professional instructors as well as kids from other clubs.