

BONNEVILLE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Bonneville Youth Soccer League's U11/U12 Soccer Guide

Welcome to the Bonneville Youth Soccer League's Spring U12 soccer program. The Bonneville Youth Soccer League (BYSL) U11/U12 Program is a volunteer-run organization designed to:

- a) Promote participation,
- b) Encourage competition, and
- c) Provide the resources and training necessary for U11 and U12 players and coaches to develop their skills, foster their knowledge, and expand their love of the game.
- d) The IYSA (Idaho Youth Soccer Association) year runs from August 1 through July 31. Check the BYSL Website (byslsoccer.org) for the current year age groups for your child(ren).

The BYSL U12 program is transitional in nature. Players come from a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities, converging on a path that leads to competitive soccer at the highest local level. To set the firm foundation for such growth, BYSL has established several objectives:

- a) Develop individual soccer skills in a more competitive team environment and to help prepare these players for fully competitive teams.
- b) Provide trained coaches to teach and foster individual and team soccer skills for players wishing to play competitive soccer.
- c) Form balanced teams every season in order to promote competition at every game.
- d) Provide equal opportunities for players to develop.

BYSL Coaching Resources

As leaders and role models on the front lines, coaches play a vital role in helping BYSL achieve the objectives of the U12 program. Several of the coaches in the BYSL program are "parent coaches," that have their son/daughter on their team. Some of these parent coaches have a limited soccer background and are learning the game as they coach it. However, many times coaches in our program have former playing experience, and may even be current high school coaches. BYSL sponsors a coach training program to foster the structured development of BYSL coaches. BYSL strongly encourages ALL of their coaches, regardless of their soccer experience, to continue their coaching education to help better train the players in the U12 Program. The following coaching education is offered and supported by BYSL.

- **Coaching Licenses:** All coaches are required to obtain at least an USSF "E" license within one year of coaching in BYSL. The USSF "E" license is the first license most BYSL coaches receive, and some coaches also go on to get more advanced USSF "D" or "C" licenses, or

licenses in other programs. If coaching in a BYSL program, BYSL will cover the cost for most training, upon successful completion of these courses.

- **Mentoring Resources:** Other coaches in BYSL are available to mentor and help develop beginning coaches. Contact BYSL's Director of Coaching, Charlie Brizzee, for your specific needs. (charlie.brizzee@apria.com)
- **U12 Optional Training Sessions:** When requested by coaches; the BYSL U12 program offers optional training sessions for players, led by experienced BYSL coaches who have years of competitive coaching experience. These training sessions are designed to provide players and coaches the opportunity to observe and learn from a more seasoned coach. Inexperienced coaches can benefit from observing these sessions, and study how the experienced coaches introduce and teach topics, maneuver through the progressions, and manage players at that age group.
- **Reference material:** Numerous books and references are available at bookstores, library and online. Two online sources that are recommended by BYSL are:
 - 1) **USSF Best Practices:** (Downloadable/Printable off of the US Soccer website):
This manual contains the guidelines of the current acceptable practices for coaching American youth of all ages. It contains age-specific recommendations for coaches in all facets of the American soccer system.
 - 2) **Soccer – How to play the game – The official Playing and Coaching Manual of the USSF:** This manual can be purchased at your local bookstore or ordered from the US Soccer Website. This manual contains graphics, illustrations, and over 100 age-specific training sessions for our youth soccer players.

TOURNAMENTS FOR U12s

There are several tournaments in the area in which U12 teams may compete. Tournaments usually consist of three (3) games over a weekend: Either Two (2) on Saturday and one (1) on Sunday; or one (1) on Friday and two (2) on Saturday, etc.) If you plan to field a team for a tournament, find out if the format is 8v8 (small-field) or 11v11 (full-field). It is a good idea to have several substitutes, and some coaches collaborate on combining teams for tournaments in order to have enough players for scheduled games. In order to field players from other teams on your roster, it is essential that you contact the player's coach **FIRST**. **NEVER** approach a player on another team or the player's parent(s) before talking to the player's coach **FIRST**. This is considered "poaching" and is not tolerated in BYSL.

For additional information; the U12 Director, Teresa Keim, can be contacted at keimfam@hotmail.com.

Local Tournaments to consider and their usual scheduled dates are:

- Portneuf Valley Soccer Club Invitational (PVSC)**, Pocatello, 2nd or 3rd weekend in April
(This is a Sat/Sun Tournament; with a few games played on Friday Night)
- PVSC Friendship Cup**, Pocatello, 2nd weekend of May
(This is a Friday/Saturday Tournament Only)
- Idaho Falls Shootout (IFSO)**, Idaho Falls, 2nd or 3rd weekend of May
(This is a Sat/Sun Tournament; w/a few games played on Friday Night)

Other tournaments are listed on BYSL's website, www.byslsoccer.org.

Beyond U12

The progression for the U12 BYSL players, starting with U12 aged player in the U12 Program in the Fall is: (Look on the BYSL website for the correct age of your child.) (IYSA Seasonal year runs from August 1 – July 31.)

- U12 Fall
- U12 Spring
- Junior High Program (Fall)
- U13 Spring
- Junior High Program (Fall)

Note that BYSL conducts a spring and fall U12 program. Spring 6th graders generally play spring U12 then play in BYSL's Junior High Program in the fall. Players in the 6th grade who are U13 by birth date are allowed to try out for their respective Junior High School teams.

The Junior High Program tryouts are held in mid-August and are typically announced in the Post-Register, the Far Post, and through the BYSL website at www.BYSLSOCCER.org. Stay tuned for these announcements, since Tryouts typically begin before school starts. The Director of Junior High Program is Mark Oliver; he can be contacted at oli@ida.net.

Spring Tryouts: Tryouts for BYSL's U13 competitive spring soccer teams are held in the fall, right after the Junior High soccer finals. Announcements are made in the Post-Register, Far Post, and on the BYSL website at www.BYSLSOCCER.org. Players tryout for the club of their choice.

CLUBS: Within BYSL, there are several "clubs" from which to choose. Choosing a club to tryout for is often a source of confusion for parents and players who are unfamiliar with the BYSL U13-U19 program. It can be particularly frustrating for those who arrive at tryouts and have to list their preferred "club" without knowing much about them. Prior to tryouts, BYSL holds an Open House, where parents and players can find out more about their options and meet the prospective coaches for the various club teams. The options may change slightly from year to year with the introduction of "Independent" teams, but generally the following options are steadily available:

- **BOYS:** For U13 Boys, there are typically two options: Ballistic and Xtreme. In 2010, Odyssey also fielded a U13 team. More information about each of these clubs (and their coaches) may

be obtained from www.BYSLSOCCER.org and from the contacts listed on the BYSL or Club websites.

- **GIRLS:** For U13 Girls, there are typically two options: Xtreme, and Odyssey. At the older ages Velocity is also an option. Additional information about each of these clubs (and their coaches) may be obtained from the www.BYSLSOCCER.org, and from the contacts listed on the BYSL or Club websites.

CHOOSING A CLUB: A checklist of FAQs that a parent should consider when choosing a club is provided at the end of this document.

BYSL U13 TRYOUTS: Tryouts are generally held on the first Saturday following the end of the Junior High program (late October/early November) but the tryout date is also dependent upon the end of the High School season as well, so exact dates may vary. When players arrive, they must submit a completed BYSL registration form and a “Team/Coach Preference” form. The Team/Coach Preference form lists the teams that are available for that age group, and the player identifies which team he/she wants to play for in order of preference.

All clubs are represented at tryouts, and players follow instructions as to which field to go to for tryouts, regardless of their preference. All players tryout for all teams; It is important that all coaches see all players and vice versa. Coaches use the tryouts to develop their list of Player Preferences. At the end of tryouts, the Team/Coach Preferences from the players and the Player Preferences from the coaches are evaluated to match teams and players.

A committee meets the following week and the new season rosters are compiled and returned to the coaches. Once these rosters are returned to the individual coaches, then the coaches may contact the players listed on their new team roster, but only those players listed. Contact from the coaches can be expected within 7-10 days from Tryouts.

Once a player has gone through the Tryout process (**the final night of tryouts**), those players are now considered “Committed” and contact to/from representatives (Parents, Players, Coaches, Managers, etc.) from another team is considered Illegal Recruiting and is NOT tolerated by BYSL.

CHOOSING A CLUB

Choosing a club to tryout for can be a confusing process. What you can expect at tryouts is to arrive and almost immediately be asked to list your club preference. It is wise to ask a lot of questions prior to arriving at Tryouts and needing to make that choice. Consider your son/daughter’s own goals, ambitions, and skill level. Below are some additional considerations:

- 1) You want to find a team that your daughter/son has (or can make) lasting friendships. It helps to have friends on the team both in terms of enjoyment and in your ability to car pool, etc.

- 2) You want to find a team that is at the right level of competitive soccer. Some teams are very competitive which will affect the amount of play time for each of the players, the amount of time commitment (how many games and practices per week), and the overall expense of the spring season (team fees and travel costs). Be aware that spring soccer is more expensive than fall soccer mostly due to tournament fees and traveling costs (some clubs offer scholarships to offset these costs).

Here are some questions you may want to ask the different coaches at the BYSL Open House to help you decide which team is your first, second, and third choice:

- What are your goals for the spring season?
 - What is your coaching philosophy?
 - How many times do you plan to meet/practice per week
 - What are your coaching credentials? Experience?
 - Where will you practice? How long are the sessions?
 - What tournaments are you planning on entering? How many?
 - How much travel will be involved (day trips vs overnights)?
 - Who are your assistant coaches?
 - Are there any additional activities for the team?
 - What is your plan for the Indoor season? Is it mandatory?
 - What is your plan for winter conditioning?
 - What is your player substitution policy? Playtime?
 - How do you manage conflicts between music/sports/church activities?
 - Does your team play Sundays?
 - How does the club support the team?
 - What are your expectations from the parents?
 - What is the expected total season cost?
- 3) Don't stress too much during tryouts, remember, they are supposed to be fun.
- 4) The first time you attend tryouts, it will seem hectic and slightly overwhelming. It is recommended that you arrive at least 15-20 minutes early to complete your paperwork and to relax before taking the field.
- 5) Bring ball, shinguards, water, and signed paperwork to tryouts.

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