

Niskayuna Soccer Club

**A non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement
of youth soccer**



FAMILY HANDBOOK

WELCOME

Welcome to the Niskayuna Soccer Club (NSC)! We are a local, totally volunteer, non-profit organization serving the youth of our community. The Club typically sponsors approximately 20 teams rostered with 300 players through the indoor and outdoor seasons. Age divisions for both boys and girls range from Under-8 to Under-19. The time commitment for practices, league games and tournaments varies from team to team, and is parent-driven. The Club is dedicated to promoting the essentials of good sportsmanship, within an age-appropriate competitive soccer atmosphere in the Capital District. The NSC is a member of the Capital District Youth Soccer League (CDYSL), of the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (ENYYSA).

HOW THE CLUB OPERATES

A Board of Directors oversees the Club and each team is represented on the Board. All positions are totally volunteer. As a result, the success of the Club depends highly on the degree to which its most committed volunteers donate their time, energy and knowledge, and share their basic love the game and sense of fairness. Board of Directors meetings are open to all NSC members and are held monthly at Niskayuna High School from September through June. General meetings for all members are held in October and May.

Board of Directors (Club Officers)

The Niskayuna Soccer Club has a Board of Directors composed of five elected positions. These officers are elected annually.

- President:* Principal administrator who oversees club operations. [Appoints committee members and monitors their progress. Tends to legal matters and officiates club meetings. She or he also acts as the Club's public spokesperson and is responsible for Club image.]
- Vice President(s):* Assists the President in matters concerning the Club. [Fill-in for President at functions and meetings. They also coordinates volunteers for tournaments and other Club functions and serves on executive, coaching, competition, tournament committees.]
- Treasurer:* Controls all Club funds and accounts. [Maintains all Club financial records; makes deposits/disbursements; reports on all financial transactions and financial condition monthly and year-end; purchase Club insurance; prepare annual budget.]
- Registrar:* Organizes and registers players and teams for CDYSL. [Makes and keeps team rosters and maintains roster mailing list. Also in charge of advertisement for club registration.]
- Secretary:* Records and disseminates Club information. [Attends all Board meetings, takes and distributes minutes; makes meeting announcements; maintains seal and documents, records, correspondence, and minutes.]

Team Reps

Wondering what's going on with the Club or where we're heading? Your Team Representative should either have the answer, or be able to get it for you. Each team selects their own Team Rep (and an alternate), who serves on the Board of Directors. Your Rep is the key communication link in the Club's organization. If you need information about the Club or have an issue to raise, you should contact your Team Rep. It is the Team Rep's responsibility to see that his or her team is represented at Club meetings and functions; they are the liaison between the club and your team. Team Reps also mobilize volunteers for tournaments, help with problem-solving and decision making, help to plan for the upcoming soccer season, and voice team concerns. If you're not getting the information you need through informal discussions, team informational meetings (consider it during downtime at tournaments, at a game or practice), a copy of the Board meeting minutes, or a team newsletter, let us know. Team Reps are your reps. Improving communications is a Club goal.

Coaches

The majority of our coaches are volunteers who have sons or daughters playing in the Club. Individuals interested in coaching notify the Club, and are evaluated with the players during the tryout process. In some instances the Club may actively recruit a specific coach. Final rosters and coaches are confirmed by the coaching committee at the conclusion of tryouts. Coaches are expected to participate in monthly coaches meetings, continue to enhance their qualifications, set a high standard of citizenship and behavior, and meet other Club requirements. The Club considers a good coaching staff the backbone of the Club. Recognizing this, some of the teams have paid coaches, with costs borne by the affected team.

Policy on Volunteering

Volunteers are an essential part of the Niskayuna Soccer Club. Parents who hold the various positions and make up the various committees within the Club volunteer their time and effort to ensure that each child can enjoy the game of soccer and benefit from team discipline and a high level of athletic competition and training. This commitment by players and parents alike promotes a sense of fellowship, well being and enjoyment.

All parents are expected to contribute their fair share of a few hours each helping with the indoor and outdoor tournaments (see below). Beyond that, there are many volunteer positions and committees available which require varying degrees of time, effort, enthusiasm and experience. Some of these positions, committees and opportunities consist of, but are not limited to, the following: committees to organize and run the indoor and outdoor tournaments, club equipment manager, uniform coordinator, newsletter editor, fund-raising, and soccer camp coordinator.

A key point to remember is that each parent who offers his or her time and effort to support Niskayuna Soccer sets an example of leadership, and sends a message to his or

her child that Club soccer is not just a game, but rather a family-involved community organization.

***Niskayuna Tournaments.** All Niskayuna teams must provide at least one representative to serve on the indoor tournament committee, as this is one of our major fundraisers. In addition, all parents are expected to help volunteer at least two hours during the indoor and outdoor tournaments for every team their children represent.*

PLAYING SEASONS

The local soccer playing season extends year-round, with actual time commitments varying depending upon team preferences. The NSC recognizes the benefits of the young athletes participating in different activities during the long soccer season. The Club's main playing season is the Capital District Youth Soccer League's (CDYSL) outdoor season, which runs from late April through June or early July. Club teams play their home games the Zenner Road NSC soccer complex. Away games would typically be no farther than Gloversville or Glens Falls or Chatham.

During the winter months, teams practice indoors in local school gyms and participate in indoor leagues sponsored at the Charbonneau Recreation Facility in Malta, Afrim's Center City in Schenectady, and a new facility to be opened by Afrim's at the old Colonie Racquet Club (Albany Shaker Rd). If roster space is available, players may join a team after the indoor season.

An new expanded category of registration is an "indoor-only" option for players interested primarily in playing November-April and avoiding possible schedule conflicts with other spring activities. This limited option so far has been available only for boys age groups (typically U10/12) where there is sufficient interest.

Tournaments - Indoor and outdoor tournaments are held throughout the year for different age groups and skill levels, and provide an opportunity to play teams from different areas. Participation by teams is completely voluntary and requires a small fee (typically \$5 - 10 per player). Many tournaments are held at college and university facilities which provide teams an opportunity to travel to new venues, and play in a collegiate atmosphere. Some teams play at multi-day tournaments on weekends which require overnight stay.

NSC Tournaments - The NSC sponsors its own annual tournaments, which is the Club's major fund-raising activity. An indoor tournament is held at Niskayuna High School on two weekends in March, and an annual outdoor tournament is held on two weekends in the spring. NSC is one of the few local clubs that offers separate tournaments for upper and lower divisions to provide equal opportunities for players of all levels.

Extent of Travel - The NSC sponsors soccer teams that travel throughout the greater Capital District area. The frequency and amount of traveling is left up to team coaches' discretion. Many teams just play in local leagues and tournaments. At the other extreme, a few Club teams have participated in tournaments as far south as Florida, as far west as Minnesota, as far north as Canada, and as far east as the New England shore.

TRYOUTS

Team composition is determined through a competitive try-out process in September - October. Tryouts are designed with the intent of establishing teams comprised of players with comparable soccer skills, experience, and abilities. This will maximize learning and playing opportunities for players and establish the basis for equitable playing time. Rosters are expanded and teams added as necessary on an annual basis to accommodate as many qualified and eligible soccer players as possible.

TEAM COSTS

Final costs for each team depend highly upon decisions they make regarding indoor leagues, coaching, instructions, tournaments, and travel. Costs, excluding travel, may be expected to be in the \$200-\$500 range.

NORMS OF CONDUCT

In keeping with the Club's emphasis on sportsmanship, there are certain standards of behavior that we expect all players, coaches, parents, and spectators to follow:

- Show a commitment to your team.
 - Show up to practices and games on time.
 - Let coaches know as early as possible about conflicts. There is nothing more disappointing to a team than having to forfeit a game.
- Allow coaches to coach and players to play
 - With only some reasonable exceptions (e.g., injury concerns), spectators should not be interacting with coaches, players, or referees during the game.