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Your Introduction to Rapids Kickers Competitive Youth Soccer

What Is Competitive Youth Soccer?

Competitive Youth Soccer, a.k.a. Rapids Kickers, is one of three divisions of Rapids Area Soccer, Inc. (RASI). Rapids Recreational Soccer and Wisconsin Rapids Adult Soccer comprise the other two divisions. All operate as not-for-profit divisions.

The Rapids Kickers Club is dedicated to promoting competitive soccer in the Wisconsin Rapids area. This is achieved through a higher level of competition involving league play and various tournaments, with an advanced level of coaching techniques and practice time.

What are the goals of the club?

Our mission is to train, coach and motivate players to become as effective as possible in developing soccer skills, while promoting good sportsmanship.

Is there travel involved?

The Rapids Kickers play games in the Central Wisconsin Soccer League. The league season generally begins in early May and concludes by mid-July, and consists of teams from Marshfield, Stevens Point, Schofield, Wausau, Rhineland, Waupaca and Eagle River. Each team plays 8 to 12 league games. Most games are played on week nights; some games may be scheduled on a weekend during the month of May. Some travel is involved to the various league cities.

In addition, tournament teams participate in three weekend tournaments outside the league. The Board of Directors, with input from coaches and parents, decides on tournaments the club will attend. The club tries to find tournaments within a two hour drive, that can accommodate all club teams. All Rapids Kickers teams (including the U-10 Non-tournament teams) participate in our Rapids Kickers Tournament, held in mid-June.

What team ages are played?

With sufficient numbers there will be coed and girls team brackets at U-10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

What about roster sizes?

With the exception of the U-10 thru U-12 teams, each team can roster up to 22 players. All U-10 rosters are limited to 11 players while U-11 and U-12 are limited to 14 players. This is a mandate of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA). All players must register with their age appropriate team.

Are there tryouts?

If, after registration, the size of a team roster is exceeded, tryouts may be necessary and will be scheduled by the respective coach.

What does U-10, U-11, etc. mean?

A player's age prior to August 1st of the prior year determines the age bracket (s)he plays. The age eligibility chart is as follows:

Age Group	2009 Season (Born Between)
U-18	8/1/90 & 7/31/91
U-17	8/1/91 & 7/31/92
U-16	8/1/92 & 7/31/93
U-15	8/1/93 & 7/31/94
U-14	8/1/94 & 7/31/95
U-13	8/1/95 & 7/31/96
U-12	8/1/96 & 7/31/97
U-11	8/1/97 & 7/31/98
U-10	8/1/98 & 7/31/01

Do all teams attend tournaments?

There are two types of teams: non-tournament and tournament. The U-10 age division has two offerings for parents (tournament and non-tournament). U-10 Non-tournament teams (U10-NT) play games within our league and participate in our June Rapids Kickers Tournament. They are not required to travel to any additional tournaments. If these teams chose to enter any away tournament, they must absorb the expense of that tournament. "NT" teams are not offered at any other age level other than U-10. All tournament teams (U-10 to U-18) play three additional weekend tournaments.

How much does it cost?

The yearly registration fee for a tournament player is approximately \$150; U-10 NT players pay approximately \$90. This registration fee includes: the use of a club uniform, player participant insurance, referee expenses and player registration fees for all club sponsored tournaments. All players are required to purchase uniform socks at a cost of \$8/pair. The socks are theirs to keep. Soccer bags and various club apparel items are available for purchase.

Tournament players will also have additional expenses as a result of tournaments that are attended. This may include: hotel/motel fees, meals, souvenirs, etc. Some families stay at all the tournaments, while others make the daily commute for tournament games.

How often are practices held?

Individual coaches determine when their teams will practice. Indoor practices typically begin in January and are held every other Sunday at the Mid-State Technical College gym. Practices move outdoors as soon as the weather permits. Playing on a competitive team requires a level of commitment. Attendance at practices and games is very important; all players on the team are depending on each player's commitment.

When is registration?

Parents will have an opportunity to register their children at one of three registration sessions. Registration sessions are held during the month of September typically at the MSTC gymnasium or forms can be obtained via our web site and mailed in to the Registrar. All new families to the program should attend an informational meeting held in late September at MSTC (third registration session). Other interested parents may attend if they wish.

A parent/legal guardian must complete registration forms and make the first installment of the player registration fee. The second installment is due by the third Monday in February following registration. The registration installment plans are: 50% for the first installment and the remaining 50% for the second installment. Parents may pay the entire fee at registration.

A small, current, wallet exchange-size photo of the player must be presented at the time of registration. This photo will be used for the player's individual membership card. In addition, new players must also present a certified birth certificate (obtainable from the county Register of Deeds office in which the player was born).

What if a registered player doesn't make a team?

Registered players not rostered to a team will be refunded 100% of the registration fee. If a player's family relocates from the area before the first tournament or if a player experiences a season ending injury before the first tournament game, (s)he will be refunded 75% of the registration fee.

Registration fee hardship?

If payment of the registration fee presents a hardship, a parent/legal guardian can contact the club Registrar (Paul Stoltz, 421-5828) or club Treasurer (Vickie Hess, 423-8378) for an application for the waiver of fees. The registrar or treasurer will notify the Board of Directors of the number of applications, but the identity of the applicants will remain confidential information, known only by these two individuals. This information will not be discussed at any Board meeting.

What is the Rapids Tournament?

The Rapids Kickers host an annual soccer tournament in early June. It is anticipated that over 100 teams will be participating. This is the major fund raising event for our club and many volunteers are needed to make it successful. *Parents of players are expected to work a predetermined number of hours at the Rapids Kickers tournament for each child participating.* There are a variety of tournament volunteer jobs, including: concessions, field marshals (checking in teams before their matches), tournament set-up and preparation, and post tournament clean-up.

Please contact any of the following board members, if further information is desired

Chris Yustus, (President).....	213-3035
Denise Kohl, (Secretary).....	325-3941
Vickie Hess, (Treasurer).....	423-8378
Karen Stashak (Referee Rep.)	424-0746
Karen Baneck, (League Rep.).....	424-2991
Jim Wendels (Coaches Rep.).....	423-3496
Jon Byom (Coaches Rep.).....	423-1910
Barry Gruetzmacher (Fall Soccer)	421-5783
Paul Stoltz (Registrar).....	421-5828
Dena Rank, (Tourn. Rep.).....	424-3973
Allison Smith (Tourn. Rep.).....	424-3117
Rachel Krause (Volunteer Coord).....	325-5308
Mike Mueller, (Member At Large).....	421-0615

Web Site: www.wisrapidsoccer.com