

TRAVELING TEAMS 2017



Welcome to Fairmont Soccer for the Spring Competitive Season!

FSA offers a spring/summer traveling season for player ages 11-18. U11-U18 play in a Classic 3 competitive league administered by the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). More information about MYSA can be found on their website: mnyouthsoccer.org.

For many of you this will be a new experience as you progress in your soccer experience. For our returning parents and players, this is a continuation of the soccer foundation that you have set in past seasons. As you look forward to your season, there are a few reminders that are important for you and your player to have the best experience possible.

REGISTRATION: The following are required before a player will be registered with MYSA. If a player is not registered with MYSA, he/she will not receive a card and cannot practice or play with FSA.

- FSA registration forms- all completed online
- **\$80 fee on January 29th, 2017 ONLY**
- Fee is \$100 1/30 thru 2/4 and \$125 2/5 thru 2/15
- Volunteer form – all sections completed & filled out online
- Small face photo (can be a SMALL school picture, cut from another photo or printed on computer)
- *First year traveling soccer players only:* birth certificate shown to registrar
- \$100 Cash/Check Volunteer Deposit (if you volunteer, you will get your money back at the end of the season, if you do not volunteer, will we keep it.
- No Picture, No Deposit = NO PLAYER CARD

SEASON: For U11-U18 the season runs:

- Mid- April (games may start the week of May 4) through the Summer State Tournament Qualifiers (formerly “Districts” or “League Playoffs”), July 9-13.
- The State tournament is July 23-29 should any team qualify to participate.

DISTRICT: Each team will be placed in either the Southwest or South district by MYSA, depending on the number of teams at that age level in the district. The district includes teams from surrounding areas—for example the southwest district may include New Ulm, Mankato, St. Peter, Waseca, Albert Lea and others; the south district can include any of the above mentioned teams as well as southern or western metro area teams depending on the age bracket and the number of teams at that level. Half of each teams' games will be played in Fairmont. **FSA HAS NO CONTROL OVER DISTRICT PLACEMENT OR TEAM PLACEMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT.**

GAME NIGHTS: Presently we do not know the exact age brackets of the teams we will field. This depends upon on how many players register.

Divisions that play Mon/Wed

Girls: U12, U14, U16

Boys: U11, U13, U15, U17

Divisions that play Tues/Thurs

Girls: U11, U13, U15, U17

Boys: U12, U14, U16

GAMES:

- Our games are scheduled by MYSA for each age team. Depending on the district (southwest or south) each team will play about 10-12 league games.
- Each age level has a different number of players who may suit up for a game. Our teams typically have more players than can be suited up. **Once you have a schedule, please let your coaches know of any games that you cannot attend.** This gives the coach a little bit of breathing room in deciding what players to sit when. ALL players on overrostered teams will sit out games as needed. This is what allows us to let the most players possible compete.

TRANSPORTATION TO GAMES: FSA does not provide transportation to either home or away games. Many families carpool to away games. Coaches are not expected to give rides to players with no transportation. Coaches also do not coordinate rides for players. Teams may select a ride coordinator or hand out rosters with contact info. If you cannot provide a ride for your child, you must arrange a ride with another family ahead of time. It is not acceptable to drop your child at the team meeting place and assume that someone will give them a ride.

For teams with players 16 & up, FSA **strongly recommends** that parents rotate the driving to out of town games instead of having players driving each other. Some away games are 2 hours away and players who have just completed a game may be too tired to safely drive that distance home, especially at night. FSA assumes no liability or responsibility for issues or claims from transportation.

OVERROSTERING: As noted above, players on our teams are often overrostered, and that has a consequence both for the regular season as well as the District and State Tournaments. Players are rostered on a first come, first rostered basis. **If your player is one of the overrostered players, he or she may not be eligible to play in the District or State Tournament.** This is the rule of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). This is not a coach's decision, so please bear this in mind as you sign your player up. Ideally we would have enough players to fill out complete teams, but, unfortunately, we often fall into a grey area and need to utilize the ability to overroster.

PLAYING TIME: One of the most difficult aspects of youth coaching is the balance between quality minutes played for all players and putting the team in the best position to win. All coaches have a mandate to make this a fun and safe experience for all of the players on the team. We also have to take advantage of our limited seasons in Minnesota by developing our players. The challenge for all coaches is to achieve this balance. Please respect the decisions of the coaches with regards to playing time, but also ask what your player, and in some cases you as parent, can do to help your player along.

PRACTICES:

- Your individual team coaches will set practice times.
- Please try to attend practices and let your coach know when you will not be able to be there.
- You should be prepared for practices as you would a game. Cleats, shin guards, socks, and a full water bottle are all expected.
- Please pick up your player on time. Coaches are volunteers and should not be asked to stay beyond the scheduled practice time.

TOURNAMENTS:

- Tournaments will include our own Shakeout Tournament on Saturday, May 20, 2017. This will be a big day, and your Soccer board cannot do it alone. We will need help with Tournament organization, concessions, and help with fields.
- Coaches will also be selecting from many other weekend tournament opportunities available in the region. Each team will be allotted a set amount of money for entry fees from FSA. Most teams attend one tournament other than the Shakeout and State Qualifier. Tournaments provide good competition exposure for the players and are typically fun for the parents as well.
- Our teams will likely play in the Southwest or South District of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. Each district will be assigned a location to play their Summer State Tournament Qualifiers as a jumping board for the State Tournament (July 23-29). The expected dates of the Qualifiers are **July 13-15th**. Please note that we would not expect to play this full week of games, this is simply the time period in which play will occur. Teams can expect two days at most for the qualifier and 2 to 3 days of play for the State Tournament. Note: teams must decide if they will be playing in the State Tournament Qualifier. Committing to the Qualifier means that the team has also committed to the State Tournament, should they qualify. Teams cannot drop from the State Tournament without a fine.

COACHING CONCERNS: During the course of any athletic season frustrations can arise within even the best of teams. If you have a concern as a parent regarding player conduct on your child's team or the conduct of the coach, please address the coach in a straightforward and honest manner. **Have your conversation a day or so after the game.** Please refrain from discussing the matter without the coach, as this will not solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the coach's response, please contact the Director of Coaching. You may reach Dom Maakestad at 507-236-8674 or you can send an e-mail to dominicm@commodityservice.com.

EQUIPMENT: Players need to be properly equipped in order to play effectively and safely.

- All players should wear soccer cleats. At this level of play, athletic shoes are not recommended.
- Shin guards are mandatory and necessary. Please make sure that your player has shin guards that are appropriate for their body size. If your player plans to play jr. high or high school soccer, make sure you are purchasing shin guards that have the NOCSAE stamp on the front of the shin guards.
- Any players that wear glasses must wear a strap/ restraint for their glasses.
- All jewelry must be taken off before play. Referees are not allowed to have sympathy for recently pierced body parts and the risk of "closure".

- If the weather is cold players may wear a layer of compression clothing (i.e. Under Armour) under their uniform. By MYSA rules, compression clothing must be black.
- All players should bring an appropriate sized ball to each practice. Coaches will not have soccer balls for players. U11/U12 –size 4; U13 and up--- size 5

UNIFORMS: Fairmont Soccer traveling players purchase their uniform kits through soccer.com. Numbers are assigned to players by FSA. Players will keep their numbers for the duration of their years playing soccer with FSA. Each kit consists of a red jersey, white jersey, black shorts and 1 pair of red socks (please feel free to buy additional uniform components if you would like). Players are responsible for bringing their uniforms to games, and will not be allowed to play without them. Lost or damaged uniforms must be replaced by the player. Players should bring both jerseys to each game. Additional FSA items are available through www.soccer.com , however, only the uniform essentials, outlined above, are required.

FANS vs. FANATICS: Fairmont Soccer Association, in conjunction with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, participates in a program called Parents and Coaches Together (PACT). Together with the University of Notre Dame this initiative has been created to recognize that sometimes sport does not bring out the best in us. The goal is to recognize through communication, understanding of the game, and philosophy of the sport that we are in this together: as families, players, parents, coaches, refs, and volunteers.

- You should absolutely cheer for your player, but not to the negative impact on those around you or to other players.
- You should give your coaches honest feedback, but not in a threatening or abusive way.
- You should enjoy every moment of your player’s game, but not to the offense of those around you.

It is a fine line between Fans and Fanatics. Please follow a line of conduct that makes you an ambassador of Fairmont, the Fairmont Soccer Association, and your family.

VOLUNTEERS: The Fairmont Soccer Association has prided itself on the investment that families have made for over 25 years in the growth of our sport in Fairmont. Soccer cannot function without efforts of every player’s family in doing their fair share in volunteering for the Association. This comes in many forms including Board members, Coaches, Team Coordinators, Field Maintenance teams (the city does the mowing, we do the lines), fund raiser event coordination and participation, concession workers, ice coordinators, field marshals, tournament medical workers, and gophers.

We cannot put a quality product on the field, or even provide a quality experience, without everyone helping. Without dismissing anyone’s schedule, you will be hard pressed to find any families who have the free time to make volunteering an easy part of their schedule. It is not realistic to expect the “regulars” or even all of the other families and coaches to handle everything. This year we are implementing a \$100 Volunteer deposit to our program. We understand finding extra time to help out is difficult, but we cannot rely on the same families to always be helping out. If you fulfill your volunteer duties, your deposit will be returned to you at the end of the season. (please see Volunteer Deposit form for more details)

WEBSITE: FSA has developed its own website (fairmontsoccer.org) to provide one location for as much soccer information as possible. Check the website frequently for association news, referee schedules and FSA documents. Each team has its own page with space for news, pictures & schedules. One family from each team can be responsible for updating the team page, please volunteer if you are interested. Please consult the website for field locations and driving directions.

IMPORTANT DATES

April – Flower sales

Mid-April – Practices begin (coach determines date)

May 1 – League games can begin

May 12- Flower delivery day/sorting

May 13– Flower Pick-up & Flower Sale Day

*****watch for details & dates to come on camps***

May 20- Fairmont Shakeout Tournament

July - Elite Soccer Camp & HS Team Soccer Camps**

July – Challenger British Soccer Camp**

July 11 – League play must end

July 13-15 – Summer State Tournament Qualifiers

July 23-29 – State Tournament