

# INTERESTED IN PLAYING COMPETITIVE YOUTH SOCCER?



**Your Introduction to  
Rapids Kickers  
Competitive Youth Soccer**



[www.rapidskickers.com](http://www.rapidskickers.com)

## 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 mid-May and concludes by mid-July, and consists of teams from Marshfield, Stevens Point, Schofield, Wausau, Rhinelander, Waupaca and Eagle River. Each team plays 8 to 12 league games. Most games are played on week nights, but some games may be scheduled on a weekend during the month of May. Some travel is involved to the various league cities.

In addition, teams participate in weekend tournaments. The Board of Directors, with input from coaches, decides on tournaments the club will attend. The club tries to find tournaments within a two hour drive that can accommodate all club teams. Additionally, teams participate in our Rapids Kickers Home Tournament.

## What team ages are played?

With sufficient numbers there will be coed and girls team brackets at U-9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

## What about roster sizes?

U-9 & U-10 teams can roster up to 14 players. U-11 & U-12 teams can roster up to 16 players. All U-13 to U-19 rosters can roster up to 22 players but are limited to 18 players on game day. This is a mandate of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA). All players must initially 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 birth year determines the age bracket in which (s)he will play. For example:

Bracket	Birth Year
U-9	2009
U-10	2008
U-11	2007
U-12	2006
U-13	2005
U-14	2004
U-15	2003

### **Do all teams attend tournaments?**

Tentatively, the U-9/10 age division teams play in our Rapids Kickers Tournament as well as one other spring/summer away tournament determined by the coach. Tentatively, all other teams (U-11 to U-18) play in our Rapids Kickers Tournament and one other fall tournament. These levels also will play in three additional away spring/summer weekend tournaments. Tournaments above and beyond those sponsored by the club are additional expenses paid by those families that choose to attend.

### **How much does it cost?**

The 2017-2018 registration fees for a tournament player is \$285.00 for U11-U18 (birth years 2007-2000) and \$200.00 for U-9/10 (birth years 2008-2009). (The exact fee will be posted on our website by May 26, 2017.) This registration fee includes: player participant insurance, referee expenses, player registration fees for league and all club sponsored tournaments, and club fundraiser buyout. All players are required to purchase a team uniform at a cost of approximately \$100. The uniform is theirs to keep. Soccer bags and various club apparel items are also available for purchase.

Players will also have additional expenses resulting from tournaments that are attended. This may include: hotel stays, 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. Fall practices are held outdoors until late October. Indoor practices typically begin in January and are held at a minimum every other Sunday at the Mid-State Technical College gym. Spring 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?**

Registration takes place in June and can be completed on-line at [www.rapidskickers.com](http://www.rapidskickers.com) or in-person registration opportunities in early August. Registration typically closes on August 31st. A registration link can be found on the Kickers home page. If at any point of the on-line process, you have questions, please contact the Registrar at [lisa.kubis@icloud.com](mailto:lisa.kubis@icloud.com) or (715) 424-3496.

The on-line registration requires a photo of your child to be uploaded. This photo will be used for the player's individual player card. In addition, **new players** must also e-mail or a copy of a certified birth certificate (obtainable from the county Register of Deeds office in which the player was born) to the Registrar.

### **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/league game or if a player experiences a season ending injury before the first tournament or league game, (s)he will be refunded 80% of the registration fee. If a player decides not to join a team, the complete registration payment is non-refundable.

### **Registration fee hardship?**

If payment of the registration fee presents a financial hardship, a parent/legal guardian can contact the club Registrar (Lisa Kubis) or club Treasurer (Larrie Hayes) to discuss a partial or full 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.

### **What is the Rapids Tournament?**

The Rapids Kickers will be hosting their 31st annual soccer tournament in October of 2017. It is anticipated that over 50 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.

### **Club Website**

Our club website contains much more information about our club. Visit [www.rapidskickers.com](http://www.rapidskickers.com) Club bylaws and policy manuals are located under Documents.

### **Board Members**

Please contact any of the following board members with further questions:

Ron Rasmussen (President)	608-393-0042
Nate Weidman (Vice President)	715-572-7146
Marcia Bruns (Secretary)	715-572-7577
Larrie Hayes (Treasurer)	715-422-0248
Karen Stashek (Referee Rep.)	715-424-0746
Dan Sullivan (Player Dev.)	715-590-4235
Jason Wardour (Player Dev.)	715-459-7904
Lisa Kubis (Registrar)	715-424-3496
Deb Hagedorn (Volunteer)	
Renee Fischer (Communications)	715-459-4307
Kirk Willard (Coach Dev.)	715-213-7014
Erin Wilson (Tournament)	715-459-2553
Brian Piesek (Fall Soccer)	715-572-4979

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