

Pre-K Division Program Information

Concord Carlisle Youth Soccer promotes sportsmanship, athletic skills, fitness and fun through the game of soccer. The In-town program offers a soccer program played in Concord and Carlisle for boys and girls from Pre-K through grade six. The aim of the Pre-K division is to provide a fun and an instructional introduction to organized sports.

The information listed here should help to familiarize parents with the details for the Pre-K program. It covers:

- **Eligibility**
- **Group Structure**
- **When and Where they play**
- **Season dates, rosters and schedules**
- **What to wear/bring**
- **Cancellations of meeting times**
- **Parents roles – players, coaching, registering**
- **Contact information**

Eligibility: To be eligible to play for our spring season, the child must be entering Kindergarten in the *fall of the current year*. For our fall season, the child must be entering Kindergarten in the *fall of the following year*.

Group Structure: Pre-K is divided into four groups based upon the school that the Pre-K player **will attend** for Kindergarten. If your child attends a private school not listed in our groups, he/she is placed in the school district in which they live. The four groups are:

1. Alcott/Nashoba Brooks
2. Carlisle
3. Thoreau
4. Willard

What Activities Do The Children Do? The main idea is to have fun with a soccer ball, some friends, and an adult leader. At each location, there will be roughly 25 children and 6 parent-leaders who have volunteered to lead activities. Typically the sessions start with everyone in a big circle, doing things with a ball, directed by one or several of the parent leaders. Then, we divide the large circle into groups of 4 – 6 children for small group activities; each group is led by a parent leader. The activities are typically games like Pac-Man or Sharks-and-Minnows – easy games the kids can understand and have fun playing, through which they develop a sense of "me and a ball" and have fun. At many sessions, we'll set up a small-sided field for the kids to play a short game with Pugg goals, 3 vs. 3 or 4 vs. 4. It's very low key.

When and where they play: The Pre-K division meets on Saturdays for 45 minutes and plays every week at the fields of the schools (as noted above) or at a designated field. Field playing times are determined prior to the season start and posted to the In-Town page of the website. Rosters are released just prior to the season start and can be accessed through our website from the Team Assignment page using the email address and password assigned during registration.

What to Wear/Bring: Shin guards are mandatory. The Shin guards are worn next to the skin with soccer socks pulled over the guards and turned down. Other clothing (not mandatory): Reversible blue and white soccer shirts which are available to purchase for \$20 when registering. These shirts are worn from season to season. Soccer shorts, socks and cleats can be purchased at local sports stores in Concord or Acton.

Other things needed: Children should bring a water bottle marked with their name each week. Cut-up oranges make a good snack during "half time." Occasionally parents volunteer to bring oranges for the group.

Meeting time cancellations: Sometimes due to inclement weather or dangerous playing conditions, the team meetings are cancelled. Club-wide cancellations are posted on the CCYS website by 7:30 a.m. on the morning of "game" day. Also, all registered coaches are emailed in the event of a club-wide or division-wide cancellation. Check your email and/or our website each week for updates before heading to the field.

Parent's role in the season:

Supporting your players - The Parents' role in this young age-group is critical. Please come to the field each week with your child dressed, water bottle in hand and on-time and energized to play! We also ask that all parents remain at the field during the entire playing time. If your child needs you by his or her side for a while to get comfortable with the group, that's fine. Join the circle and play. Our experience is that, within a week or so, the children all comfortably merge together and don't need as much reassurance.

Volunteering: Each season, we ask for parents to volunteer to coach, assistant coach, be a team manager or help with other administrative functions. Our program cannot be successful without the large numbers of parent volunteers. The Pre-K program is staffed by:

1. **Head coach** who coordinates coaching for the group that the player is assigned as in one of the four groups as noted in "Group Structure" above. He/she makes sure the equipment arrives prior to start time and that there are enough coaches to cover the smaller sub-groups of players within the larger school-based group. He/she also acts as a liaison to the Pre-K age group director conveying information from or to the club to the parents and other coaches.
2. **Assistant coach** who coaches a sub-group of 5-6 players within the school's group. Depending on the size on the school's group of players, there could be 3-4 subgroups per school. Coaching includes ball skill development through games (see What Activities Do the Children Do above), possible scrimmages and equipment set up and breakdown and equipment and parent interaction.
3. **Team managers** usually help coordinate a snack schedule and any other tasks to assist coaches.

There are no formal "teams" or "games" for this age-group. Rather, coaches work with the players using ball skills learned during coach clinics and/or set up by the CCYS coaching team. Sometimes at the end of the meeting time and towards the end of the season, there maybe a small scrimmage to help players apply what they have learned.

If you would like to coach and want more information, please contact the Pre-K age group director listed on the In-Town page of our website. All coaches are supported by CCYS and offered training to get started. If you wish, a mentor can be assigned to assist you in building your coaching skills. Please contact our director, Nick Miller at nickmiller@aol.com for further assistance.

How to register: In order to become a coach, assistance coach or other regular volunteer participant, you need to register with us each season. This can be done through our on-line registration system from the registration screen of our website at www.ccysoccer.org . Coaches who have not yet coached with us also must register with our parent organization, Mass Youth Soccer (MYSO) on their website at:

https://www.mayouthsoccer.org/pages/1266_cori_kidsafe_form.cfm.

Contacts: If you need further information you may contact the pre-K age group director or email the In-Town administrator at nancydiromsoccer@comcast.net . Our website address is www.ccysoccer.org .