



NEW CANAAN RECREATION **DEPARTMENT YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The New Canaan Parks and Recreation Youth Soccer Program is offered as an opportunity for New Canaan residents in grades 1 through 8 to enjoy wholesome recreation. Fun, sportsmanship, and skill development are the main purposes of the league and should be the main objective of each player, coach, referee, and parent. Winning and competing are secondary to safety and enjoyment.

TEAMS – Each season, players are assigned to teams at the discretion of the Parks and Rec. Department. Team sizes are limited. Teams will be divided on equal number of players, request to be in same team are ok but players will be assigned in order of when they register.

COACHES – Volunteer coaches are identified on each team. Each coach is responsible for administering the program as defined by the Parks and Recreation Department.

EQUIPMENT – It is recommended that every player bring their own ball to each practice to maximize the sessions. Grades 1-2 use Size 3. Grades 3-8 use Size 5.

New Canaan Recreation does not provide or make available shin guards, pinnies or cones. New Canaan Recreation WILL provide a shirt for each player.

GAME SCHEDULE – All games are played on Saturdays at Waveny Park.

GAME CANCELLATIONS – Games are played as planned unless canceled by the League Director. Game cancellations due to inclement weather will be emailed to you prior to the games. We will do our best to reschedule the game but not guaranteed.

PRACTICES – Each team will be given one 1 hour practice time per week. Teams may obtain additional practice time, but no team may exceed 2 hours of practice per week. Coaches will determine if they want extra practice.

PRACTICE CANCELLATIONS – Field cancellations will be posted on the Parks and Recreation Department website.

REFEREES – The Recreation Program games are staffed by Recreation trained referees. Each is familiar with our program's philosophy and the game. Their job is to provide enthusiastic supervision each week and help the kids learn! Our referees are not traditional officials. We encourage them to interact positively with the kids during games to facilitate safe, developmental play.

SITE DIRECTORS – Each game will have a site director who is in charge of the referees, keeping games on schedule, along with any other situations that may occur during a game. If there is a problem at the field the site director is the first person you need to speak with. Each site director knows our philosophy about Rec. soccer and is there to assist players, coaches and fans in any way possible.

AFTER THE GAME – Coaches and players are responsible for cleaning up the area around their bench. Please do not leave any litter on the fields.

YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

The team coach will be responsible for allowing **only official rostered players of the team** to participate in scheduled games. A player may register and play for only one team each season. Official rosters will be given to each coach. Coaches may not add or switch players without the knowledge and consent of the League Director.

2. While games are in progress only the official coach, up to (2) assistants and the officially rostered players from both teams will be allowed on one side of the field. All others will be considered spectators and must stand on the opposite side of the field. Coaches and parents will NOT be allowed to stand or coach from the goal line (the end line). Please help our referees enforce this policy.

3. Every player attending the game **must play at least one half of the game** unless he/she is injured.

4. All players **MUST** wear the official league shirt. The recreation office will pass these out prior to the first game of the season.

5. Players may not wear anything that could cause injury to themselves or another player. All jewelry and earrings must be removed before playing. Metal cleats are not permitted. The referee will have the final authority to decide what is dangerous.

6. The referee has complete authority over the conduct of the game. He/she will enforce the rules to the best of his/her ability. Their decision regarding any play during the game is final. The referee is responsible for keeping the official time. If there is a problem with Coaches, players, or parents acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, he or she will be given an official warning by the site director and the incident will then be reported to the League Director. The League Director has the authority to take action, including suspension, of any person involved in any incident with the referees.

7. The coaches in the older age divisions should be prepared to provide one linesman for the games if the referees request assistance. The linesman's only responsibilities are to signal when the ball is **completely** over the line of play and to indicate which team takes the resulting throw in.

8. The home team takes the kickoff to begin the game. The visiting team selects which goal to defend in grades 3 and older. Goal selection should be made prior to the starting time.

9. Coaches and players must be prepared to start games on time. Every game must conclude by the scheduled starting time of the next game. Referees will not allow games to run beyond the scheduled time.

***** The "off sides" rule is only used in 5th grade and above.**

10. Penalty kicks are taken from 12 yards in front of the goal.

11. No trophies or awards are presented to Recreation players by parents, coaches or any outside organization.

ROSTERS - All players must be registered through the Parks and Recreation Department and placed on the official roster.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

- Make participation in soccer a positive experience.
- Relieve the pressure of competition, don't increase it.
- Applaud good plays by your team members and their opponents.
- Remember, the opponents are necessary friends; without them, your team cannot play.
- Don't openly question the official's calls or honesty. The officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.