



BERLIN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021

Welcome to the BYSA Fall 2021 season. Following is some key information concerning the League and a summary of some of the more significant 2021 events. If you have questions at any time, now or during the year, contact your child's coach or any league official.

Coaches

As in any organization, we depend completely on volunteer parent/coaches and assistants. If you are interested in helping, learning more about soccer, getting some exercise and having fun with your child, contact the League. It takes your involvement to make the League a success.

As added protection for your children, BYSA, in conjunction with CT Junior Soccer, will require each coach and assistant coach to pass a background check and complete Safesport training (national abuse prevention training program) prior to being approved by our league.

Eligibility/Format

The league consists of four divisions: (Age groups are calculated based on the player's age as of 12/31/2021)

MiniKicker Division – Ages 4 and 5.

Nutmeg Division – Ages 6 and 7.

Junior Division – Ages 8 through 10.

Senior Division – Ages 11 through 15 (If numbers allow, teams will be split in U12 and U15)

Travel Division – State registered teams and leagues (Ages groups are posted in our travel section)

With the exception of our MiniKicker Division, each division will have independent girls' and boys' section. If there are a small number of teams (3-4) in any section, those teams may travel to nearby towns, (e.g. Newington, Wethersfield) to play recreational teams. They are NOT 'travel' teams from a competitive standpoint.

MiniKicker and Nutmeg Division

The emphasis will be on personal and skill development with small-sided games a part of each session. We are fortunate to have Leszek Wrona Soccer Academy organize and run our program. For information on this division, please contact a BYSA official.

Registration

The BYSA registration is \$93 for MiniKickers and Nutmeg, \$98 for Junior, Senior and Travel divisions. All BYSA registrations must be entered online at www.bysa.org. Payment options will include online credit card and ACH as well as the option to pay by check. Please note that your child is not officially registered until payment is received.

Late registrations will include an additional late fee and be on an as space available basis.

Registration Fee Refund

Withdrawals on or after July 1 will be accepted with 50% of the registration fee being returned. Withdrawals on or after August 1 will be accepted, but no portion of the registration will be returned. All refunds will be subject to a \$20 administrative charge. Late fees are not subject to return with any withdrawal, and the parents will be responsible for all items that may have been distributed such as uniforms, etc.

Insurance

A portion of children's registration fee goes toward their registration with Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA). This registration provides the league and your child with liability and secondary medical coverage to meet the requirements of the town of Berlin.

Health & Safety

Soccer is a strenuous sport. If your youngster has any problems, either emotional or physical, let the coach know. It can eliminate much of the hazard and frustration to establish this communication. Each team is equipped with a first aid kit. If you have medical or first aid experience, let the coach know, in case the need arises. . .

Please note that players will not be allowed to wear jewelry during our games (taping the jewelry is not an acceptable alternative). This is an international (and CT) rule for the safety of the players.

Concussions have become an increasing concern for our athletes and their parents. Sharing this concern, BYSA is providing concussion information with each registration email. In addition, our web site references the CDC concussion information site, which contains information relating to identifying and treating concussions (view Parents tab). We urge our parents and players to review and understand as much information on this important topic as possible.

Team Pictures

We will be contracting with a photographer to provide team and individual pictures later in the season. The cost of the picture will be determined at that time and we will be informing you of the arrangements for ordering and payment schedules for pictures of your son or daughter, if you so desire.

Soccer Weekend

Our annual Soccer weekend is scheduled for early September at Sage Park. While games may be played prior to that date, it is the official kick-off of our season. Games are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday afternoon, with up to 4 games taking place simultaneously. Almost every team will be playing. The concession stand will be operating.

Equipment

The League provides uniforms consisting of shirts, shorts, and socks, which will become the property of the player and are to be worn at each game. The league will provide T shirts for the Nutmeg division. Shin guards are mandatory and, along with other protective equipment, is the responsibility of the player. Returning players will not be issued new socks. Hard-soled shoes are not permitted. Sneakers or rubber/plastic cleats are both acceptable. Cleats are recommended but not required.

Division Supervisors

If you have any questions relating to soccer activities, please contact the appropriate division supervisor. Their names and contact information are located on our web site (www.bysa.org), click on either 'Information>>>BYSA Officers' or 'Registration>>>Info on BYSA Divisions'.

League Information

We have several means for distributing league information. For general information, we are also sponsoring an Internet site (<http://www.bysa.org>) with club information (such as team rosters) as well as a Facebook page. Group emails are used by our division supervisor for general announcements. Email addresses are obtained from our registration system, so it is important for you to verify that the email information in system is current. Each of our teams also uses a mobile app, Team Connect from Stack Sports, to provide your child's roster, schedule, and make general team announcements. If you have family members interested in this information, please contact your coach and have them added to the Team Connect product. And remember you can always contact our division supervisors or your team's coach.