**Whitmore Lake Community Recreation**

**2023 Fall Soccer League**

**Parent Welcome Packet**

*Dear Parent,*

*The Recreation Staff welcomes you and your children as participants in our youth soccer program. In hopes that you better understand our program, policies and purpose, the following information has been prepared for you. Our objective is to make sure that every child, no matter the skill level, has a positive and fulfilling experience in this league. In our league, if you participate... you win. THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE****.*** *As such, our recreation program follows certain guidelines to ensure this philosophy is fostered:*

*•* ***No Tryouts or Cuts***

*•* ***Equal playing time for each participant***

*Soccer is a sport that will develop strong bodies and help build self-esteem. It can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. We encourage you to get involved whether it’s coaching or just being a team parent. Thanks for being part of our community recreation program!*

*\*This information is in regards to the soccer league. For any and all questions, reach me at: kevin.lamont@wlps.net or 734-449-4461 x3062*

**FAQS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**WHEN WILL MY FIRST PRACTICE BE?** Teams will have 3 practices (September 12th, 14th, and 19th) before playing their first game on September 21st.

**WHEN WILL I HEAR FROM MY COACH?** You will find out who is your coach following the coaches meeting on September 7th at 6:00pm in the WLCR Main Office.

**WHEN DO GAMES START?** Games start Thursday, September 21st at 6:00pm

**WHERE WILL THE PRACTICES AND GAMES BE HELD?** Practices and games are held at the Middle School’s soccer fields in Whitmore Lake at 8845 Main Street.

**WHEN WILL MY CHILD GET HER/HIS TEAM SHIRTS?** A jersey/shirt will be provided by the final practice before games start on September 19th. ***A player will not receive a jersey until all registration fees are paid***.

**AGES & DIVISIONS** Our league is open to male and female players ages 4-9. Divisions for our soccer league are determined by a player’s grade. League is divided into Tiny Trojans, Grades Pre-K-1, and 2-3rd grades.

**TEAM FORMATION** In an effort to balance our recreational teams, team formation will be based on gender, height, and age. WL Recreation will attempt to honor requests for teams. We will not guarantee placement on a specific team or with a specific coach. Our belief is that teams need to be formed for the benefit of all players; for this reason, we may often need to refuse special requests that limit our ability to balance teams. We believe that no matter what team a child is placed on, he or she will have an opportunity to play in a fun and positive environment.

**UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT** A player must wear her/his jersey for all games and shin guards are strongly recommended. In addition, for practice and games, we recommend each player bring their own water bottle, rain/cold gear, any first aid needs and soccer shoes (no metal cleats).

**GAME SCHEDULES** Game schedules will be e-mailed to the address provided on your registration. All games are to start at 6pm on Thursdays. It is essential that players are ready to begin the games at 6 p.m.

**Make-up games** canceled for inclement weather will be held the following Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

**COACHES** All Whitmore Lake volunteers attend a training session discussing effective coaching, program goals, and skill development. They are individuals who take their personal time to instruct and coach your child. Without their efforts, this program would not be possible.

**Coaches are needed!** The only way we can guarantee that each child will have a team is if parents volunteer to coach. Even if you cannot be the “head” coach, please consider becoming an assistant coach, referee or team parent. It is imperative to have at least two adults participating with each team. Please contact WLCR if you are interested in coaching or referring for any of our leagues. No experience is necessary – we will train you.

**A coach meeting will be held on September 7th at 6:00 p.m. at WLCR Main Office. All interested in coaching MUST attend. If you can not attend please contact Kevin LaMont (****kevin.lamont@wlps.net****) ASAP**

As a thank you for volunteering his or her time, head coaches receive a 50% refund of registration fees and a coach t-shirt.

**WLCR is dedicated to providing players with a safe recreational environment. We currently use the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) to screen our coaches.** A background screening through NCSI is mandatory for all volunteers and independent contractors over the age of 16 who work with participants under the age of 19. Volunteers are not authorized to coach, serve, or work with children until a background screen has been processed and approved by WLPS. All information will be confidential and not discussed outside of the process.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** If there is inclement weather on a game day, the game will be called by 4 p.m. the day of the game. In the event Thursday games are canceled due to weather, WLCR office will send out email notifications by 4 p.m. **If you do not provide us with an e-mail address, please call our office for more information if you are concerned with the weather.** Coaches will do their best to notify their players as well. Lightning during a game: We will wait a 1⁄2 hour after a lightning strike before we restart a game. Tiny Trojan classes will be made up on Thursdays at the normal scheduled time. Games will be made up the following **Tuesday at 6pm**

Coaches reserve the right to cancel practices due to inclement weather. Please call your child’s coach if you are unsure as to whether a practice will be held.

**CONCUSSION AWARENESS** The state of Michigan has passed a new law June 2013 requiring any entity organizing youth sport activities to have staff, coaches, parents and players participate in their concussion education program. All WLPS students already have these on file with the district. IF YOU ARE NOT A WLPS STUDENT you are required to submit an athlete/parent concussion information sheet signed. These sheets need to be filled out only once for WLCR, and WLCR is required to keep them on file until the athlete turns 18. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**REFUND POLICY** Refunds of registration fees will only be given prior to the start of practices and/or games less a $15 processing fee and any costs that have already been incurred. ***There will be no refunds after practices and games have started.***

**CODE OF CONDUCTS Sideline Behavior/Parent’s Code of Conduct** WL Recreation seeks to instill positive character-building traits in our communities’ youth through the demonstration of

good sportsmanship, respect for others, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. We ask that parents and their guests attending our events help us by reflecting these character traits at games. When attending our events, I therefore agree:

• I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.

• I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

• I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

• I will teach my child to play by the spirit of the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

• I will never ridicule or yell at my child or any other participant for making a mistake.

• I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or referees at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place at least 24 hours after the game.

• I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures.

• I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.

• I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

• Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or member of league organization

• Written warning

• Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident

• Potential impact to my son/daughter(s) playing time or team membership

**Athletes’ Code of Conduct** It is the view of WL Community Recreation that hard work, good sportsmanship and respect for others are key aspects of a successful competitive athlete. In this spirit, I recognize that I must conduct myself, both on and off the field, in a way that demonstrates respect for my coach, team, others, and me. I therefore resolve to:

• Accept accountability for my behavior and its outcomes, and recognize that poor behavior may result in dismissal from the team.

• Honor my obligations and promises to my coach and my team.

• Exercise self-control.

• Take pride in my team, our accomplishments, and myself but never at the expense of demeaning another person or group.

• Respect the efforts of others.

• Respect authority.

• Play by the spirit, not just the letter, of the rules of the game and the rules of life.

**Dates to Remember**

**Coaches Meeting September 7th @ 6:00 WLCR Office**

**Early Registration Ends August 22**

**Grades Pre K-1st & 2-3 Practice begins September 12th @ 6:00pm**

 **Tiny Trojans Begin September 12th @ 6:00 First Game September 21st @ 6PM**

 **Last Game October 19th, WLMS Soccer Fields 6 PM**

*Thanks for choosing WL Community Recreation! Here’s to a great season!*

