**Welcome to the 2021 Recreational Soccer Season!!!!**

First off, thank you for volunteering to coach. Without you, the season wouldn’t exist. BGYSA is an all-volunteer organization so it is really your club. The more we all put in, the more we all can benefit.

**At this time, there are no covid requirements in place**. That could change at any time. BGYSA would be required to follow state guidelines at that time. With the rise in COVID cases, please use your best judgement and be considerate of others regardless of your personal stance.

**Online training**: Coaches need to complete SafeSport, pass a BCI, and complete a Concussion course. They are all available under your Gotsport account. It is important that you use the same email to register for everything to get it to show up as completed. system.gotsport.com

**Referees**: Referees are a precious commodity. The recreational season is used as a way to get refs involved and a great chance for them to learn. **They will make mistakes and miss plays**. If you have an issue with a particular ref or perhaps want to praise one please, contact Dave Bessette, our Ref Director (referees@bgysa.org). DO NOT approach them with criticism. **WE WILL NOT tolerate referees being yelled at by parents, coaches, or players, people violating this will be issued a warning but if the behavior continues they will be asked to leave the facility.** Every parent that has filled out a registration to play or coach has already agreed to this rule. Our Refs are learning and need to be treated with respect. More importantly they are kids. Most likely, not your kids. Please remind everyone of this. Those with children in u7-u8 please know these are our youngest newest refs please allow them to make learn and develop. How angry would you be if some random adult was berating your child over a minor missed call?

**Practices**: You can have as many practices as you want. They must all be at the BGYSA facility and can be held as long as the fields are safe to use. Please use the link we provide to sign up just so we can know what is happening. For those of you who want it, I will list some resources at the bottom of this email with lessons and drills. If you need more please reach out to me. I have been coaching for a while and I prefer to have a fun game going when players arrive. I often use a Rondo. It can be easily modified to allow more children, gives them something to do, and allows you time to set up. It doesn’t have to be a rondo but any simple game they can play will work. I then transition to basic skills. I build up the complexity of my drills until we have small sided games, and or perhaps a scrimmage if conditions allow. It is important to work with everyone on all skills such as defense, offense, and keeper. All players should have proper attire for practice and games. Sneakers or soccer cleats, (no other sports cleats), shin guards, and no jewelry (including watches or bracelets). Required items like medical ID should be held firmly by a sweat band or similar item. If a player has a cast on their arms, it might be wrapped in bubble/protective wrap to participate.

**Team Meeting**: You should have a team meeting,

1. You should identify yourself and give out your contact information.
2. Request updated contact information from parents/adult care givers. Many parents have several people assisting them and should be included in team contact.
3. You should discuss how you plan to communicate to the team whether it be via text or email. Include what days you anticipate practice to be on. Obviously weather will be a factor so make it clear when and how you plan to cancel practice.
4. I would also suggest a weekly communication Thursday or Friday reminding families of game time.
5. I usually ask parents to inform me of any medical issues that may affect their child that I should be aware of (asthma, food allergies, ect.)
6. Even though Covid is less notable, please ask parents to keep players home who are sick or quarantined.
7. Please inform parents regarding not speaking negatively to our referees at this time.

**Game play**: This is a recreational season and we encourage spirited play. We want the kids to try their hardest, but it is also a developmental soccer season. Playing time should be distributed evenly among players. Your more skilled players and your developing players need to play the same amount of time. You should also have players rotate through all positions; it is a time for that kid to play defense that usually plays forward and vice-versa. They may surprise themselves and you. You should especially encourage players to try keeper. Soccer can always use more keepers!! The recreational season is about coaching to develop skills in all players first and foremost.

**Player Practice and Game Pick-up**: You are responsible to make sure all players are picked up by parents before leaving the facility. I suggest that you ask any parent that plans to leave the facility to let you know so you are particularly aware of that child. You need to make sure they all find their adult before leaving. Please know that an adult coach must be present during practice especially at the completion.

**Fields**: The gate key is kept in a lock box behind the BGYSA sign off rt 44 the code is 1407. **Please put the key back immediately after unlocking the gate**. Do NOT keep it with you. We work hard and spend a lot of money on field upkeep. Wet weather and overuse are a constant issue. We reserve the right to close the entire facility or parts if conditions mandate. If the fields are damp please try to minimize using the nets and PK marker and keep off obviously wet areas as they are often destroyed during wet practices.

**Field Painting**: The fields need to be painted weekly. A schedule will be created assigning each team a field area to paint. You probably won’t have to do it weekly. It may not be your field of play but it needs to be copleted by Thursday or Friday every week or we will lose the field's shape and design. If anyone wants to do more please LET ME KNOW.

**Gear**: There are spared balls, cones, spring nets and more in the shed off the large field. **This equipment should be shared, and returned when practice is over**. Please don’t leave it out for us to pick up. There are a few practice nets. They are slightly larger than the U8 nets and more stable. They can be moved for practice purposes and should be moved back off the fields after practice. Like equipment, please don’t just leave them there. **NONE of the larger U10-U15 nets that aren’t currently staked on the fields should be used.** They can fall on players and badly injure them due to the weight. Un-fixed nets are responsible for severe injury and death every year. **PLEASE DO NOT USE UNSTAKED U10-U15 NETS FOR PRACTICE**. Again, **only practice nets can be moved**. If you have questions on the difference, please let us know.

Practice sign up

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oeZzNFC0-gNnEsnIOz-MZxIGtNXe-V4bhzG6ND38LRQ/edit?usp=sharing>