



Clover Parks and Recreation

Recreation Soccer Program

Parent Handbook

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Contact List

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Welcome to Clover Parks and Recreation Department's (CPRD) Soccer Program. We want to thank you for registering for the Recreation Soccer Program. The soccer program has been the flagship of Clover Parks and Recreation for a few years now. It carries a high reputation and it starts with our volunteer coaches and soccer families in the program. It can seem overwhelming to start with, but we are here to help make an enjoyable experience for you as well as the players of all ages and skill levels. What the player experiences this season will be based on what they remember about their team, coach, and family. We need your help to make this season enjoyable and successful for your player!

### **How does the Clover Parks and Recreation Soccer Program work?**

1. All teams will be assigned a volunteer coach. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as all of the coaches in the recreation soccer program are parents of players in the program. Please contact recreation staff if you are interested in coaching.
2. Competitive league teams are formed through a draft/evaluation process. Organized by CPRD staff. Previous season players can choose to draft or return to their team as long as they stay in the same age group. Non-competitive league teams are formed by school zone. Players should know a few other players on their respective teams (see youth athletics draft procedures for more information).
3. Once the draft/evaluation is complete, teams will begin practices. Teams will aim to practice twice per week (weather permitting/space permitting) for ages U6 through U12. One practice during the week and one practice on Saturday. U4 teams will only practice on Saturdays.
4. Teams will receive 6-10 games depending on the age group and how many teams are in the age group. Games are held on Saturdays depending on the number of games for the season, games could also be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
5. Post-season tournament games will be held immediately follow the conclusion of the regular season for U10 and U12 ages.

### **Parent Things to Remember**

1. Sideline actions carry more weight than you might think.
  - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1OGqF5Eo1k>
  - b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZDZiFRN590>
2. Parent support is more important than any coaching advise you could give your player.
  - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpV89-41UL0&feature=youtu.be>
3. Be careful of how you handle the car ride home, often this is an emotional time for players.
  - a. <https://youtu.be/-0e8zvvY-x8>

### **Clover Parks and Recreation Expectations of Soccer Program Families**

1. All families should know, understand, and abide by the CPRD Code of Conduct.
2. All families should know and understand the rules of the respective age group.
3. All families should know and understand the key qualities, player actions, and player behaviors of the respective age group (as described in the Player Development Framework).
4. All families maintain direct communication with head coach or team manager.
5. All families should remember this is a program and not team vs team. Wins and losses should not be a focus point. Player development is overall goal.
6. All families should help instill a fun developmental environment during practices and games.

## Code of Conduct Summary

### Player Expectations:

- Players are expected to attend all practices
- Players are expected to arrive on time
- Players are expected to be responsible
  - Picking up and packing up equipment, cleaning up trash after practice
- Players are expected to be respectful
  - Towards coaches, teams, teammates, and parents
- Players are expected to show a strong work ethic and attentiveness
- Players are expected to be coachable
- Players are expected to HAVE FUN!

### Players should NEVER:

- Engage in negative conversation with or about other players
- Engage in public criticism of the game officials
- Engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior

### Parent Expectations:

- Parents are expected to adhere to parent code of conduct
- Parents are expected to promote a fun, developmental environment
- Parents are expected to cheer not jeer

### Parent should NEVER:

- Engage in public criticism of the game officials
- Engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior
- Confront coaches, staff, referees or opponents directly after a match
- Engage in verbal or non-verbal coaching during a game or practice
- Engage in negative conversation with or about other players or families.

## Player Development Initiative Summary

US Soccer has created a standard player development platform for all clubs across the country to sustain player growth from a recreation, grassroots level to a club, academy, and professional level. Player Development Initiative philosophy places the focus of youth soccer on the individual development of players. PDIs aim to create the best possible environment for youth players to grow and develop their soccer abilities.

### [US Soccer Player Development Initiatives](#)

The actions below are broken down per age group. These are the skills and actions which players, families, and coaches should be focusing on and tracking for development.

- U4 Soccer/U6 Soccer
  - Attacking actions:
    - Shoot

- Pass or Dribble Forward
  - Defending actions:
    - Protect the goal
    - Steal the ball
  - Player/Coach interactions:
    - Small things matter to the players, appreciate them even if you don't.
    - Use routines to manage practices and games
- U8 Soccer
  - Attacking actions:
    - Spread out
    - Create passing options
    - Support the attack
    - All U4/U6 player actions
  - Defending actions:
    - Make it compact
    - Keep it compact
    - All U4/U6 player actions
  - Player/Coach interactions:
    - Live in the moment, short memory, focus on present actions
    - Short attention span, keep exercises short
- U10 Soccer
  - Attacking actions:
    - Create 2v1 or 1v1
    - Change the point of attack
    - All U4/U6/U8 player actions
  - Defending actions:
    - Pressure, Cover, Balance
    - Outnumber the opponent
    - All U4/U6/U8 player actions
  - Player/Coach interactions:
    - Competitiveness, encourage winning but be humble and fair
    - Wants to know why, guide them to the answers
    - Positive reinforcement, give plenty of praise
- U12 Soccer
  - Attacking actions:
    - Change the pace/rhythm
    - Switch positions
    - All U4/U6/U8/U10 player actions
  - Defending actions:
    - Stay involved
    - Mark the player/mark the area
    - All U4/U6/U8/U10 player actions
  - Player/Coach interactions:
    - Ready and eager to learn, come to training prepared

- Willing to try more complex things, encourage creativity
- Likes to organize themselves with the coach, support being independent guide them the correct way

### **Game Day**

- Families should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time for warm up and field location.
- Families should focus on player actions specified by the age group qualities.
- Families SHOULD NOT argue with officials or coaches.
- Families SHOULD NOT engage in actions detrimental to the program. (YELLING/SCREAMING)
- Families should remember players, coaches and parents feed off a parent's energy whether positive or negative, IT MATTERS!
- Families SHOULD NOT confront coaches, referees, or staff directly following a game. This is a time of emotional distress (for some, not all), take time to sit down and analyze the situations. Players, coaches, referees, parents and staff are all human, mistakes are going to happen, calls are going to be missed, you are probably going to feel wronged by the decision. Ultimately, one referee's call, one player's decision is not going to make or break a game.
- Families should make sure the sideline area is clean before leaving the field.

### **How do I become a coach for Clover Parks and Recreation Department's Soccer Program?**

1. Complete Coach Application (Information Sheet, Code of Conduct, Background Check)
2. Complete NFHS Concussion Safety Course (Certificate of completion must be email to Parks and Recreation Staff)
3. Complete US Soccer Grassroots Soccer License (Certificate of completion must be email to Parks and Recreation Staff)
4. Attend Pre-Season Coaches Meeting (Make sure you sign in)
5. Select team color, team name, and a preferred practice day
6. Receive equipment bag on first practice day
7. Return equipment bag at the conclusion of the season

### **Coaching Certifications**

- US Soccer
  - Introduction to Grassroots Coaching (FREE)
    - <https://dcc.ussoccer.com/>
  - Other online coaching courses available