



WARREN COUNTY YMCA FALL 2024 PreK-1st Grade Rookies Soccer Parent's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2024 Rookies Fall Soccer at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you so much for signing your youth up for our program! I am excited to return to the field this Fall and teach your youth the "fun"amentals of the most popular sport in the world, soccer! We will be teaching the basics to the kids including proper kicking/shooting skills, how to dribble the ball while walking & running, where and when to use hands, throw-ins, shooting, etc., and will combine these skills into fun games and activities to help make the learning process as fun and engaging as possible.

During the 7-week session for the K-1st Grade group, after the first 3 weeks are completed, we will add team skill activities including small scrimmages (short soccer games) for 20-25 minutes to finish each day. This will help your player fine tune skills while working with team-mates in order to try and score against another team, which helps prepare them for the 2nd-3rd grade soccer league when they get older. My goal is that your player, beginner or not, has fun, learns new skills, makes some friends, and develops an excitement for soccer and will want to play again in our leagues in a year or 2.

Program Dates/Starting Times – This program will meet at the following times and dates:

Mondays – 9/9, 9/16, 9/23*, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21

Times – PreK Group – 4:30-5:20pm & K-1st Grade Group – 5:30-6:30pm

Make-Up Dates – I will have at least 1 planned make-up date available if needed (10/28). I will always try to have soccer no matter what. However, it is Fall in Illinois, which means 1 week, it could be 90 degrees and sunny/humid, then the following week it's 45 degrees and rainy. I will only cancel if I deem the weather dangerous (looming thunderstorms/severe weather or weather warnings, extreme heavy rains, severe cold, freezing rain/snow mix, blustery wind etc.). Plan on there being soccer unless you hear from me! If I don't message you, consider soccer ON! Please don't bombard the YMCA with calls as I will let you know!

Picture Day* – The asterisk on Monday, September 23rd (Week 3) means that it is Picture Day! We will hand out picture forms the prior week as a reminder. Shyvel's Photography is returning again this year to take our team and individual pictures. Thank you, Shyvel!

Communication – I (Coach Ben) will send messages out as needed during the program. These messages could be reminders, changes to the program schedule, cancellations, etc. These will either come from myself personally, or from Daxko Engage (our messaging system at the Y). Engage has the ability for me to send out mass text messages to program participants and makes it a lot easier for me to reach out to the whole group. I strongly ask that you “opt in” to receive messages from Daxko Engage as it helps me immensely get info to you much quicker than adding each person’s phone number into my phone. To “opt in”, text WCYMCA to 54539. There is no charge to do this. If you choose not to, that is fine, but if I send out a cancellation message for example, and you did not opt in to get messages, you will not see it. This will be important for quick communication for our programs and more moving forward at the Y! You can “opt out” at any time.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child’s team/group, the cost for the soccer season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs for the youth sports department. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of your child’s team/group shirts as well as on any game schedules. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork by Friday, March 29th, prior to when I order shirts. As a thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence this for the remainder of outdoor sports in 2024.

Thank you so much for reading this letter. I hope you and your child enjoy our program this spring! If you have any questions, call me at the Y at 309-734-3183, or email me at ben@warrencountyyymca.org.

**Thank You,
Ben Davis
Youth Development Director**

Thank you to our Youth Sports Sponsors so far in 2024:

**eCard Transactions – Jenks Family Farms – Shyvel’s Photography – Dame Fine Coffee
Advanced Plumbing & Mechanical, LLC – Midwest Bank – Porter Hay Insurance – Quality
Roofing Pro – Clark & Glasgow LLC – Smithfield Foods – HPOD Transport LLC
ADM (Archer Midland Daniels Company) – Designed to Restore
Lenz-Doherty Families – Jensen Farms – Freedom Roller Rink
IHC Heating & Cooling LLC – Environmental Road Solutions
Black Flag Tinting – Waymaker Travel – Itchiban Electrical**

The Y: We’re for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility