

## Second Grade Coaches

I hope that your season is going well...and that your team is ready for the “next step”, which will occur in the fall.

3rd grade teams will begin playing through Heartland Soccer Association....meaning that your team will continue to register and pay their fees through NEU, but all games will be scheduled through Heartland. You will be playing against teams from Overland Park Soccer Club, Olathe (Kansas Rush) and Blue Valley Soccer Club. Games are played in a variety of locations...Heritage Soccer Park, Overland Park Soccer Complex and Swope Park Fields.

Games are scheduled Friday evening (under the lights at OP Complex or Swope Park), Saturday and Sundays, with games scheduled from 8AM throughout the day (both Saturday and Sunday).

There are mandated rule changes this fall...U9 (3rd grade teams) will play a 7 V 7 format, with a goalie....rosters will be limited to 14 players. Recreational teams will continue to play by grade, rather than age group.

I will try to capsulize the changes...if you would like the whole document of USYSA mandated player developmental initiatives, email me and I will forward it to you (it's 28 pages! not all of which applies to your age group....there are changes for all the age groups). YES...there are significant changes....which KSYSA has decided to initiate with the 2016-17 season....rather than wait for the 2017-18 mandated implementation.

(Please note, age groups for premier teams beginning in the fall of 2016 will be based on age from Jan. 1-December 31...with the “formula” being year the season ends— 2017 minus birth year= playing age group) Rec teams play by grade.

U9 teams will play on a field 47 X 30 yards, with (2) 25 minute halves. using a size 4 ball. For the 7v7 game, the field will include build out lines to promote individual skills and facilitate game flow.

“Build out lines” are located 14 yards out from the goal line.

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate.

**Punting the ball is not allowed** as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out of the back in an unpressured setting.

After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play can resume as normal.

That being said....registration for the fall 2016 season, playing in Heartland will be due to no later than July 1....which means that you will need to have your team organized, and fees collected much earlier than your team is used to. Heartland schedules well over 700 teams...so obviously this takes time....

I will be sending out the fall registration information by the end of May...but wanted you to be aware of the changes...and the time frame...Please be aware that there is no option for registering late...once the Heartland on line registration line closes...that is the final list....NEU pays the fee to Heartland when team info is turned in to them at seeding....so we must have your fees (or at least half)....once teams are "seeded"...there is no refund if a team pulls out....

Players and coaches are required to have ID cards....which by USYSA and KSYSA rules requires that each player's age be verified....that verification can be accomplished in a variety of ways....a copy of a state or governmental issued birth certificate, a copy of the front page of a passport, or copies of IDs issued by the armed services...this is only required one time....

**A COPY OF A HOSPITAL ISSUED BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT OR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE USED. Please be sure that your player's parents are aware of this requirement, so that they can obtain a birth certificate if they don't have one.**

**ALL copies will be returned to coaches with their fall paperwork.** If your team participates in a tournament, you will need a copy of their age verification as well as a current registration form for each player....(there is a link for the registration form on the NEU website.) I will suggest that you have each player's parent complete a new form for the fall...so that addresses/phone numbers, emergency contact info is current..

Calendar

**June 1-July 1** on line team registration for Heartland will open (each team must register on line. This is your opportunity to request not to play on a day/days....as well as to indicate any requests.) U9 Rec (3rd grade teams are NOT seeded in the fall, but played in one of the divisions for 3rd grade....your team will be seeded in the spring based on your record from the fall. (Historically, NEU teams have done well...)

**July 1** All paperwork/fees for the fall season will be due to NEU

**July 7** Recreational teams will be seeded (3rd grade is placed in a bracket)

**July 8** Seeding/brackets for recreational teams will be posted on the Heartland website.

**July 29** Season schedule will be posted on Heartland website

**August 6-7** Season begins

Please contact me or Pam Drummond if you have questions.....Yes, it is a bit confusing...and YES....a fair number of changes....but realize that every team will be playing under the same NEW rules...

If you will not field a team this fall, please let either Pam or I know, so that we are not looking for your paperwork....