

# PARENT INFORMATION

NUAYSA is a parent-run, volunteer organization. The parents of all children in the program are expected to make a strong commitment to the program and to serve a specified number of volunteer hours. If you believe you will not be able to serve part or all of your assigned volunteer hours, you are encouraged to pay the “buy-out” fee for those hours in advance of the season. Receiving these buy-out payments in advance will allow the NUAYSA board to hire paid assistance for some of the required tasks, thus insuring a well-run soccer program.

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## NUAYSA soccer is divided into four levels:

- Recreational (“Rec”) – U4 through U8
  - Non-competitive Introductory level of play
- Recreation-Plus (“Rec-Plus”) – U9/10
  - Non-competitive Intermediate level of play
- Competitive – U9/10
  - Gold (less experienced)
  - Maroon (more experienced)
- Classic (Competitive) – U11 through U18
  - C3 (less experienced)
  - C2 (more experienced)
  - C1 (most experienced)
  - Premier (U15 through U18 -- best teams in the state).

## Levels of Soccer:

- **Recreational** (“Rec”) soccer is designed to teach players soccer skills, teamwork and sportsmanship in an environment where participation and fun are the focus, **not competition**. Recreational soccer is a learning program for youth players organized within Minnesota Youth Soccer (MYSA) affiliate member clubs.” ([www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org))
- **Recreation-Plus** (“Rec-Plus”) is an intermediate program designed to allow the recreation player an opportunity to participate in sanctioned activities such as games involving teams outside their affiliate member club, including participation in tournaments to play competitive teams.” ([www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org))
- **Gold** and **Classic** (competitive division) teams play a competitive schedule with other affiliate member clubs in MYSA. They also play in tournaments during the season and in the state tournament at the end of the season.

## Team formation:

- Youth normally are placed onto teams according to their birth year.
- The NUAYSA board may decide to roster some players at a higher age level to achieve optimum rosters for all teams.
- Parents may request that a child play up to a higher level
- Roster decisions are based on coaches’ recommendations concerning player abilities.
- The NUAYSA board has final authority on all roster decisions.

#### Recreational (“Rec”) – U4

- NUAYSA’s U4 program aims at skill development through practice sessions as a group.
- Parents are required to remain at practice.
- Practices are normally held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm.
- The season generally runs from the last week in April thru the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June.
- The season may be extended to the end of June if several weather cancellations occur during the season.
- Appointed members of the NUAYSA board make decisions on any schedule changes due to weather.

#### Recreational (“Rec”) – U5/6

- NUAYSA’s U6 program has practices and scrimmages two nights per week.
- Parents are required to remain at practice.
- Scrimmages are held between teams in our club.
- The season generally runs from the last week in April thru the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June.
- The season may be extended to the end of June if several weather cancellations occur during the season.
- Appointed members of the NUAYSA board make decisions on any schedule changes due to weather.

#### Recreational (“Rec”) – U7/8

- NUAYSA’s U8 programs run practices and scrimmages two nights per week.
- Parents are required to remain at practice.
- Scrimmages are between teams in the NUAYSA program.
- U8 teams are offered the opportunity to participate in the Mankato Riverbend Soccer Festival in June.
- The season generally runs from the last week in April thru the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June.
- The season may be extended to the end of June if several weather cancellations occur during the season.
- Appointed members of the NUAYSA board make decisions on any schedule changes due to weather.

#### Recreation-Plus (“Rec-Plus”) – U9/10

- NUAYSA’s U10 coaches develop a schedule of games against teams from other towns in the MYSA Southwest District.
- Parents are required to remain at practice.
- Player families should be committed to traveling to away games as part of this program.
- U10 teams are offered the opportunity to participate in the Mankato Riverbend Soccer Festival in June.
- The season generally runs from the last week in April thru the end of June or early July (depending on games scheduled by coaches).
- RecPlus games are governed by the MYSA weather policy (<http://mnyouthsoccer.org/weather.cfm>). Referees are in charge of decisions concerning play during adverse weather. Rules are in place regarding suspension of play for lightning or modification of play due to high heat indexes. ***Referees, not coaches, have ultimate responsibility for weather-related decisions.***
- Players should report to games as scheduled unless otherwise informed by team coaches.

## **Gold and Classic (competitive division) – U10 through U18**

- At the U10 competitive level of play New Ulm Soccer typically places U10 competitive teams at the Gold level. Tryout evaluations are held. After tryouts, players not placed on the U10 Gold teams play on U10 RecPlus teams.
- Clubs self-select the level of play for competitive teams. New Ulm soccer typically places U10 Gold through U17 Classic teams at the C3 level.
- At the club's discretion, U10 Gold through U17 teams may be placed the Maroon (U10) or C2 (U11-U17) levels. Tryout evaluations are held.
- U18 teams compete at the C2 level.

## **League Play**

- Gold and Classic soccer seasons generally runs from late April to mid-July.
- When registering teams, each member affiliate club (like NUAYSA) commits that its teams will play a league schedule against the other towns as scheduled by MYSA.
- During league play, Gold teams play other Gold teams, C3 teams play other C3 teams and C2 teams play other C2 teams.
- New Ulm is in the MYSA Southwest District. The Southwest District includes teams from New Ulm, Marshall, Mankato, Worthington, St. Peter, Fairmont, Le Sueur and Waseca.
- Our teams normally play teams in the Southwest District. On occasion one or two of our teams might be placed in the West or South District if there aren't enough teams in the Southwest District at their age level.
- Depending how leagues are eventually set up, travel to some league games can range from as near as 30 miles (St. Peter or Mankato) to as far as 180 miles (La Crosse / La Crescent).
- Families signing up for Classic and Gold soccer should be prepared for a significant amount of travel for away games.
- MYSA assesses a fine of \$200 to any team that forfeits a game.
- Gold and Classic games are governed by the MYSA weather policy (<http://mnyouthsoccer.org/weather.cfm>). Referees oversee decisions concerning play during adverse weather. Rules are in place regarding suspension of play for lightning or modification of play due to high heat indexes. ***Referees, not coaches, have ultimate responsibility for weather-related decisions.***
- Players should report to games as scheduled unless otherwise informed by team coaches.

## **Tournaments**

- When participating in various tournaments, Gold teams might also play Maroon teams and C3 teams might also play against C2 teams and vice versa.
- NUAYSA Gold and Classic teams generally play two weekend tournaments during the summer, plus the league playoffs at the close of the season (mid-July.)
- The NUAYSA board in conjunction with team coaches chooses the tournaments in which the Classic and Gold teams will participate, and registers all teams. (The costs of tournament fees are included in each player's overall registration costs for the NUAYSA program.)
- Tournament dates and locations generally are announced in early May. Families should make plans to include those tournaments in their summer schedule planning.

## **State Playoffs**

- Teams that win their league season title or league playoff title qualify for regional and/or state games and may play to the end of July or early August.