



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH

**City of Gulf Shores
Youth Soccer Program Info
Fall 2016
Parent Information**

Expectations for Soccer Players and Parents

- Players have the responsibility to try their best, pay attention to the volunteer coaches, be respectful to everyone and have fun.
- Parents have the responsibility to help department staff and volunteer coaches in providing a FUN and SAFE atmosphere for all program participants.
- Parents have the responsibility to support league and team rules and your coach's decisions.
- Parents have the responsibility to get their child to practice and games (contact your coach if your child will be late, cannot attend, or need to make other arrangements).
- Parents are expected to report special needs to department staff and volunteer coaches (allergies, health issues).

Soccer Team Placement

- Teams in the 5U age group will be assembled by the City of Gulf Shores athletic staff
- Teams in following leagues (7Under, 9Under, 11Under, 14Under) will be assembled by a player draft. Teams will be drafted by head coaches under the supervision of City of Gulf Shores staff.
- Requests for team placement will only be considered for siblings/family members

Practices

- Practice weeknights available.
- Practices will be schedule in one hour time slots (unless permitted for longer practice)
- First practices are scheduled to start the week of **Monday, August 8**
- Practices fields with lights are available at Sims Park, Meyer Park and the Gulf Shores Sportsplex
- Teams will practice game skills and fundamentals in preparation for their season.
- Please provide parents with information on your playbook, skills worked on at practice, etc., these can also be practiced at home
- Teams will be provided with an equipment bag that includes soccer balls, cones, pinnies and a first aid kit. Players should wear shin guards and cleats.
- No jewelry, food, gum
- **Players will need to bring water to every practice and game**

Games

- Fall Sports Opening Day will be Saturday, August 27th
- Games will begin the week of August 29th
- Teams in the 5U & 7U leagues will play teams from Gulf Shores & Orange Beach
- Teams in the 9U, 11U, and 14U leagues will play teams from Orange Beach, Elberta, and Foley
- Schedules will be provided to coaches and parents as soon as it is available
- Minimum playing requirements will be enforced by coaches and staff. All players will fulfill the minimum playing requirement at each game.
- Directions to the various parks for games will be provided to the coaches, players and parents

Make-up Games

- Very limited slots available for any make-up games
- Notification of any make-up games will be communicated by the athletic coordinator

Uniforms

- Uniform provided: Game Jersey, Game Shorts (black), Game Socks (black) and a two goal keeper jerseys per team
- Coach shirts will provided to head coach and assistant coach
- Other uniform items (eye shields, sweat bands, water coolers etc.) are not provided by the City of Gulf Shores Recreation & Cultural Affairs. These items may be purchased on an individual basis
- Uniforms will be distributed to teams prior to the start of games.

Parents Association for Youth Sports

- Coaches and parents will receive copies of a Parent Code of Ethics at the time of registration. This Parent Code of Ethics describes the expectations and standards of all youth sport parents.
- It will be required to read, sign and return the Parent Code of Ethics
- You are encouraged to volunteer as a team parent, you will be a tremendous help to your child's coach, let them know you are willing to help

Team Parents (possible roles)

- Snacks for after practices and games
- Aid coach in planning for your team and keeping communication with the other parents.
- Help the volunteer coaches in conducting practice or games if needed
- Contact your coach if you would like to help in any way

Picture Day

- Team picture schedule TBA
- Arrive 5 - 10 minutes before scheduled picture time
- Picture envelopes will be provided
- Payment and completed picture envelope is due on picture day.

Inclement Weather

- **Inclement Weather Hotline 251-968-4417**
- Any decisions regarding game/practice cancellations due to weather will not be made until 4 p.m.
- The athletic coordinator will provide coaches & parents with updated information regarding weather cancellations via the inclement weather hotline.

Parent Code of Conduct

1. I will keep these three priorities in effect at all times:
 - Always remember the TEAM approach and emphasize that to my child.
 - Help to ensure that practices and games are FUN and SAFE for everyone, while maintaining set goals and expectations.
 - Help maintain an atmosphere of positive encouragement to build each child's self-esteem.
2. Acceptable Behavior
 - Be respectful and courteous to the volunteer coaches, staff and other participants.
 - Participate in planned activities.
 - Follow directions or charges given by staff.
 - Exhibit and maintain positive attitudes toward the environment and facilities.
 - Exhibit and maintain respect for all property, facilities and equipment, both public and private.
3. Unacceptable Behavior
 - Noncompliance with department rules and regulations.
 - Failure to cooperate with staff and or leadership.
 - Abusive language includes use of profanity in front of any child or direct insults towards staff in charge or park officials. This includes speaking negatively about the team or coach in front of the child.
 - Verbal threats.
 - Physical violence.
 - Obscene language or gestures, or possession of obscene or suggestive materials or photos.
 - Vandalism, theft of property or equipment, littering, or damaging government property.
 - Distribution or consumption of alcohol or drugs.
 - Possession of weapons of any kind.
 - Any unlawful activity.