



2012
Youth Spring Soccer
Rules and Regulations
Parents Manual

City of Aiken
Parks, Recreation and Tourism
P.O. Box 1177
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 642-7761
Rainout Line: (803) 643-4661

www.rainedout.com
www.cityofaikensc.gov

Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life for OUR community.

THE FOLLOWING MANUAL HAS BEEN PREPARED TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH SOME GENERAL RULES AND CONCERNS REGARDING OUR SOCCER PROGRAM. PLEASE KEEP THIS WITH YOU SO THAT YOU MAY REFER TO IT AS NEEDED.

We are confident in our coaches in our youth soccer program, however; if at any time you have a problem with a coach(s) that cannot be worked out amongst yourselves, please bring these problems to the Athletic Staff's attention.

Athletic Staff Contact Information:

803-642-7761

Fees for 2012 Spring Soccer:

\$ 50.00 registration fee; **\$45.00** for each additional child or children

\$ 35.00 additional fee for non-city residents (**per person**)

If you are unsure if you live within the city limits please contact Citizen's Park and we will determine this information. (642-7761)

*****NEW***Coaches Discount:**

Anyone who volunteers to coach will receive a \$25 refund at the end of the Soccer season if they meet the following criteria:

1. Complete the entire season as the Head Coach.
2. Do not get ejected from any game.
3. Complete the NYSCA Coaches Certification course in a timely manner.
4. Return equipment.

Memberships are available at Citizens Park II (located off of Pine Log Rd. and Old Airport Rd.) and are good for one year (\$75- Individual, \$125- Family). This membership waives the out of city fee during registration. You will still be required to pay the registration fee.

Fun Funds applications are available at Citizens Park II. Fun Funds will only cover the cost of registration. In order to process your application please bring SC Driver's license/ID with current address AND a School District Free/Reduced lunch verification letter or SC EBT/Food Stamp Printout.

All refunds must be requested in writing and are given based on the following:

- A full refund can be given if requested two weeks prior to the first practice.
- A full refund can be given if a participant has a medical issue (doctors note required) and has not participated in any games.
- A 50% refund can be given if requested two weeks prior to the first game, no refunds after this.

If you register after January 26, 2012 there will be a \$15.00 late fee for the first child and \$10.00 for each additional child added to the registration. **Late fees are non-refundable on refunds during or after the registration dates.**

Player league age eligibility is as follows:

U7 /	5-6 year-olds	U13 /	11-12 year-olds
U9 /	7-8 year-olds	U15 /	13-14 year-olds
U11 /	9-10 year-olds	U18 /	15-18 year-olds

*** Those participants who are 18 years of age prior to the cut-off date must be enrolled in High School in order to be eligible to play.**

A participant's age is determined by what age that person is on September 1, 2012.

PRACTICES:

Practice dates and times will be at the discretion of the coaches. Practice may begin as early as March 12, 2012 for teams. **(This is subject to change)**. All practices will be at Citizens Park and possibly at the newly renovated Schofield area, which now includes lights. Three (3) events per week are allowed (ages 5-10yrs.). Older age groups may have no more than five (5) events per week.

1. 2 practices and 1 game (Ages 5-10 yrs); 3 practices and 2 games (Ages 11-18 yrs.)
2. 2 games and 1 practice (Ages 5-10 yrs.); 2 games and 3 practices (Ages 11-18 yrs.)
3. Practices are not to exceed 1 hour and 30 minutes (Ages 5-10 yrs.)

Each player is expected to be at all practices called by the coach. If a player cannot attend, it is his/her duty to notify the coach. Missing practice may result in disciplinary action. Parents are responsible for keeping their coach informed.

REGULAR SEASON GAMES:

The season is scheduled to begin April 9, 2012, unless unforeseen circumstances arise. All teams will play a ten game schedule. There is no post season play.

Awards: Each U7 and U9 participant will receive a Participation Medal at the end of the season.

EQUIPMENT/ UNIFORMS:

Each player will receive a game jersey, shorts and socks which he/she will keep after the season is over. Each player is required to wear shin guards. Shin guards are each parent's responsibility to purchase. If a child does not have on shin guards he/she will not be allowed into the game for safety reasons. Cold weather clothes will be allowed as needed, but jerseys should be worn over them for the benefit of the officials and other players on the field.

***No names are to be screened or ironed on the jersey fronts or backs (for safety reasons).**

***No jerseys or shorts are to be cut or altered in any way. If this is done the player will be required to replace that uniform at his/her own expense. The player will NOT be allowed to play in any games until an unaltered complete uniform is worn to a game(s). Replacement pieces may be purchased from Citizens Park while supplies last.**

Uniform exchanges can be brought to Citizens Park by either a parent or coach. Please call ahead and explain what you need to exchange, so that we can pull the uniforms from storage not located at Citizens Park. We will need to know the team name, color of the uniform and what size(s) you need. NOTE: exchanges may not be guaranteed

PLAYER DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

The objective of the A.P.R.T. is **SKILL ENHANCEMENT, PLAYER PARTICIPATION AND FUN**. In the event that disciplinary action needs to be taken the following guidelines should be followed.

DISCIPLINARY RULES ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Failure to show for a practice without prior notice to the coach. If the coach has not notified the parent of practice times then the player cannot be penalized. It is the coaches' responsibility to establish a line of communication with the players/parents.
- 2) Abusive language or actions (unsportsmanlike conduct) by a player towards: coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, spectators, or staff.
- 3) Being disruptive during practices or games.

If any of the above problems arise the following steps will be taken:

STEP 1: Coach will inform parent/guardian to discuss the situation and find a possible solution. If the matter persists-

STEP 2: Coach will inform the parent/guardian that he or she will notify the A.P.R.T., in writing, of the problem and his or her efforts to correct the situation. At this time the coach and A.P.R.T. will meet to discuss what will be done. **At no other time should a player be kept from meeting the playing time requirements.** (Step 2 may or may not be repeated if the problem still cannot be resolved).

STEP 3: The parent/guardian and coach will meet with the Athletic Coordinator and Athletic Supervisor to discuss possible expulsion of the player from the program. NOTE: The A.P.R.T. reserves the right to take these steps towards any player in the program at any time.

Incident Forms may be picked up upstairs at Citizens Park II. Please fill it out and turn it in to either an Athletic Coordinator or a Facility Assistant.

PARKING:

Due to a potentially dangerous threat to our participants, the A.P.R.T. and Aiken Public Safety have implemented that **NO PARKING** will be allowed along either of the two entrances entering Citizens Park, the service entrances or along the sides of Banks Mill Rd. All drivers should park their vehicles in either a permanently marked parking area or in one of our overflow areas. Tickets will be issued to drivers that continue to straddle the curbs and are not parked in designated areas.

There will be NO pets allowed within the premises of Citizen's Park.

RAINOUT LINE (803-643-4661):

For your convenience we will have a rainout line available to you. When you call the rainout line, you will hear a recording informing you if games have been cancelled or not. **This line will not be available before 4:30 pm.** Unfortunately there are times when we cannot make decisions until game time, however; the main objective is always safety. There may also be occasions when the youngest age groups may be cancelled, but the older participants may play.

Parents can also sign up for text message alerts as soon as games are cancelled by signing up free of charge (standard text messaging rates apply) on www.rainedout.com (Search for City of Aiken PRT).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do some registrants have to pay the out of city fees?

For several years, Aiken County residents and City residents have paid different rates to participate in City of Aiken Parks, Recreation and Tourism programs. The reason for this is that the City of Aiken provides for the construction, maintenance, and staffing of our parks and recreation facilities. While all participants pay the same registration fee, the Out of City fee helps to support maintenance and staffing of recreational facilities, playing fields and parks.

What do my fees pay for?

The fees that are acquired through registration are used for a number of different things. It buys soccer equipment such as first aid kits, ice packs, ball bags, soccer balls, ball pumps, and pennies. Each child is also provided with a pair of socks, a jersey and shorts. Fees are also used to recruit, train, and administer background checks for our soccer officials. We also pay for the costs of the National Youth Sports Coach's Association certification for all of our volunteer coaches

Now that you no longer do mail outs, how will I find out about registration?

We will be sending out registration information the following ways: e-mail, elementary, middle, and high school flyers, Park Bench, monthly newsletters with your water bill (these are mailed to 16,000 customers), the marquee at the H.O. Weeks Center and Citizen's Park; Channel 4- City Channel, Facebook, www.cityofaikensc.gov, and flyers to various businesses throughout the city.

Where can I register my child?

Participants can be registered in person at Citizens Park Complex II located at 651 Old Airport Road. You can also download all the registration forms from www.cityofaikensc.gov. Click the Athletics tab and locate the Forms and Registration Info link on the right side of the screen. You will need to complete and bring in the Parent Code of Ethics and the Youth Sports Registration form. First time participants must choose one of these options, however; if you are a returning patron you may complete the entire registration process online using the same website. Click on the *Recreation Registration* tab on the home page of the city's website and follow the subsequent instructions. (A \$5.00 Convenience fee will be charged to those who apply online)

How are players assigned to teams?

Children will return to their team from the previous SPRING season if they remain in the same age group. Children who are moving to a new age group or are new to the program will be placed on a team. Requests for placement on certain teams will be noted **but cannot be guaranteed**. Children who register late will not be guaranteed to play on the same team as the previous season.

Once a player has been selected to a team he or she will remain on that team during the age eligibility for that league. **NO PLAYERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CHANGE TEAMS DURING THE SEASON.** If a child registers late, they will be placed on the first available team. If there are no spots open they will be placed on a waiting list. The coach's will not be able to select players from the list. They will be selected in the order that they were placed. (No money or registration forms are accepted until a spot is open.) **Special requests for team assignments will not be accepted for late registration.**

What is the NYSCA program?

The National Alliance for Youth Sports is a non-profit organization based in West Palm Beach, Florida, founded in 1981 as the National Youth Sport Coaches Association (NYSCA) with the mission of improving out-of-school sports for the more than 20 million youth participants under the age of 16. The Alliance believes that (1) participation in youth sports develops important character traits and values, and (2) the lives of youths can be positively impacted if the adults caring for them have proper training and information.

We require our coaches to go through this certification process before they can coach a team. This training program provides coaches with information and skills that positively affect the children in their care.

Who does the background checks? The national background check is performed by Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. They check criminal backgrounds and the sex-offender registry. If a definite match is made then A.P.R.T will review the information and take any appropriate action.

***Registration Hours: Mon-Thu 8:00 am – 8:30 pm, Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

“THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING WITH US!!!”