

1. I would like to coach my child's team. How do I go about letting Aurora Parks and Recreation know that I would like to volunteer?

At time of registration there is a question asking if you would like to head coach or assist. There is a volunteer coach's form that is need to be completed. It can be accessed on the city web page located at the following link <http://www.auroraoh.com/633/Volunteer-Coaches>

2. When can I expect to hear from my child's coach?

A coaches meeting is typically held the week before the scheduled practice week. You should expect to hear from your child's coach the weekend prior to the scheduled practice week.

3. What type of equipment does my child need for soccer?

Shin guards are the only required equipment needed to play recreational soccer. Rubber cleats, water bottle and appropriate size soccer ball are recommended. Ball sizes per league Prek-2nd grade - #3, 3rd – 5th grade - #4, 6th – 8th grade - #5

4. Can my children play together on the same team?

If they are in the same age group then yes they can. When registering please indicate that siblings would like to play on the same team. Likewise if you are interested in having your children play on separate teams, then please make a note of that when registering as well.

5. Can my child "play up" in another age/grade group?

Players are permitted to play in an age group higher than their age but not lower. All requests must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Director.

6. What if I missed the registration deadline?

If you missed the deadline, you will need to contact Aurora Parks and Recreation to be placed on the waitlist for the requested program. Waitlisted participants will be placed on teams that have available spots. There is no guarantee that your child will be placed on a team or that any coach/friend requests will be honored. If there is room you will be contacted to register your child and then they will be placed on a team. A \$20 late fee applies for late registration.

7. When are practice times?

Volunteer coaches pick their own practice days and times. At time of registration preferred practice days are requested and every attempt to place the athlete on those requested days is taken into consideration. However, circumstances may arise that may not make your requested practice day possible. Practices are typically held M-F evenings around 5p, 6p or 7p and typically last an hour.

8. Where are the practice fields?

Practice fields are located at Hartman Fields 325 Townline Road. A local field map can be accessed on the city web page located at the following link

<http://www.auroraoh.com/493/Soccer>

9. Will the coach be provided equipment for the team?

Yes – every coach is provided an equipment bag which includes - a limited number of appropriate size balls, pinnies, cones, air pump, ice packs and first aid kits. Also, a binder is provided to each coach which includes – Positive Coaching Alliance information, league rules, practice schedule, game schedule, team roster and practice drills. These are provided to each coach at a mandatory coach’s meeting typically held the week before practices begin.

10. Can my son or daughter play with friends or play on a specific coach’s team?

You are able to request a coach, player(s) and practice days that work best for you at the time of registration. Aurora Parks and Recreation take all requests into consideration when creating team rosters but cannot guarantee your requests can be accommodated. Alternate practice days requested by volunteer coach or friends, too many requests for a particular coach (registration date is then used), teams will be unfairly setup (stacked) etc. are just a few examples of denied requests.

11. How are team rosters selected?

As stated above, Aurora Parks and Recreation take all requests into consideration when creating team rosters and participants are placed on teams accordingly. Siblings are always placed on the same team unless otherwise requested. For all leagues 4th grade and up the rosters are reviewed at the coaches meetings and adjustments are made as needed to try and keep teams as competitive as possible. Teams are permitted to have one head coach and one assistant coach when assigning rosters. More assistant coaches are permitted but not used to help assign players to teams. Coach requests may be granted if skill level remains balanced among players.

12. Where and when are the games played?

Games are typically played on Saturday mornings through early afternoon depending on the number of teams in any given league. All pre-k and kindergarten games are played at Hartman Park. Grades 1-8 home games are played at Hartman Park with away games played at fields located in the participating surrounding communities.

13. Am I able to access a game schedule?

The game schedule as well as standings, practice schedule and a host of other constantly updated and pertinent information is available on the city web site at the following link <http://www.auroraoh.com/493/Soccer>

NOTE: Game schedules are subject to change for a variety of reasons. Always check the online schedule and/or with your coach about your upcoming game.

14. When will uniforms be ready?

Jerseys are provided to each participant and are distributed to the coach typically the week before the first Saturday game. All planning is done with the intentions of assuring jerseys are available for the first scheduled games. If for some reason this does not happen you will be notified ahead of time and arrangements will be made with coaches for jerseys at the first game.

15. What do I do if a jersey is the wrong size?

Jersey are purchased for each athlete by the size specified at the time of registration. If for some reason the size differs from the original size requested, Aurora Parks and Recreation should be contacted for a replacement.

16. What are the rules for our league?

Rules for the various leagues are posted and can be viewed on the city web page at the following link <http://www.auroraoh.com/493/Soccer>

17. Do we have referees?

Yes, all leagues have two referees assigned. The kindergarten league will at times self-officiate if the referees are needed on a larger field. There may be times an older league may have only one official if we are short on any given day.

18. Why are we playing games in other cities?

We play with surrounding cities to give our young players a variety of teams to play and different skill levels to compete with. Each city has a certain number of teams, sometimes only a few, in any given sport so we combine leagues to help each other out so a decent size league can be formed.

19. Can jewelry/earrings be worn during games?

No player will be allowed to play with jewelry or earrings with the exception of a medical alert bracelet or necklace. Placing tape or a band aid over earrings will not be allowed. This is for your child's own safety!

20. How are rained out games rescheduled?

Games that are rained out will usually be made up at the end of the season. Revised schedules will be communicated via email to all involved and rescheduled and posted on the city web page <http://www.auroraoh.com/493/Soccer>. On occasion, due to reasons outside of our control, we may not reschedule every game. However, every attempt to reschedule games will be made.

21. Do we keep score?

Score is currently kept in leagues – grades 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8

22. How are scores reported?

Officials are issued scorecards for all of their scheduled games that day and are turned in after they complete their games. Official scores are final. If there is a discrepancy the coach should contact Aurora Parks and Recreation to discuss. Scores are then posted on the “QuickScores” web site which can be accessed from the city web page <http://www.auroraoh.com/493/Soccer>

23. How do I know if a game is cancelled because of weather?

You will be able to see if your game is cancelled on game day by calling the field hotline at 330-655-6410. An email will also be sent to your child’s coach as early as possible so they can contact their players regarding the cancellation.

24. Can coaches cancel games?

Games can only be cancelled by Aurora Parks and Recreation. **Coaches are responsible to cancel practices should inclement weather be a problem.** If games are being played but you, as a parent, are not comfortable with your child playing you can refrain from bringing your child to the game. We will never play games that will be dangerous to any child but we do sometimes play in less than ideal conditions.

25. If the coach cancels a practice, can we make it up?

Yes, the coach can look at the online practice schedule and see what is available and discuss what works for the team. The coach will then contact Aurora Parks and Recreation to reserve the field. The online schedule will then be updated to prevent more than one team being scheduled on the same field at the same time.

26. Why are the officials not consistent week to week?

We work hard with all of the officials, meeting, training and reviewing league rules to try and keep calls consistent week to week. Please remember these officials are high school students who have played the game and are trying hard to call a good game. No official is going to call a perfect game just as no coach is going to coach a perfect game. Please give all officials the encouragement and respect they deserve.

27. The opposing team is playing too rough and the referee is not calling it. What can be done?

While we instruct our officials to keep games from getting out of hand they sometimes miss a push or trip that may occur. It is up to the coach to stop play and calmly speak to the officials regarding the rough play. Again, please give all officials the encouragement and respect they deserve.

28. Why don't we call offside in our leagues?

Calling offside in soccer is always controversial and the most misunderstood rule in the sport of soccer. We choose not put our officials in this potential confrontational position.

According to the FIFA rulebook, a player is in an offside position if:

- He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.
- A violation will occur when he is in an offside position (previous bullet point) at the same time the ball is being passed forward to him.

According to the Tri-county rules: No offside violation in these divisions. However, a player cannot be "cherry-picking" by an opposing team's goal. If a player is in violation of "cherry-picking" the opposing team will be awarded a free kick from the position of the player who committed the penalty.

29. Are headers allowed?

Headers are not allowed in leagues from kindergarten through the 3-5 grade leagues. Headers are permitted in the 6-8 grade league but not encouraged.

30. Who is responsible for the field conditions and who should be contacted if needed?

Aurora Parks and Recreation maintains the recreational soccer fields at Hartman Fields. We realize that some weeks the fields your child plays on will be less than ideal. All efforts are made to maintain the fields every week and cut grass twice a week when possible.

31. Do we practice in the rain?

As stated in question number 22 - coaches are responsible to call practice should the weather not make it possible to hold the teams regularly scheduled practice. The coach will then reschedule practice as described in question number 23.

32. What if there is thunder and/or lightning?

Any thunder or lightning requires the games/practices are suspended for 30 minutes beyond the last heard thunder. The game may be called to maintain the balance of the schedule for the day. Practices may resume after the 30 minute suspension.

33. Will games be played in cold weather?

We do play soccer on cold Saturday mornings. If games are being played but you, as a parent, are not comfortable with your child playing you can refrain from bringing your child to the game. We will never play games that will be dangerous to any child but we do sometimes play in less than ideal conditions.

34. Are trophies/medals awarded at the end of the season?

Yes, currently pre-k through the 1-2 league receive participation medals with first and second place trophies awarded to those teams in the 1-2 league. First and second place trophies only are awarded in the 3-5 & 6-8 leagues.

35. What is the refund policy?

Participants may request a full refund minus a \$15 processing fee, should they drop from the league prior to the first scheduled game. After the first scheduled game has been held, a prorated credit minus a \$15 processing fee, will be given. After the second game, no refunds or credits will be given. The processing fee will be waived if a credit to the families Aurora Parks and Recreation account is requested instead of a refund to a credit card or as a check.

All fees paid will be refunded in full when Aurora Parks and Recreation cancels a program.

Refunds will not be granted solely based on the inability Aurora Parks and Recreation to accommodate coach or player requests made at the time of registration.