

## Youth Indoor Soccer Notes & Frequently Asked Questions

**Welcome!** We would like to thank you for registering your team to play in this year's Winter Indoor Soccer League at the Sports Connection-Granite Street (formerly Sports Warehouse) or Sports Connection-Northlake (formerly Charlotte Sports Center) locations. We're set for another exciting season! A staff member will review any rules/questions you have before the first game of the season.

There will be a Winter Captains/Coaches meeting on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm at the location you are registered for & playing at (either Granite Street or Northlake). Someone will be available to answer your questions during that time and go over rules & policies for the upcoming season. Attendance is not mandatory but is highly recommended.

**Balances:** All balances are due by the captain's meeting or first game at the latest.

**Player's Cards:** Player's Cards are **NOT** required for Youth Soccer.

**Requests:** We attempt to honor all requests on file before schedules are created. For future scheduling conflicts, please submit your requests to [Office@SportsConnectionNC.com](mailto:Office@SportsConnectionNC.com). We will review all requests each Monday, and make any changes that are possible, then contact teams.

**Divisions:** We usually only have one division per age group. If we have enough teams to break into Competitive and Intermediate/Recreational divisions, we will. That is why we ask teams to specify. Normally, we just have the one division, though. In the event a few recreational teams are registered in an age level comprised of mainly competitive teams, we'll inform those teams to see what they would like to do. If a few competitive teams are registered in an age group of mostly recreational teams, we'll encourage them to move up.

**Schedules:** All games are not on the same day of the week, since many players have other obligations. For example, if all games were on Saturday mornings and some players also play basketball, you would be forced to decide which one to play. Now they are able to make both games sometimes.

High School & JV teams play mostly after school on weekdays, with some weekend games later in the afternoons/evenings. All other age groups are scheduled randomly based on a number of factors.

Each team will play 7 regular season games and the top 4-6 teams in each division will advance to playoffs (more information under "Playoffs" below).

We try to have all teams play at least their first game by Thanksgiving (for Winter season). From there, we try to have teams play at least every other week but there may be some weeks where you have more than one week between games due to special requests, etc.

Each team in our Granite Street league will play 6 games on turf, and one game of **Futsal** on our Sports Court. This gives each team to opportunity to experience a different, more technical, soccer approach. It also allows us more flexibility with scheduling requests and prime weekend times. Futsal is played as 5v5, and will also feature 25-minute halves so as to still allow all your players to receive ample playing time. For more information on Futsal, please visit the Youth Soccer page and click in the Futsal links.

**Game Durations:** U6 - U8 teams will play two 16-minute halves. U9 - U12 teams will play two 18-minute halves. U13 - U18 teams will play two 20-minute halves. All teams will have a 2-minute halftime.

**Field Dimensions:** U6 - U8 teams will play 5v5, with no keeper. They will play width-wise on half the field and/or may play at our new Carmel Road location if necessary. U9-U18 teams will play on the full field.

**Winter Holidays:** Most teams will play games during the holidays, including during the week. We understand some people travel, but many stay home and enjoy getting out of the house to play games and have relatives come watch. Teams can add players at anytime to a roster, even if just for a game or two over the holidays.

**Forfeits:** If you must forfeit a game, PLEASE call us in advance so we can find a team to play in your place.

**Bench Coach:** There must be a parent on the bench of all youth games, including high school.

**Ages:** U9 means "under 9." **The age group you play in is the age you were as of August 1, 2011.** If you were 8 on August 1, you play U9. If you were 9, you play U10. The Sports Connection will ask for verification of age if another team protests. Age ranges in MySam show the maximum age a child could be at season's end if having a birthday after August 1st. (Example: If age 8 on August 1st, but turn 9 on August 2nd, child would be 9 years & 6 months old by the end of the season). Eligibility is determined by August 1st date and not anything listed in MySam.

**Rosters:** Players can go to our website (SportsConnectionNC.com) and click on MySAM to load the MySAM website. Once you are logged in, click on your team name and then click on "*Invite Someone*" (listed under Team Tools on the right side of screen). After that, enter the emails of people on your team. Separate multiple emails with a comma. They will receive an email shortly with instructions on how to join the team. Once players are on your team roster they can manage their own account, fill out a waiver, and see their schedule and standings. Players cannot join a Youth Soccer Team without an invite from the team manager or calling the Sports Connection office.

Rosters should be in place by the 1st game. You can add players at any time. However, only those on your roster by the completion of your 5th game will be eligible for playoffs. You can add players for your 6th & 7th game if needed, but they won't be able to play in the playoffs. Players found playing in a game and not on the team's roster will cause the team to forfeit that game and all previous games he/she has played in.

**Minimum Numbers:** Teams can play with a minimum of 4 players. Less players than that will result in a forfeit. The ref will start each game on time and play will begin once the minimum number of players are on the field. A team has 5 minutes from the start time to produce the minimum number of players in order to avoid a forfeit.

**Pick-Up Players:** If you need to pick-up a player for a game, they must fill out a waiver prior to play. If you are picking up a player from another team, the coordinator & opposing captain must OK the pick-up. There are no pick-up players allowed in playoffs.

**Playing Up/Down:** Teams can play UP a division, but now down.

**House Teams:** We attempt to form house teams. They are often combined age groups. We will provide T-Shirts for each player at their first game. SC Staff will coach the team initially until a parent wants to take over.

**Wait Lists:** We will continue to accept individual registrations and place them on a wait list for other teams to pick-up if needed. We will give contact info to captains who are looking for players, but make sure the captain tells us if they pick them up so we can then transfer the player to the correct team.

**Equipment:** All players must wear shin guards with socks covering them. No cleats are allowed. Flat-soled shoes work best. Teams should not bring their own soccer balls. All teams should have matching color jerseys with numbers. Goalkeepers must wear a jersey contrasting that of his/her team AND the opposing team. In the

event of "same color" jersey conflict, the home team will keep their color. Teams should bring two jerseys just in case. We will also provide pinnies if needed. If your team informs us of your jersey color, we will note that in parentheses after your team name in the schedule so you can see what color your opponent is wearing.

**Soccer Ball Sizes:** U6 - U12 play with Size #4 balls. U13 and up play with size #5.

**Cards:** Blue, Yellow and Red with varying penalties by location. See "League Rules" under Youth Soccer on the website for more information.

**Punting (Granite):** There is no punting or drop kicks.

**Injuries:** Time will run continuously except for serious injuries.

**Mercy Rules:** When a team is down by 5 or more goals, they are allowed to add another player until they are within 3 goals, and then return to normal strength.

**Overtime:** There will be no overtime periods or shootouts during the regular season. See "League Rules" under Youth Soccer on the website for more information.

**Playoffs:** Playoff brackets are on MySAM and the SC website. Make sure to check the website to see if you play again that night upon winning, as that is not scheduled in MySam.

At least the top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs at the end of the season. In some larger divisions, more than 4 teams may advance to the playoff round. In most cases, all playoff games will be completed in one day.

**Prizes:** The winning and runner-up teams in each league will receive medallions and/or championship shirts.

**Referees:** SC staff has trained the referees. Any suggestions/complaints should be forwarded to league management. The ref shall address captains at the start of each match. Those captains and/or coaches should be the only persons communicating issues to the ref during the game. All referee decisions are final.

**SC Staff:** There will always be an SC certified referee, coordinator and/or full-time staff member on hand during the games. They will be here to help you with roster procedures, rules questions, etc.

**Sportsmanship:** The primary focus of our league is fun. Please keep this in mind when competition becomes intense or when a referee makes a call you do not agree with. We value sportsmanship and referees have been instructed to keep sportsmanship and safety a priority. Unacceptable behavior may result in ejection/suspension from a game or the league. Fighting of any kind will result in automatic removal from the league. Fans and parents are also expected to display proper sportsmanship or they may be removed from the facility.

**Food/Drinks:** Please do not bring ice chests and large amounts of food into the Sports Connection facility at either Granite Street or Northlake. Please do not have team parties at the end of games as we get congested with new teams entering for the next games. If you would like to rent a party room, please let us know.

**Weather:** If there is severe weather, please use your own judgment if it's safe to travel. Each person's comfort level to travel in bad weather is different. It's very difficult for us to make up games, so as a norm, we do not cancel games often. That does not mean players should risk injury by trying to make it to a game. It's just a game. If games are canceled, our website is the first thing updated. We will then begin calling captains.

**Rules:** If you need additional insight into our rules and policies regarding the league, please click on the link for LEAGUE RULES under Youth Soccer.

**SC Contact Info:** SC phone number is 704-583-1444. Our website is [www.SportsConnectionNC.com](http://www.SportsConnectionNC.com) and  
Email: [Office@SportsConnectionNC.com](mailto:Office@SportsConnectionNC.com)