

## Frequently Asked Questions – Parents:

Q. Is this a competitive league with any travel commitments?

A. No. St. James/Elizabeth Ann Youth Soccer Club (SJEAYSC) is a member of the Catholic Youth Soccer League (CYSL) [www.cysl.net](http://www.cysl.net) which is a recreational based league and all games are played in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area.

Q. What's all this U7 and U9 and U14 stuff about?

A. US Youth Soccer and most select clubs have migrated to Birth Year based registration instead of school year. As of August 2014, CYSL changed the teams to be "grade based". What that means is first graders will play together with other first graders regardless of age. So, 1<sup>st</sup> graders will play in a U7 division, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in U8, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in U9, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in U10. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are combined in a U12 division and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are combined in a U14 division.

Q. Do we need to provide a ball and if so what size is needed?

A. A ball is not required for games as the club provides the game balls. It is helpful if each child brings a ball to practices. Ball Size 3 (U6-U8), Size 4 (U9-U12), Size 5 (U14)

Q. Which age group needs to purchase a uniform and where do I get it?

A. Micro (Under 6) players just need any shorts and soccer socks. The uniform shirt will be provided at the first game. U7-U14 will need to purchase a SJEAYSC uniform (jersey, shorts and socks) and information can be found on our parents' page at <http://sjeaysc.org/pages/parents.html>. Jersey numbers don't need to be unique and last names are optional.

Q. Do we need cleats and shin guards?

A. Only shoes are required for play, but most players do wear soccer cleats. Baseball or football cleats (any with cleat at center of toe) are not allowed. Shin guards covered by socks are required for all players at games and practices.

Q. I really want to be involved in the Soccer Club. How can I contribute?

A. Everyone involved with SJEAYSC are volunteers. Contact the club president if interested in joining the board or attending meetings. You can volunteer to be a coach or assistant coach and no prior experience is necessary. Parents and players can also attend field cleanup in spring or fall. All options count toward volunteer hours for SJS School.

Q. What days are the games on?

A. CYSL games can be on any day except Wednesday and Sunday. Weekday games normally start at 5:30 (and occasionally through 6:45). Saturday games start between 9:00 and 3:00. Micro (U6) is always on Wednesday's at 6:00.

Q. What fields will the games be played on?

A. The field location and number will be included in schedules once released from CYSL. The list of potential fields, directions to the fields, and field numbering for some fields can be found on the CYSL site under "Field Locations."

Q. Can jewelry be worn during the games?

A. No, all jewelry (including earrings) needs to be removed prior to the game. Covering earrings with Band-Aids or medical tape is not allowed.

Q. What about inclement weather?

A. You can check the CYSL message board (or call 402-216-0115) before each game to check on game status.

Q. Can we donate uniforms we no longer need?

A. You can email the president to arrange pick up or advertise them on the uniform swap section of the website.

Q. What if my son/daughter gets hurt during a game?

A. Your registration covers secondary insurance for U7-U14 players. Micro injuries are not covered by state insurance.

## Registration

Q. When is registration?

A. Registration for the spring season typically opens in January and registration for the fall season typically opens in May. Registration is typically open for 3-4 weeks. Announcements are made in both church bulletins, SJS's Virtual Backpack and SJS and SJEA Soccer Club Facebook pages.

Q. When will the seasons run?

A. Generally the spring season runs from late March through the end of May and the fall season runs late August through the end of October.

Q. Why do you need to register so early if the season doesn't start for months?

A. CYSL requires us to have team names and coaches to them early so they can work on schedules for the upcoming season.

Q. If I sign up on time, will I receive a refund if my son/daughter decides not to play?

A. Absolutely! As long as the registrar is notified before the season starts.

Q. What if I sign up after the deadline? Is there a late fee?

A. Yes, unfortunately we need to enforce this since CYSL needs our team information early. The late fee is typically \$20 per child.

Q. Can I request my player to be on a certain team?

A. Yes but not all requests are honored because we need to keep a good balance of players on every team. You can request a certain friend or a particular coach.

Q. What if I just want to play on the same team as the prior session?

A. There is a button to hit when signing up to request the same team. If you do not hit this button the registrar might think you don't want to play on the same team. This doesn't guarantee a particular team however.

Q. Can I request my player to play up or down a division?

A. Players are not permitted to play down at any age level. If you would prefer to have your child play up a division, please note in registration process or contact the registrar to see if we can accommodate the request.

Q. Why does micro (U6) get more time to sign up?

A. SJEAYSC runs our own micro program that is not affiliated with CYSL. As we don't need to report teams and coaches, it gives us extra time to accept registration at this age.

Q. Can I play with SJEAYSC if my child is already on another competitive or select team?

A. Yes. You need to complete a Secondary Player Form and get signatures from both coaches. Go to: [http://www.nebraskastatesoccer.org/stateadmin/forms\\_and\\_documents/](http://www.nebraskastatesoccer.org/stateadmin/forms_and_documents/) and select Secondary under Registration Forms. Send a copy of completed form to [registrar@sjeaysc.org](mailto:registrar@sjeaysc.org) to ensure it's filed with Nebraska State Soccer.

Q. Can anyone register to play?

A. Membership to the club is limited to registered parishioners of St. James or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes as well as students of St. James/Seton Schools or PRE program. Others may be allowed to play if approved by the club's Executive Board on a case by case basis.

Q. Am I required to upload a picture when I register?

A. Only if your child is going to be playing U9-U14 levels as the picture is included on the player pass. Please ensure the picture is a recent head shot of your child.

## **Tournaments**

Q. Do most teams participate in tournaments?

A. Most teams do not participate in annual tournaments outside of the Okoboji Tournament, however this is up to each team. Please check with your coach if you are interested in a specific tournament.

Q. What is the "Okoboji" tournament?

A. The Boji Soccer Classic is a recreational tournament for U12 and U14 teams. It falls on the 2nd weekend after Memorial Day and is comprised mainly of CYSL teams. For more information, go to [www.bojisoccer.com](http://www.bojisoccer.com)

Q. Where can I stay in Okoboji?

A. A lot of SJEA families stay at Fillenwarth Beach Resort. Families can make their room reservations by contacting the SJEA club at [web@sjeaysc.org](mailto:web@sjeaysc.org). For more information on Fillenwarth, go to [www.fillenwarthbeach.com](http://www.fillenwarthbeach.com). The club hosts a family picnic and adult beverage party on Friday night of the tournament weekend.

Q. Do we need to play both fall and spring seasons to be eligible for the Boji Soccer Classic?

A. No, players need to play at least one session to be eligible.

## **Micro (U6) Soccer**

Q. When is sign up for micro soccer?

A. Registration for spring season runs January to March 1st and from May to August 1st for the fall season. If you are signing up after the U7-U14 has ended, the system might want to charge you a late fee. In this case, let the registrar know, click on "pay by check" and send it to the address listed on the "Contact" tab.

Q. Can I coach if I've never coached or played soccer before?

A. At the early ages soccer is more about organization and having fun especially at the recreational level. Just as long as they are getting "touches" with the ball and having fun is most important. There is a ton of helpful information online for games you can play during practice. Coaches do need a current Safe Environment Training Certificate.

Q. I have a 2 or 3 year old that really wants to play. Can I sign him/her up?

A. We recommend waiting until they are 4 and 5 to play micro soccer. If they're too young they might get discouraged and not want to play soccer in the future. But we leave that decision up to the parents.

Q. What will I need to bring to the games?

A. You should bring a water bottle and size 3 ball if you have one. Your coach will have all the other equipment.

Q. Are there practices for micro?

A. Not really. Each "Game" consists of 15 minutes of instruction followed by 45 minutes for game play.

Q. When are the games and why are they on this day?

A. Micro games are on Wednesday nights at 6:00 at the field by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We play on this day because CYSL doesn't schedule games that night which ensures that the field is available.

Q. When will my coach contact me and what if I don't hear from anyone?

A. Your coach should contact you by April 1st (spring) and September 1st (fall). Please contact the micro coordinator at [under6@sjeaysc.org](mailto:under6@sjeaysc.org) with any questions or concerns.

Q. Do we need to provide the teams snacks?

A. Our Micro division does ask parents to provide snacks and drinks and schedules will be provided by coaches before the start of the season. Most teams in U7-U14 do not have snacks after games.