



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Blackhills Football Club**

Blackhills Football Club is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. We are the select soccer club of the Deschutes Youth Soccer Association, a local association of soccer clubs in the greater Olympia area. We have players traveling from Lewis, Grays Harbor, Thurston, Mason and Tacoma Pierce Counties.

### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Blackhills Football Club is to develop high quality youth soccer. The Club:

- Builds the soccer skills and team commitment needed to play at the highest levels possible.
- Teaches players individually how to play their best soccer in a team environment.
- Provides excellence in coaching, training and facilities needed for players to reach their maximum.

### **What is the reasoning for select soccer for youth?**

Blackhills FC offers age-appropriate soccer training and skills development for kids who love to play soccer. Players who hate to see the season end, players who are looking for a more competitive type of play, players who want to improve their fitness and soccer skills are well suited to the programs offered by Blackhills FC. By becoming involved in Blackhills FC a player will get experienced coaching, intensive skills development, more playing opportunities, and teammates who share in common a commitment to become higher level soccer players.

### **What we have to offer**

Blackhills FC has an experienced staff of Head and Assistant Coaches along with a committed Executive Board. We are organized as a Coaching Staff with a consistent coaching philosophy and we want to help children improve their soccer abilities and enjoy the game.

**The Club offers:**

- Flexible training using additional and makeup practices with other club teams.
- Players have the chance to practice with other BHFC teams for additional training or make up a practice.
- 2-3 practices per week.
- Structured practice regimens.
- Club Trainers.
- Specialized goalkeeping.
- Additional specialized soccer training for all players.
- Two written player evaluations per year.
- A Club manager who handles all finances.
- A Dedicated Coaching Staff.
- A Dedicated Executive Board.
- A Club coordinator who organizes Club and Team fundraisers and volunteer opportunities which may reduce player fees.
- In the near future, the use of a Club-sponsored new complex of 8 to 9 fields now under construction.

The Club also organizes several events each year. These include, College Night where information about college soccer is presented to interested families, Annual Club Picnic and the annual Soccer Ball fundraiser.

Often multiple Blackhills FC teams are entered into a tournament to provide a mutually supportive atmosphere for our players and their families. It is our culture for players and parents from other Blackhills FC teams to support teams other than their own during tournaments and league play.

**What does the “U” in U11 mean?**

Teams are formed based on a player’s age and not school grade. The “U” means “under” and the player’s age must be under the number by August 1st.

**What does the year look like?**

Boys and Girls U10, U11 and U12: Tryouts in the April/May, spring training, summer tournaments. League season in the fall, spring and the State Cup in March. The U10 and U11 player fee does not include the State Cup fee. Parents will be asked if they want to participate.

Boys and Girls U13 and U14: Tryouts May, spring training, league season in the fall, spring and State Cup beginning in March.

Boys 15 - U19: Tryouts in the March, spring training,, summer tournaments, league season in the fall and State Cup beginning in January or February.

Girls U15 - 19: Tryouts in May, spring training, summer tournaments, league season beginning in February followed by State Cups.

**When is the league season?**

- Boys U10 - U14, September, October, November (fall) / January, February, March (spring)
- Boys U15 - U19, September, October, November
- Girls U10 - U14, September, October, November (fall) / January, February, March (spring)
- Girls U15 - U19, January, February, March

**What does the year look like?**

Soccer is year round. We break up the year into 4 seasons:

- I. Late winter and early spring: Tryouts and Summer Tournament preparation.
- II. Summer Tournaments.
- III. League Season: Fall, excluding Girls U15 - U19 who play in the Spring.
- IV. State Cups: Winter, excluding Girls U15 - U19 who play in the Spring.

**When are the league games played?**

This is subject to change based on the organization that develops the schedule.

Boys U10 - U14, Saturdays.

Boys U15 - U19, Sundays.

Girls U10 - U14, Saturdays.

Girls U15 - U19, Sundays.

**Who develops the league schedules?**

Washington State Youth Soccer Association (WYS), develops the league schedule for teams competing in the WYS State Leagues: [www.wsysa.com](http://www.wsysa.com), District 3 develops the league schedule for teams competing in their District leagues: [www.district-3.org](http://www.district-3.org).

**What is the time commitment?**

Every player is responsible for attending at least two 90 minute practices each week. Typically younger teams practice on two weekday evenings each week and older teams practice 2-3 times during the week.

We do our best to have multiple teams of similar ages practice at the same time and place to increase car pooling opportunities. Practice days, times, and location are usually set on a monthly basis and due to field constraints are subject to change.

**What about Travel?**

During the late spring and summer tournament seasons teams are entered into tournaments that expose them to a wide range of competition. Typically, our younger teams are entered into 3 summer tournaments and our older teams entered into 4-5 tournaments spread out over the year. Tournament entry fees are part of the player's program fee; however travel, food and lodging expenses are not covered in the players program fee and are borne by the players and their families.

During league play, teams are entered into leagues for which they have qualified through a LPT or placed into a regional league that is best for their development. Travel for league play is

characterized by day trips in the greater Puget Sound region, and less frequently to Eastern Washington and Bellingham.

### **Are there any soccer breaks?**

Blackhills FC recognizes that soccer is one part of a balanced life. Yes, soccer goes on year - round, yet we do manage to have breaks throughout the year. The 2010-2011 season brings new changes to the soccer year calendar.

Team practices are mandatory for every player. However, family, school and spiritual obligations have priority over soccer. If a player will not be attending a practice for any reason, we ask the player to notify the coach.

### **Can players play other sports?**

Yes, Blackhills FC does not prohibit players from playing other sports. We advise that it will become increasingly difficult to maintain a multiple sport schedule as the player becomes older. Coaches and your teammates have an expectation that soccer will be a first priority during the LPT's, League play and State Cup tournaments.

### **What happens at tryouts?**

Blackhills FC coaches understand that tryouts can be stressful experiences and will do what they can to provide as much information as possible about the process to the players and parents.

Multiple coaches will observe players and use the assigned jersey number to take notes and make selections. Returning players are not given any special preference over new players at tryouts.

Tryouts consist of small sided games and large sided games.

The players receive a score based on their tryout. If there are 10 selectors and 8 selectors choose this player their tryout score is 80%. We do not combine both tryout date scores, they are independent of each other and we take the high score from the two tryouts.

Returning players should not wear Blackhills FC clothing.

### **How do I register for tryouts?**

Parents or legal guardians can register online. Returning players please use your current login in name and password. Each new player will create a login name and password. If you are unable to register online your parent or legal guardian must fill out a registration form. Please bring the completed registration to tryouts.

### **How are players selected to a team?**

Players go through our tryout process and are selected by our coaching staff. The goal is to place players on a team with similar ability levels.

**What if I miss tryouts?**

If you miss our scheduled tryout, a player can try out for two weeks by attending the team's regularly scheduled practice and can be picked up on the team providing there is room on the roster.

**If I am not selected to a team what are my options?**

Blackhills FC has an Academy program. This allows players not selected to our teams or players who want to train with Blackhills FC the opportunity. Information can be found on the Blackhills FC website under "Academy."

Academy players will train with their age-appropriate Blackhills FC teams during Blackhills FC practice times. An Academy player may attend up to three Blackhills FC practices per week. Academy fees are charged monthly and are payable in advance.

**How many players can be selected to a team?**

- U10, maximum of 10
- U11, maximum of 14
- U12 - U19, maximum of 18

**When and how will we be notified regarding our tryout?**

All players will be notified by a phone call within 72 hours of their final tryout. If you do not receive a call please contact James Charette at 360-943-8233.

**Do you allow players to play up?**

Yes, but only those players who are capable of starting and playing the majority of a game. We determine this through discussions between the Head Coaches of both the true age and higher age teams, and with the, Technical Director, Coaching Director and Coaching Director Junior's.

**Can Blackhills FC form multiple teams in an age group?**

Yes, the Club can form a multiple teams if there are enough players and interest.

Second teams must have 15 players 6 weeks after tryouts (U12 - U18 age groups). At this point if the team does not have 15 players the Club will meet with the parents to discuss whether it is advisable or desired to move forward with the team.

**What is covered in the program fee?**

**We do not have hidden costs! All the costs are for the entire year and set prior to tryouts.**

The cost for a player to participate in the Blackhills FC program consists of two components: a program fee and uniform kit cost. The program fee is set annually by the Executive Board of Directors and it varies by age group.

Blackhills FC offers a number of additional practice opportunities for its players. These programs are all covered in your program fee:

- Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Training Camps.

- Skills Training Center sessions.
- Goalkeeping.
- Playball.
- All team training.
- Coaching Director.
- Coaching Coordinator.
- Club Business Manager.
- Club Coordinator.
- Coaches salary.
- Coaches reimbursement for travel expenses.
- Tournament entry fees, U11 player fee does not include State Cup fee.
- Field rental for practices and games.
- Field Turf rental for practices and games.
- Officials fees.
- Practice equipment.
- Player registration fee for WSYSA and DYSA
- League entry fees.
- Communication expenses, website, mailings...
- Coaches gear.
- Goalkeeping uniforms.
- Club seminars.

#### **What is not covered in your program fee?**

Expenses for the uniform kit, shoes, personal equipment, travel, lodging and meals are not included in the player fee.

#### **How are Club fees paid?**

The Club's annual fee can be paid at once, or more commonly, in monthly installments. Each family receives a monthly electronic statement, which can be paid in cash, check or by credit card.

When a player is selected to a team he or she pays a **\$300 non-refundable registration fee**. This fee is deducted from the annual fee and is not an additional expense.

#### **Do you offer a financial aid program?**

Yes, Blackhills FC does have a financial aid program. Financial Aid forms are located under "Resources" on the Blackhills FC Website.

#### **Who can I contact with additional questions?**

Director of Teams: Brian Clewes: Brian Clewes at [brianclewes@q.com](mailto:brianclewes@q.com)

Technical Director: James Charette at [wembleysoccer@comcast.net](mailto:wembleysoccer@comcast.net)

Coaching Director: David Cross at: [dcross1264@comcast.net](mailto:dcross1264@comcast.net)

Financial Questions: Sally Parker at: [sallyparkeroly@comcast.net](mailto:sallyparkeroly@comcast.net)