

Hello Fellow Soccer Parents,

My name is XXX XXXXX and I will be your child's soccer coach this season. Our team is the Mankato UX [team name] team. My apologies if you have been waiting to hear from me or are getting anxious because other teams are meeting.

First, I am excited to meet everyone. We should have a fun season! My goals for our team are to have everyone improve their skills, enjoy the game of soccer and make good friends. I'm hoping we can meet each other next Tuesday, September 6 at Land of Memories field at 6:15 for a brief team meeting, followed by practice. I also have a scrimmage scheduled for us next Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 at Land of Memories Park against another Mankato team. This will be a "friendly" and we'll work on getting our timing together as a team and trying out different positions. So you know, I never played soccer and after coaching this summer was begged to coach. I am happy to coach, but I am aware this request was not because of my soccer coach skills. I will do my best but I am open to help from any parents who have soccer experience. Along those lines, I need an assistant coach from among the parents. The assistant coach will be a low-stress job. Mainly we need an assistant coach who has been through the background check to coach in case I can't make a game or two. I do know I will miss our last weekend so please, please let me know if you can help out.

OK – specifics:

Practices:

After next week, we will have 1 organized practice per week. With this practice and weekly games, this is the extent of my time that I can commit. If anyone wants to hold an unofficial practice and the kids want to, I have no problem with a parent organizing this. Just include me in the planning so we can secure the field and get you "pinnies" or anything else you may need. I personally think that with 1-2 games a weekend and a practice each week, we will see the girls develop as players. I am also aware that our kids have lots of activities and commitments with the school year so no need to overwhelm them with soccer.

Games:

I am trying desperately to get a replacement schedule for the one hard copy that was given to me and promptly lost. I should get this tomorrow and will send immediately. Bottom line, each week we will have two games except for one week we have one. Our first week happens to be the week we only have a game on Sunday and...I just heard from the Eagan coach that they will need to reschedule and can't host that game. Most likely our girls won't play their first game until Saturday, September 17. So there is the extra time we have to get ready for the season. It is up in the air and I hope to have it clarified by tomorrow or by our first practice at the latest. Thank you for your patience for the newbie coach.

Absence Policy:

I have learned that travelling soccer is a lot more strict about things and want to share the MYSA policy that will be enforced. Our team has only 10 players on the roster compared to the usual 12 players. There will be 6 players playing for a side in the game unless someone gets red carded (5 players and 1 goalie). If for some reason, we end up with less than the allotted 6 players for a game, we will forfeit the game and MYSA will fine the coach (me) \$100 or more. So, PLEASE let me know with as much notice if you have conflicts once you get the schedule. I can always get a hold of the other coach and try to work to reschedule. This is what the Eagan coach is doing for the Sept. 11 game. Once, I have the schedule to you we can go through game details, etc.

Paperwork:

I will need the following from you at Tuesday's practice – a copy of your child's birth certificate, a completed medical release form (let me know if you need another copy) and a small picture of your child (head shot needs to go on the back of the player card I will have for your kiddo). Also, please have your kid bring a #4 soccer ball to each practice and game. Not a big deal if they forget theirs for a day but this way we can have enough to make sure we do drills

Playing Time and Things:

At this level, it's about having fun and getting better. I will not be a coach who is concerned about our record or getting the winning goal over being fair to everyone. You will see that I am competitive but really want to see the kids enjoy themselves and learn the game. We will rotate positions so each girl gets playing time at different positions. The only exception will be goalie – if your girl does not want to try this position, we can just rotate her in the other positions. Another goal is to get everyone fairly even playing time. Issues – if you have playing time issues or want to talk to me about anything, feel free to approach me either after a game or practice or via phone or e-mail. I believe in mutual respect so please remember I will be doing my best. Please refrain from heckling or arguing any calls. When appropriate, let me know your concern about the game and if I can do something about it I will.

Finally, I'd love to have a mom or dad volunteer to be our team manager. This person would coordinate things like putting together a first aid kit, organizing any car pools and perhaps arranging for team snacks. Please let me know if you have any further questions and I will get that schedule to you ASAP.

See you on Tuesday!

XXX XXXXX

xxxx@xxxx.com

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