



# **Mill Creek MetroParks Youth Soccer League (Ages 6-12)**

## *Rules & Regulations*

**Recreation Department:** 1861 McCollum Road | Youngstown, Ohio 44509

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Sunday | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Phone:** (330) 740-7114

**Letter To Parent/Guardian('s):**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Mill Creek MetroParks welcomes you to the Youth Soccer League! This league is for youth athletes ages 6-12 years old. Our goal for all youth sports participants, both youth athletes and you, is to have an enjoyable sporting experience from the first game to the last whistle of the season.

Please review the following information enclosed in this handbook to help you through this experience.

Sincerely,

*Mill Creek MetroParks' Recreation Department Staff*

**Staff Directory:**

**General Program Information:** 330. 740. 7114 ext. 106

**Recreation Program Coordinator:** Tommy Harrington | 330. 740. 7114 ext. 103

**Recreation Program Coordinator:** Dallan Patterson | 330. 740. 7114 ext. 282

**Recreation Manager:** Corey Buck | 330. 740. 7114 ext. 104

## League Guidelines

### Practices & Games

- The Youth Soccer League is 7 weeks long. Games will begin as early as **9:00 AM weekly on Saturdays from September 5th – October 10<sup>th</sup>**. All weekly practices and games will be held at Wick Recreation Area (**1861 McCollum Road, Youngstown, OH 44509**). Practice times are at the coach's discretion and will be communicated with you when your child is assigned to a team.
- The weekly game-time schedule will be provided to you by your team's coach before week #1. Your game time will vary from week to week between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM.
- Changes to the weekly game time schedule can only be made at the discretion of Mill Creek MetroParks Recreation Staff (e.g. postponement or cancelling/rescheduling a game due to inclement weather)
- Parents/guardians are required to be present for the entire duration of all practices and games
- Only registered players are eligible to take part in practices and games
- Players may **NOT** wear any type of jewelry (watches, rings, earrings, bracelets, etc..) during practices or games. Earrings **CANNOT** be taped and must be taken out, or the player cannot play
- **NO** casts or hard splints are allowed
- For information on postponement or cancellation/rescheduling of games, please refer to page 5

### Uniforms & Equipment

- All players must wear an official Mill Creek MetroParks branded soccer jersey. A jersey and (1) pair of black socks will be given to each player prior to the first week of games.
- Shorts (preferably black), shin guards, and shoes/cleats must be provided by the parent/guardian. Shin guards, extra black socks, and optional mouthpieces can be purchased at the Wick Recreation Area's team shop, located within the Recreation Center near the playground area.
- Size 4 soccer balls will be used for practice and games. A bag of soccer balls will be available at each field for teams to share.

### Player & Team Guidelines

Each team is put together by Mill Creek MetroParks Recreation staff. Each child is randomly assigned to a team specific to their age group (e.g. 6-8 years old will play in the 8U league). Age groups and the number of teams in a league vary depending on the number of registrations.

*Each player is expected to: be coachable and respectful, take care of the facilities and equipment, and always show and encourage good sportsmanship to fellow players, coaches, and officials.*

## League Rules

1. Teams are divided into one age group: 6-9 years old (9U).
2. This age group will play a 9v9 game format.
3. Games will consist of two 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.
4. All players must play equal playing time in each game.
5. Any changes to a team roster must be approved by the recreation staff.

## Game Rules (FIFA Rules)

1. Offsides will be called for all appropriate age groups
2. Only the goalie may touch the ball with their hands within the goal box
3. Fouls within the penalty/goalie box will result in a penalty kick
4. Fouls/infractions will result in an indirect, free kick from the spot of foul
5. During a goal kick, all players will move to the midfield line
6. Any neutral restart will result in a drop ball. For example, ball hitting referees, outside interference, and faulty balls.
7. No extra time in the regular season. Teams will either win-lose-draw.
8. No slide tackling allowed

## Playoffs Rules

1. Every team makes the playoffs in Week #7. Seeding will be determined based on the regular season records
2. Playoff games will include the same rules, except for extra time for a golden goal and a possible penalty shootout.
3. Extra time will include a 10-minute period of play. This period is referred to as a “golden goal” play meaning that the first team to score a goal wins.
4. If the score is still tied after the period, the two teams will take part in a penalty shootout. The best score out of five kicks from five different players from each team will be the winner.
5. Playoffs will have OFFSIDES and OVERTIME.

## Game Postponement/Cancellation

- Any decision to delay or cancel games will be made at the discretion of the Mill Creek MetroParks Recreation Staff.
- Decisions to delay or cancel games **before game time** will be made no less than one hour prior to the first scheduled game of the given day. Decisions to delay or cancel games **during a game** will be communicated to all teams who are present and those who are scheduled later in the day.
- Any decision to delay or cancel games (**before or during games**) will be immediately communicated with your team's coach, who is expected to assist us in contacting all parents/guardians on their team.
- Delays or cancellations will also be posted to the Mill Creek MetroParks Facebook and Instagram pages.
- If a game is cancelled during play, the game will be rescheduled to restart the following week. No more than **two make-up games** will be scheduled.

## Perry Weather Alarm System

- In case of inclement weather **during a game**, we will either delay play until a storm passes or cancel the game entirely depending on the severity of the storm.

Wick Recreation Area uses an automated weather alert system that indicates park-goers when there is lightning within a 10-mile radius of the property. When lightning is within this range, **one siren** will sound off which requires all play to STOP and park-goers to seek shelter immediately. This siren will initiate at least a 15-minute delay policy for play/activity on the property, which will continue until lightning is outside of our 10-mile radius. The sound of **two sirens** indicates that it is safe to resume play/activity.

**\*Perry Weather DOES NOT serve as a tornado warning. This system is only used by Wick Recreation Area to indicate when lightning is within 10 miles of the property.**

## Role of the Coach

All primary and assistant coaches are required to submit a volunteer application **and** pass a background check in order to serve in a coaching role. If you are interested in serving as a coach, please contact the Recreation Office at 330-740-7114 for more information – you can also submit your volunteer application online ([CLICK HERE](#)).

### Facilitator

- Serves as the primary contact for the team. Be prompt and timely in all communications
- Understand who you are coaching. Each child matures and develops at a different pace and should be treated as a unique individual. All activities should be age appropriate.
- To maintain fairness, all coaches are expected to ensure that:
  - Each player starts in **at least** one game.
  - Each player plays **at least** half of each game **and** in each game's half.
  - Each player is given an opportunity to play multiple positions through proper rotation of positions or areas of the field.

### Role Model

A volunteer coach's attitude and actions are on display for each player, team, and spectator to see and learn from. Because of this, we expect all coaches to be a positive role model for all youth athletes and parents/guardians by displaying an attitude of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTY, & CARING. To serve as a great role model, all volunteer coaches are expected to:

- Appear clean, neat, and appropriately attired
- Treat all children equally—regardless of sex, race, religion, or culture
- Demonstrate respect for opponents, referees, site supervisors, parents, spectators, opposing coaches, and opposing players
- Use positive techniques of guidance including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement rather than competition, comparison, and criticism
- Teach skills and knowledge about the game while emphasizing good sportsmanship, teamwork, and character
- Provide a fun, safe environment for all and promote friendships and sense of belonging

## **General Rules & Regulations**

Additional to the below policies, please refer to the Mill Creek MetroParks General Rules and Regulations for more information - [Park Rules & Regulations – Mill Creek MetroParks Website](#) or download the Rules & Regulations document ([CLICK HERE](#)).

- All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to practice good sportsmanship. Behavior, including but not limited to throwing objects, using profanity, and harassment is inappropriate. Inappropriate behavior of any kind or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, or spectators will result in an individual(s) being asked to leave a game, and they may be asked not to return for other youth sports activities.
- Consuming alcohol, being under the influence of alcohol, smoking or vaping as well as possessing or using illegal drugs at Mill Creek MetroParks programs is strictly prohibited.
- At no time during a Mill Creek MetroParks program should a child be left unsupervised or be alone where they cannot be seen by others.
- Coaches, spectators, or players should never speak or touch a child in a manner that could be interpreted as abusive or would make them feel uncomfortable.
- Coaches, spectators, and players are expected to clean up after themselves for both practices and games.
- Failure to abide by any of the above policies will result in an individual(s) being asked to leave a game, and they may be asked not to return for other youth sports activities.