

# Mid Northern Soccer League



## Player, Parent Handbook Fall 2011

Designed by Byron Park District

# **Mid-Northern Soccer League**

## **Participating Organizations**

### **Byron Park District**

Ray Bielskis/Cyndi Elsbury  
P.O. Box 423  
Byron, IL 61010  
Ray: (815)871-0055; Cyndi: (815)234-5707  
(815)234-8435; Fax: (815)234-2984  
[celsbury@byronparkdistrict.com](mailto:celsbury@byronparkdistrict.com)

### **Mt. Morris Youth Sports League**

Jim Hopkins / Jeff Dees  
P.O. Box 223  
Mt Morris, IL 61054  
Jim: (815)275-7133; Jeff: (815)871-2998  
[jim@graphicartsexpress.com](mailto:jim@graphicartsexpress.com)  
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### **Oregon Park District**

Jonathan Bakener  
P.O. Box 237  
Oregon, IL 61061  
(815)732-3101  
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### **Polo Soccer League**

Larry Loomis  
407 W. Dixon St.  
Polo, IL 61064  
(815) 946-2038  
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[loomisrl@frontiernet.net](mailto:loomisrl@frontiernet.net)

### **Stillman Youth Soccer Club**

Mona Smith  
5303 E. Aspen Ct.  
Byron, IL 61010  
Cell: (815)980-2881  
[moclaysmith@yahoo.com](mailto:moclaysmith@yahoo.com)

### **Winnebago Park District**

Will Hartje/Michelle Cunningham  
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[mcunningham@winnebagoParkdistrict.org](mailto:mcunningham@winnebagoParkdistrict.org)

The Mid Northern Soccer League is for youth (male and female) between the grades of K through 8 who are interested in playing soccer. Formed in 1987, the league plays scheduled games on Saturdays.

Divisions of play are grades K – 1, 2 – 3, 4 – 5, 6 – 8. Example, if your child is in Kindergarten, he/she would play in the grades K – 1 division. If your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, he/she would play in the 2 – 3 division.

We would like to make soccer a positive experience for everyone in the league. Besides being an excellent conditioning sport, soccer builds the “Team Concept” attitude in children, sportsmanship, and respect for officials. These are desirable qualities that, if maintained in a child, can help him/her the rest of their life. It also teaches fundamentals of a game they can play the rest of their lives.

## **Mid Northern Soccer League**

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Byron Park District, P.O. Box 423, Byron, IL 61010

Mt. Morris Youth Sports League, P.O. Box 223, Mt. Morris, IL 61054

Oregon Park District, P.O. Box 237, Oregon, IL 61061

Polo Soccer League, 407 W. Dixon St., Polo, IL 61054

Stillman Youth Soccer Club, 5303 E. Aspen Ct., Byron, IL 61010

Winnebago Park District, 502 N. Elida St., Suite 6, Winnebago, IL 61088

### **Dear Player/Parent,**

Soccer is an exciting team sport that is good for the body as well as the mind. It is a sport in which a person, no matter what skill or desire level, can participate at his/her own level, and still reap the benefits of a positive team sport.

The sad thing about soccer, especially at this level, is that one team almost always loses, and that feeling is not one that we would like to impart to players. This addresses some of the ways to lessen some of these negative feelings.

### **Responsibility of Parents**

Good sportsmanship is a quality a child learns from coaches and parents. If you cheer positively and have respect for the officials, your child will do likewise. If you don't berate players or the officials because the outcome of the game was not in your favor, your child will learn the hard lesson that sometimes, no matter what you do, or how hard you try, you may lose. It is our objective for the children to learn this, but also to learn that if you did your best, there is nothing to be ashamed of. Finding fault or placing blame, benefits no one. **We would also ask that you remain in the designated spectators' area during play (on the side opposite of the players' benches) – see Field Rules Page.**

### **Responsibility of Players**

Your responsibility is to learn about soccer, the team concept, sportsmanship, and general rules of fair play. Players are responsible for wearing shin guards at all practices and games. It is important for you to remember that winning is not everything, and we hope that soccer can be a good experience for you and everyone else in the league. Most importantly, we want you to have a good time!

### **Rules**

There are several rules you should be aware of, the most important of which is the minimum quarter rule. If your child attends practices with no unexcused absences (not calling the coach), he/she will play at least 2 quarters of every game. If you feel that your child is not receiving his/her fair playing time, contact your coach, and if not satisfied, then contact your designated soccer community coordinator.

To encourage a positive soccer learning experience during the season, no score or standings will be kept at the K-1 and 2-3 divisions of play. **Game results will be reported for the 4-5 and 6-8 divisions of play only to assist with the end of season tournament bracketing.** Again this year, we will have specific areas for teams and coaches, as well as spectators at the games.

**Failure to respect these league rules can cause a forfeit for your team.**

We hope you have an enjoyable 2011 season!

The Mid Northern Soccer League Commissioners

# MID NORTHERN SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

ALL NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION RULES WILL APPLY UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED HERE.

## I. EQUIPMENT:

- A. All players **must** wear shin guards. No metal spikes or cleats.
- B. The Mid Northern Soccer League will not be held responsible for any damage or injury that may occur to players wearing unprotected glasses.
- C. Players are encouraged to purchase sport safety glasses to wear during games and practices.
- D. Mouth guards are recommended, but not mandatory.
- E. Jewelry, barrettes, and watches may not be worn.
- F. Ball sizes will be #3 for K-1, #4 for 2-3 and 4-5, #5 for 6-8.

## II. ROSTERS & SUBSTITUTIONS:

- A. **A Team Roster will consist of no more than 22 players.**
- B. **Rosters must be exchanged between coaches prior to each of their games throughout the season. Rosters must consist of the players' names, grade levels, and jersey numbers. The referee or supervisor on site will constitute the game a forfeit if a roster is not provided.**
- C. Only players on the team roster are allowed to play in league games. In order to field a roster, teams will be allowed to move a player up from a lower division to play out the game; however, the game will be considered a forfeit in league standings.
- D. **There will be 4 players from each team on each field at a time for K-1 division, 9 players on the field for 2-3, and 11 for the other divisions.**
- E. **All players shall play at least 2 quarters of every game if there are not unexcused absences.**
- F. Substitution for K-1 and 2-3: unlimited substitution between periods, on a goal kick, when play is stopped for any reason, an injured player is attended to, when a player is cautioned, throw in, and corner kicks.
- G. Substitution for all other divisions: either team may substitute between periods, on a goal kick, when play is stopped for any reason, when a player is injured, cautioned. The team losing possession may not substitute unless the team gaining possession is substituting at the same time.

## III. THE GAME:

- A. **K-1 will play (4) 8 minute quarters, 2-3 will play (4) 10 minute quarters, 4-5 will play (2) 25 minute halves, 6-8 will play (2) 30 minute halves.**
- B. Before the beginning of the game, the home coach will pick ½ of the field for their home bench and will stay there for the full game. The 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade division coaches must exchange team rosters.
- C. All teams will alternate kickoff at quarters and halves. (Team #1 kicks off 1 & 3 quarters, Team #2 for 2-4 quarters) Teams will switch ends of field at the half.
- D. The interval between quarters is one minute and between halves is 5 minutes.
- E. Slide tackling shall be considered dangerous play. (Indirect kick for offended team)
- F. Goalkeepers will have 6 seconds to put the ball back into play. (4&5 and 6-8 levels)
- G. **In K-1, if the ball stops inside the box area in front of the goal, the defending team will take a goal kick. No players should stand or play in this area. Defending team interrupting a moving ball in the box is a goal penalty. Offensive team will lose possession, and defending team receives a goal kick. Dead ball is considered a goal kick.**

### III. THE GAME (cont. 'd):

- H. **Off-sides** will not be called for K-1 division, but will be called in all other age groups: A player is off-sides if he/she is involved in the play **and** is behind the last defender **and** is nearer his opponent's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played by a teammate unless:
- he is in his own half of the field of play,
  - he is not nearer to his/her opponent's goal line than at least two of his/her opponents
  - the ball was last played by an opponent, or
  - he/she receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.
- I. **For the 4-5 & 6-8 divisions of play, game results must be reported to the host site's concession stand by the winning team coach. Community coordinators will be responsible for reporting game day results to Cyndi Elsbury at the Byron Park District via e-mail: [celsbury@byronparkdistrict.com](mailto:celsbury@byronparkdistrict.com) in order to assist with the bracketing of the end of season tournaments.**

### IV. INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES:

- The Community Coordinators who are hosting the games for the day will contact the community coordinators of the towns designated to play at their field on that given day.
- Each individual community coordinator is responsible for contacting their own coaches.
- Notification will be given no earlier than 8:00 a.m. for the first two rounds of play and a decision for the rest of the day will be made by 10:00 a.m.
- Officials must stop the games when electrical storms are present.
- Games called after 1 half of play due to weather are considered complete and the score stands for league play, where applicable.
- Games not played/cancelled due to weather conditions will not be rescheduled by the league and will not count in the standings, where applicable. (*Exception: Upon the agreement and arrangement of coaches and approval by their designated community coordinators, makeup dates may be scheduled at the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade divisions ONLY.*)

### V. FORFEITS:

- Less than 7 players on the field 5 minutes after a scheduled game time, constitutes a forfeit for all age divisions, except K-1. (Offending team loss, other team win).
- Poor fan behavior may also result in a forfeit.

### VI. K-1 DIVISION RULE EXCEPTIONS:

- K-1 teams will be split into 2 teams of 4 for each game. Coaches are the referees. No goalkeepers will be used. No players allowed in goal area. Games are played side by side, and players may switch fields anytime. Fields shall have a box painted the width of the goal and 2 yards out in front. This is to keep defenders from standing in front of the goal.**
- With less than eight players, teams are allowed to share players so the kids can play the game.
- No offsides will be called.
- Coaches are encouraged to help each team learn the game. Each coach may coach one field, and the coaches can switch fields at the half. Players not playing should be in the bench area between the 2 playing fields.

### VII. COACHES: (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

- There may be 2 coaches in front of their own bench, between penalty line and centerline of team side of the field.
- No spectators, parents, etc. will be allowed along the goal lines or on the players' side of the field. (exception for K-1)
- There will be designated spectators' areas and team/coach areas.

## VIII. OFFICIALS:

- A. The game officials will be provided by the organization hosting the games. All officials are provided with a training session during the pre-season.
- B. Linespersons will make out-of-bounds calls only.
- C. For 6-8 division, 2 officials are required on the larger fields.

## IX. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

- A. Players receive yellow card for first warning.
- B. Players receive red card---removal from game and no replacement (team plays short).
- C. **Fans receive one warning:** if behavior is not modified, it causes forfeiture of game (loss for offending team). Referee's discretion will decide; decision will be final.

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## DATES & TOWNS HOSTING GAMES

*New For 2011: All games hosted by Stillman Valley will be played in Davis Junction.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Site</u>
Aug. 27	<b>Mt. Morris</b> (Byron, Stillman)	<b>Winnebago</b> (Oregon, Polo)
Sept. 10	<b>Byron</b> (Mt. Morris, Winnebago)	<b>Oregon</b> (Polo, Stillman)
Sept. 17	<b>Mt. Morris</b> (Oregon, Polo)	<b>Stillman</b> (Byron, Winnebago)
Sept. 24	<b>Stillman</b> (Mt. Morris, Oregon)	<b>Winnebago</b> (Byron, Polo)
Oct. 1	<b>Byron</b> (Polo, Stillman)	<b>Mt. Morris</b> (Oregon, Winnebago)
Oct. 8	<b>Oregon</b> (Byron, Winnebago)	<b>Polo</b> (Mt. Morris, Stillman)
Oct. 15	<b>Polo</b> (Byron, Oregon)	<b>Winnebago</b> (Mt. Morris, Stillman)
Oct. 22	Tournaments for 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> at Byron and 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> at Oregon	

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### **4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Consolation Soccer Tournament @ Byron** **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Consolation Soccer Tournament @ Oregon** **October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Tournament fees: \$60.00/team  
Tournament bracketed after Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Awards to 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> Place finishers and Consolation Champions.

Checks payable to: Byron Park District (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Oregon Park District (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

For more information contact:

Ray Bielskis at Byron(815) 234-8435 and Jonathan Bakener at Oregon (815) 732-3101.

Sample Bracket Is Attached. More Tournament Details Distributed Later In The Season.