



Bourbonnais Township PARK DISTRICT

Bourbonnais Township Park District **Soccer League** **Parent Packet**

Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2026 Bourbonnais Township Park District's soccer league! We are very excited to provide a quality soccer league that you and your family will enjoy.

Our goal is to provide families in the surrounding communities the opportunity to participate in a league where **sportsmanship** and **teamwork** are the center focus. We believe it is important to develop the player as a whole, and while competition can be healthy, we will stress **enjoyment** and **skill development** over winning. Every family has their own reasons to participate in a team sport and it is our responsibility to ensure all players can enjoy their experience. Please keep in mind the BTPD values of **sportsmanship** and **growth** as we go through the season.

Our league relies on the participation of **volunteer** coaches, who are instrumental in providing an engaging and successful league. Please keep in mind that these coaches are donating their time to the development of our youth! Throughout the season if you have the opportunity to assist the coaches in any way, either with practices or simply making sure you communicate crucial information like missing games or practices, please do!

In this manual, you will be provided with important information about the 2026 soccer season. Please take the time to read through this information, as we hope it will answer many questions you may have.

Bourbonnais Township Park District strives to provide the best experience for your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Lindsey Laskey with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Laskey
Recreation Supervisor
LindseyL@btpd.org
815-530-4693



Expectations of Parents

1. Exhibit good sportsmanship toward all participants, coaches, referees, and other parents, both on one's own team and the opposing teams.
2. Communicate in a constructive way with Bourbonnais Township Park District staff, including coaches, referees, and Recreation Supervisor.
3. While we encourage parents to stay at games and practices, if you do decide to drop off your child at a practice or game, please pick your child up in a timely manner. Please show respect for your coaches by being prompt.
4. Make every effort to let your coach know if your child will be absent from a game or practice.
5. Help coaches keep the program fun!
6. During practices and games, parents are encouraged to verbally support the entire team from the opposite side of the field. Parents coaching from the sidelines is not permitted.
7. Adhere to the Parents' Code of Ethics.

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports activities by following this Parent's Code of Ethics:

1. I will encourage sportsmanship and character development by showing support for all players, coaches, and officials involved at every game and practice session.
2. In conjunction with the Bourbonnais Township Park District, I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the children ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. I will insist and help to ensure that my child and his or her team play under safe conditions at all times.
4. I will expect that my child's coach and team adhere to all rules of participation and competition at all times.
5. In an effort to aid their development, I will make every attempt to ensure that my child attends all practices/games on a timely basis.
6. I will do my best to actively take on any role necessary to improve the quality of every child's experience.
7. I will remember that youth sports programs are intended for the youth of our community and I will do my best to make these experiences fun and rewarding.



Important Contact Information

Lindsey Laskey, Recreation Supervisor: 815-802-2926
LindseyL@btpd.org

Perry Farm House Front Desk: 815-802-2913

Coach contact: _____

Soccer League App for communication: Your team will have a **GroupMe** channel created for your team for communication. Please also join this announcement channel for important information from the Recreation Supervisor.

Weather Reporting for Practices and Games

Practice cancellations will be made in collaboration by the Recreation Supervisor and your coach. **Coaches will communicate practice changes to your team.**

Game cancellations will be determined by the Recreation Supervisor and will be sent to each team coach. **Coaches will communicate game changes to your team.**

Lightning/ Severe Weather:

In the event of severe weather during an active practice or game, the following protocol will be followed:

- If lightening occurs, the lightning predictors will sound an alarm. At this point, activities must cease for at least 30 minutes after the last lightening was seen or thunder was heard.
- During this time, teams can take shelter under the park pavilion, within park bathrooms or at Exploration Station if available.

Tornado

A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted. In the event of a tornado warning do the following:

- Participants must take cover within park bathrooms, Exploration Station, or Perry Farm House if available.
- Participants should remain in a weather emergency area until the threat has passed.
- Coaches must notify Recreation Supervisor of emergency situations as soon as possible.



Important Dates:

July 6- Registration deadline

July 13- Team assignments and game schedules sent

July 21- Coaches meeting 6pm

July 27- Parents meeting 6pm

July 28- First day practices can be held- uniforms passed out during practices

August 8- First Game

August 22- Tentative team photo day- final dates and time sent with team assignments

September 5- No games

September 26- Final game

Practice and Game Information

Practices

- Will be held once a week as determined by your coach.
- Days and times for practices should remain consistent and will be communicated to you by your coach if changes occur. Coach will notify Recreation Supervisor of any changes.
- Perry Farm Park will be available for coaches to “reserve” practice times Tuesday-Thursday, 4pm-7pm. Coaches should work with the team to determine a suitable time for all players to meet.
- Field Locations are behind Exploration Station at 1095 Perry Street, Bourbonnais.
- Practices will begin the week of July 28 through September 26.

Practice length is recommended by age:

| Age | 3-4 | 5-8 | 9-12 | 13-14 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Length of practice | 45 minutes | 60 minutes | 75 minutes | 90 minutes |

Games

- Will be held every Saturday starting August 8 at Perry Farm Park behind the Exploration Station.
- Please reference BTPD League Rules Handbook for rules, spectator expectations and our behavior management policy.

There will be no practice or games held the week of August 31-September 6.



PLEASE REFERENCE THE BTPD RULES HANDBOOK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE RULES OVERVIEW.

Equipment and Safety

Players **must** bring/wear the following to every **practice**:

- **Water bottle**- preferable labeled with your athletes name
- Long soccer socks
- Shin guards- worn under soccer length socks
- Athletic clothing- keep in mind the weather forecast
- Well fitting athletic shoes- soccer cleats not required but **metal cleats are NOT allowed**
- Athletes with glasses should utilize a sports band
- Please apply sunscreen before practice- our fields receive full sun!

Optional practice items

- Coaches will be supplied with at least 2 soccer balls for the teams use. If owned, a soccer ball of the correct designated size is encouraged to be brought.

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|------|-------|
| Age | 3-8 | 9-12 | 13-14 |
| Ball Size | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Players **must** bring/wear the following to every **game**:

- **Water bottle**- preferable labeled with your athletes name
- MLS Go Uniform
 - Shorts, shirt, socks
 - Goalkeepers will utilize the reverse side of the MLS Go uniform when playing in goal
- Shin guards- worn under soccer length socks
- Well fitting athletic shoes- soccer cleats not required but **metal cleats are NOT allowed**
- Athletes with glasses should utilize a sports band
- Please apply sunscreen before practice- our fields receive full sun!

Players are not permitted to wear fashion jewelry, fashion accessories, hard casts, or cold weather gear over the uniform on game day (must be worn under).



Frequently Asked Questions

How do we find out what team we are on?

This year a roster email will be sent to every player and coach so that everyone knows exactly which team they are on and can then work together to set practice times. Please keep in mind, the coach/park district emails may automatically go to your spam or junk folder. The email used will be the one provided during registration.

How are practices organized?

Each team will have 1 practice per week, weather permitting. It is encouraged for coaches to try to maintain a regular day each week to practice. Coaches will use their discretion regarding practicing in wet weather, and will communicate practice cancellation decisions to parents. Under no circumstances should teams practice during thunderstorms or heavy rain.

How are the teams made?

Coaches are guaranteed to have their child and the child of an assistant coach on their team. No coach requests are guaranteed. One friendship request will only be considered per player if each friend requests the other (ie Billy requests Jimmy AND Jimmy requests Billy). Chaining friends (listing one friend who lists another, and so on until it forms an entire team) or listing multiple friends are not permitted.

When is Picture Day?

A tentative picture day is scheduled. Final notification of dates and times will be provided when team rosters are sent out.

Are Referees guaranteed for makeup games?

No. Due to the lack of referees in the youth sports world, there is no guarantee that a referee will be assigned to a makeup game.

Can we organize team snacks?

Through the years, it has become common for parents to bring after-game snacks for the team. The Bourbonnais Township Park District neither encourages nor discourages this practice, however, in keeping with promoting health and fitness, we ask that you choose healthy items should you choose to celebrate success in this way. In addition, if your child has any sort of food allergies, please make sure you closely monitor any team snacks that are consumed by your child, and make sure you notify the coach. If you are going to do snacks, please keep in mind children with allergies and provide them with an allergen-safe alternative.

