



Ventura Family YMCA

Clinic-Style Soccer League

Division 2 (Age 8-12)

Parent Handbook

Winter 2025

VENTURA FAMILY YMCA
SOCCER LEAGUE
Parent Letter

Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the Ventura Family YMCA Youth Soccer League. Thank you for enrolling your children in youth sports at the Y. Here at the Y, our goal is to provide quality programs that provide a FUN environment where children are able to learn the fundamental skills of sports.

In order to accomplish this I ask that we always remember our role out on the court: Coaches Coach, Spectators (Parents) Cheer, Referees Officiate, and Players Play. This approach will ensure that our non-competitive league stays true to our mission stated in the Seven Pillars of YMCA Youth Sports.

Pillar One - Everyone Plays. We do not use tryouts to select the best players, nor do we cut kids from YMCA Youth Sports. Everyone who registers is assigned to a team. During the season everyone receives equal practice time and plays half of every game.

Pillar Two - Safety First. Although kids may get hurt playing sports, we do all we can to prevent injuries. We've modified each sport to make it safer and more enjoyable to play. Coaches make sure the equipment and facilities are safe, and they teach the sport as we've prescribed so that the skills taught are appropriate for athletes' developmental levels. And coaches constantly supervise their players and stop unsafe activities.

Pillar Three - Fair Play. Fair play is about playing by the rules and more. It's about coaches and players showing respect for all involved in YMCA Youth Sports. It's about coaches being role models of good sporting behavior and guiding their players to do the same.

Pillar Four - Positive Competition. We believe competition is a positive process when the pursuit of victory is kept in the right perspective. The right perspective is when adults make decisions that put the best interests of the players before winning the contest. Learning to compete is important for youngsters, and learning to cooperate in a competitive world is an essential lesson of life. Through YMCA Youth Sports we want to help kids learn these lessons.

Pillar Five - Family Involvement. YMCA Youth Sports encourages parents to be involved appropriately in their child's participation in our sports programs. In addition to being helpful as volunteer coaches, officials, and timekeepers, we encourage them to be at practices and games to support their child's participation.

Pillar Six - Sport for All. YMCA Youth Sports is an "inclusive" sports program. We offer programs to all youngsters regardless of their race, gender, religious creed, or ability. We ask our adult leaders to encourage and appreciate the diversity of children in our society and to encourage the kids and their parents to do the same. Fair play involves respect! Fair play requires a clear understanding of the rules by everyone involved.

Pillar Seven - Sport for Fun. Sports are naturally fun for most kids. Some-times when adults become involved in children's sporting activities they over organize and dominate the activities to the point that it destroys kids' enjoyment of them.

The YMCA believes that character development, focusing on the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, is an essential element of it's sports program. Remember, only a fraction of young people will play sports beyond high school, but the majority will become parents, employees, and citizens. By building their character, you'll give them and the rest of society a permanent gift.

- *Caring: To appreciate others and be sensitive to the well-being of others involved in the sports program*
- *Honesty: To have integrity, making sure that one's actions match one's values through participation in sports.*
- *Respect: To value the worth of every person, including oneself, one's teammates, opponents, and officials.*
- *Responsibility: To be accountable for one's behavior and obligations.*

Our intent is to provide as much support as needed to ensure a positive experience for you and your child(ren). If there are any questions or concerns during the season please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Maddie Ozbourn
Youth Sports Coordinator
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VENTURA FAMILY YMCA
SOCCER LEAGUE
Parent Code of Conduct

The Ventura Family YMCA is asking for your cooperation as a parent and/or spectator. We would like everyone involved:

- To enjoy youth sports
- To have fun
- To create a positive environment that is free of stress

MY PLEDGE TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

I will respect all gathered today at this game: officials, timekeepers and scorekeepers, coaches and fans, players and parents. I will cheer my team on and applaud all players' efforts. I will model good sportsmanship.

Specific Fan Guidelines:

- Praise your children during games and practices
- Keep comments positive
- Leave coaching to the coaches (You may be asking your child to do something the coach has told them not to do)
- Take any constructive comments regarding the game to the coach, who may approach the Sports Director/Coordinator at the end of the game
- Do not interrupt the game
- Be examples of good sportsmanship for our children to model
- Criticizing officials will not be allowed
- Negative behavior toward the opposing team will not be allowed
- Help us make this a positive and fun experience for everyone involved
- Remember that the game is for youth - not adults
- Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of your child ahead of personal desire to win
- Provide and display positive support, care, and encouragement for your child and other children in youth sports

Policy Enforcement:

- Individual may be given a warning for inappropriate behavior.
- Individual may be asked to leave the game(s) and may be asked not to return for other Youth Sports activities.
- Other sanctions as deemed necessary may be enforced.

VENTURA FAMILY YMCA
SOCCER LEAGUE
General Information

Why Clinic-Style?

At the YMCA, we are dedicated to providing children with the best experience possible. This winter soccer season, we have chosen to run the league clinic-style! This exciting format entails skill drills and mini games for the first half of each game day as an entire group. During the second half of the allotted time, children will play in an un-scored soccer game with an emphasis on fun. By transitioning our league to a clinic-style instead of the round-robin tournament style you may be used to, we are ensuring fairness in skill division and quality coaching for all participants.

Communication

- [YGAMETIME](#) is the site you can visit to view league info any time
- Email updates sent through YGAMETIME will contain important information, so please look out for emails that will appear from “**Ventura Family YMCA**”
- Signing up for Text Alerts through the YGAMETIME website is highly recommended! Cancellations due to weather are possible, and we will be communicating these through text message alerts in addition to emails.
- **GroupMe** is an app that allows for easy group messaging from your phone while protecting everyone’s cell numbers. We ask that you download the Groupme app and join the chat with fellow parents and coaches for your league division (Simply click the following link to join, after you have created an account): [GroupMe for Division 2](#)

Volunteerism

We have a great need for volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, and team parents. At the first meeting date of the season, all parents will be asked to sign up to assist the coaches on the field at least 1 game day, and bring snack at least 1 game day. It is mandatory for every participant’s guardians to sign up for at these temporary volunteer roles. We appreciate your support and involvement!

Timeline Reminders

- First game: **2/8**
- Picture Day: **2/15**
- Last game: **3/22**

Equipment/Uniforms:

- Comfortable shirt or undershirt
- YMCA-provided pinnie
- Black soccer shorts or athletic shorts
- **Shin Guards (Required)** with soccer socks over top
- Socks should be blue, white, or black
- Soccer Cleats (Recommended) or athletic shoes
- The YMCA provides soccer balls. Please label your ball if your child brings their own! (details on ball sizes under General Rules by Age Group chart below).

**VENTURA FAMILY YMCA
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General Information cont'd

Attendance & Check-in

- Be sure to have your child bring water and comfortable clothes.
- **Shin guards are Required for practices**
- This is not a drop-off program! Please **SIGN IN** on the sheet your coach will pass around at the beginning of practice. Parents must remain in the program area during the entire practice. Don't forget to **SIGN OUT** before leaving.
- Please be prepared to accompany your child to the restroom should they need to go during practice.

League Celebration

We are planning to host a end-of-season celebration after your last game. We will send out more details on our celebration the week prior to the end of the season.

Inclement Weather Policy

It is our intent to get every meeting day in as scheduled. However, safety is our top priority. Practices or games that are canceled due to inclement weather are not guaranteed to be made up. However, in the event of a cancellation due to weather, we will do our best to provide a make-up day if scheduling allows.

General Rules by Age Group

Age Division	# of Players on Field	Field Size	Goalie	Ball Size	Throw-ins	Offsides
3-4 yrs	4 v 4	30 x 20 yds	No	3	No; Kick-ins	No
5-7 yrs	6 v 6	60 x 30 yds	No	4	Yes	No
8-12 yrs	7 v 7	60 x 30 yds	Yes	5	Yes	Yes