



PARKS & REC



YOUTH SOCCER



LEAGUE INTRODUCTION

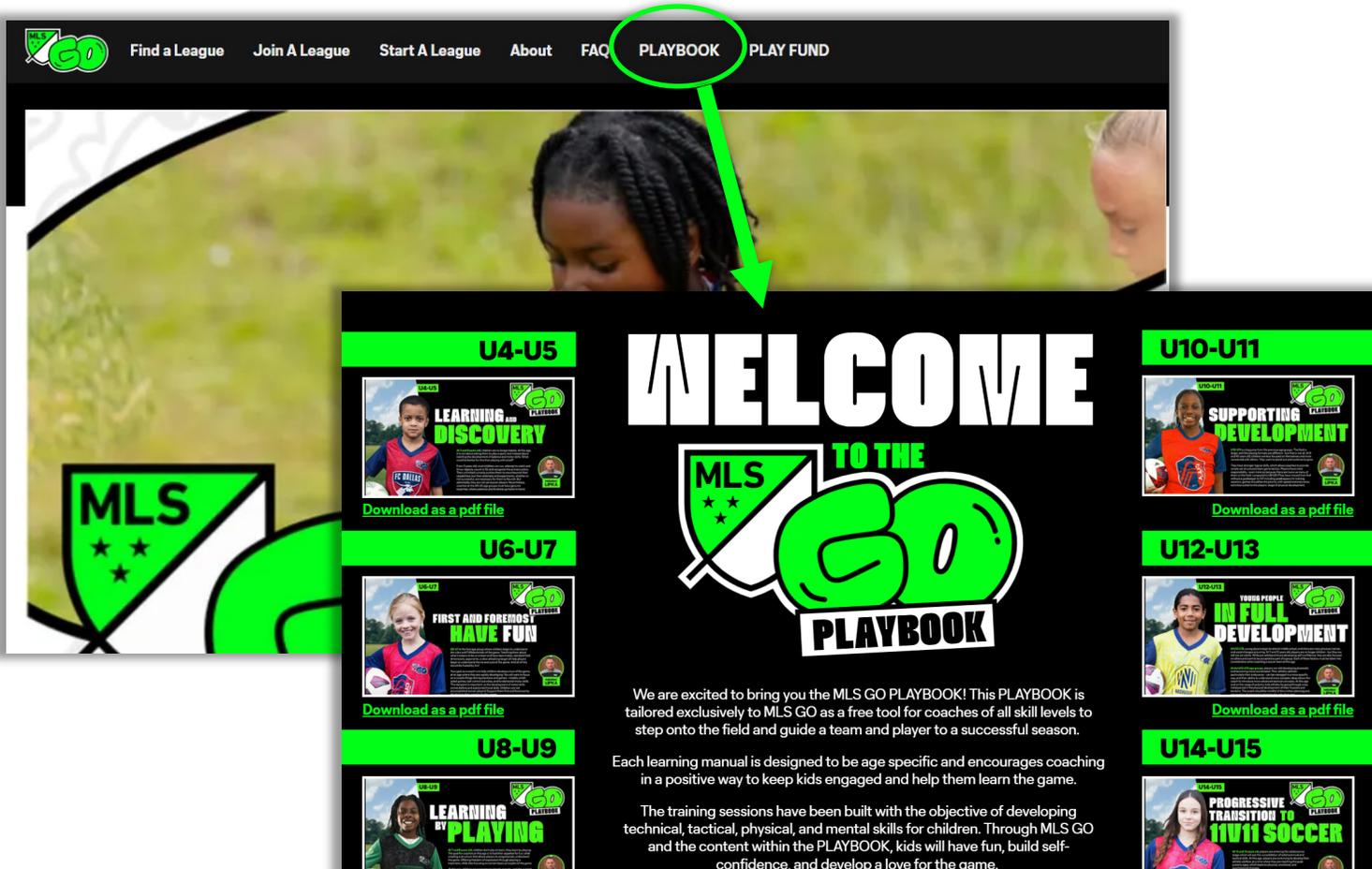
Welcome to the Woodlake Park & Recreation Youth Soccer League! We offer this program for kids TK to 8th Grade, and we had a HUGE increase in registrations over the last two years. We are now offering affordable play to over 600 kids! Thank you for your patience as our league continues to go through growing pains from adding more teams, and trying to identify more coaches to help in each Division! We appreciate all of the volunteer support we have received from parents & high school students who have stepped up to coach teams!

Because of this quickly growing program, and the fact that we do not put a cap on our registrations (for example, only take 300 registrations and then close the league), forecasting the details of each season is impossible. So what we are striving to do in this packet of information is provide what has been done the previous season, to give you an idea of what to expect. However, **this information can change!** It's simply meant to give you a guide.

Our League is a Parks & Recreation League, which means that it is non-competitive. The score of games is not kept or recorded. There are no playoffs or championships. All players must receive an equal amount of playing time, and all will receive a participation medal at the end of the season.

The season's games will begin mid-September. Your team will have a 9-game schedule, and the season will wrap up at the end of October / early November. (we try to get things wrapped up before the time-change)

We have also incorporated an affiliation with the MLS Go program. What this means for participants is that you will receive a licensed reversible MLS team jersey, be included on partnership promotions (like sampling Mas+ by Messi new sports drinks!), and have access to resources that the MLS Go program compiles for parents & coaches—including drills, team gear, and more! Make sure you check out www.mlssoccer.com/mlsgo! (please keep in mind, our league rules may be a little different than the template rules MLS Go puts out)



The image shows a screenshot of the MLS GO PLAYBOOK website. The navigation bar at the top includes links for "Find a League", "Join A League", "Start A League", "About", "FAQ", "PLAYBOOK", and "PLAY FUND". A green circle highlights the "PLAYBOOK" link, with a green arrow pointing down to a preview of the playbook content. The preview features a central "WELCOME TO THE MLS GO PLAYBOOK" graphic. Surrounding this are six age-specific sections, each with a thumbnail image and a "Download as a pdf file" link:

- U4-U5**: LEARNING by DISCOVERY
- U6-U7**: FIRST AND FOREMOST HAVE FUN
- U8-U9**: LEARNING by PLAYING
- U10-U11**: SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT
- U12-U13**: YOUNG PEOPLE IN FULL DEVELOPMENT
- U14-U15**: PROGRESSIVE TRANSITION TO TIVVI SOCCER

Below the thumbnails, there are three paragraphs of text:

We are excited to bring you the MLS GO PLAYBOOK! This PLAYBOOK is tailored exclusively to MLS GO as a free tool for coaches of all skill levels to step onto the field and guide a team and player to a successful season.

Each learning manual is designed to be age specific and encourages coaching in a positive way to keep kids engaged and help them learn the game.

The training sessions have been built with the objective of developing technical, tactical, physical, and mental skills for children. Through MLS GO and the content within the PLAYBOOK, kids will have fun, build self-confidence, and develop a love for the game.

SEASON OVERVIEW BULLET POINTS

SEASON REGISTRATION:

We only offer a Fall Youth Soccer Season. Registration for this fall season will begin during the summer—in early July. Registrations will be taken until the announced deadline—likely the middle/end of August, once school begins again.

We like to group our registrations by grade (versus age) so that it's not confusing to kids if their classmate is in a different division. We will use this structure template as we accept registrations (this structure is *subject to change*):

- **4U Division**—TK students are accepted registrations; anyone wishing to register their child who is not yet in TK will need to agree to Coach their child's team if-needed. This division will either be coed or split boys/girls depending on the registration numbers and the willingness of parent volunteer coaches. This Division plays on mini-fields with small goal boxes. There is no goalie. It's very likely these games will be played on Saturday mornings.
- **6U Division**—this division is split 6U Boys and 6U Girls, and includes students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade. This Division plays on mini-fields with small goal boxes. We do introduce a goalie at this level. If you feel that your child is ready to play on a larger field with more defined positions, please note on your registration form that you'd like for your child to play in the 8U division. It's very likely these games will be played on Saturday mornings.
- **8U Division**—this division is split 8U Boys and 8U Girls, and includes students in 2nd and 3rd grades. This division plays games on a large field and soccer rules are more defined and enforced. It's very likely these games will be played on Saturday mornings. There is also a great need for Coaches at this level as this is our largest age division for both boys and girls.
- **10U Division**—this division is split 10U Boys and 10U Girls, and includes students in 4th and 5th grades. This division plays games on a large field and all soccer rules are defined and enforced. The majority of these games will be played on week nights—which week night will depend on registration numbers. (ie: if boys and girls games will be on the same night of the week, or if they will need to be split into two different nights)
- **14U Division**—this division is split 14U Boys and 14U Girls, and includes students in grades 6th—8th. This division will very likely play their games on Wednesday nights (to avoid Middle School sports schedules). The teams in these divisions are often selected via a draft by the Coaches, so special requests are not taken into account.

It's incredibly important to register before the final deadline. After the deadline, teams are created and uniforms are ordered. We will order an equal amount of uniforms for each team in the same division to anticipate each team to have the same sized roster. So any late registrations that are accepted will be assigned to a team based on their uniform size (if it's available), and no special requests will be taken into consideration.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

We recognize that Woodlake is a small town with a lot of related families, so we will do our best to accommodate special requests. However, we do ask for a few things by you: 1) Put all special requests on your child's registration form (any received via call or email will not be taken into consideration). 2) Be willing to Coach your child's team—Coach's requests are prioritized. 3) Make sure you state your request clearly. For example, do not list nicknames or first names only. If you feel your child is ready to play at a higher level, state that clearly (ie: don't just list a request to play with an older sibling). *Please understand that we cannot guarantee your special requests.*

TEAM COACHES:

All of our coaches are volunteers. The season does not run smoothly without the volunteerism & dedication of parents and family members who step into these crucial team rolls! Don't be afraid to Coach your child's team—we will help you along the way, and we also encourage groups of parents to help each other and coach together!

Coaches are responsible for being the team point person with Woodlake Parks & Rec, as well as their team parents. We will host a Coaches Meeting before the season to introduce ourselves, allow you to meet fellow coaches, go through the rules, and answer any questions. After that meeting, Coaches will be able to reach out to their team parents and set practice dates. We encourage anyone wishing to have some control over the schedule to volunteer as a Coach. Parent's who take on coaching more than one of their children's teams are given priority during schedule making. They are guaranteed that none of their children's games will overlap. They also have control of the practice dates, times, and locations.

To be a team coach, simply make that notation on your child's registration form when you sign him/her up for the season—there will be a box to check that says you are willing to Coach. Once the season registration closes, you will be contacted with information for the date/time/location of our Coaches Meeting. At that meeting, you will receive your roster and team parent contact information, as well as your team's equipment.

SEASON OVERVIEW BULLET POINTS

HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in Coaching or Assisting a team for school volunteer hours, please reach out to Jennifer at JReynolds@ci.woodlake.ca.us.

PRACTICES:

Practices are determined & communicated by your team's coach. Woodlake Parks & Rec has no control over the date and time your team's coach sets for your teams practices. If you have any issues, we encourage you to speak with your child's Coach, or, volunteer to coach your child's team so you can work with your own busy schedule.

PRE-SEASON SCHEDULE:

Once registration closes, Woodlake Parks & Rec will release two "Season Information Packets". The first version will include pre-season events, team rosters, basic season info, and uniform information to help you prepare for the season. The second information packet will be released after the Coaches Meeting, and will include game schedules.

For the most up-to-date season information, follow the City of Woodlake on social media, or check our website at www.cityofwoodlake.com/recreation. If you include an email address on your registration form, you will also receive season announcements via email.

Here are a few key pre-season events to look forward to:

- **End of August/Early September:** Team Rosters Announced
- **Coaches Meetings:** 10U & 14U Coaches will meet the first week of September, others will meet the following week.
- **Youth Soccer Clinic:** This one-time clinic is in partnership with the WHS Soccer Teams. Participation is \$20 and includes a t-shirt. All money raised goes to support the WHS Soccer Teams. This is a great way to get your child excited for the season!
- **Opening Saturdays:** Our season will kick off with at least two Saturdays where all teams will play games (including the 10U and 14U teams) to allow for everyone to have their team pictures taken in the daylight. These games are also very festive and are created to get our participants excited about playing. All players will receive giveaways, there will be food vendors, and a photo backdrop to take pictures with friends/family.
- **Games:** Games will begin mid-September and will run through the end of October / early November. Reference the chart on the following page to see when each Division played their games last season (***please note, this may change based on registrations for the next season***).



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TO PROVIDE A POINT OF REFERENCE; THIS INFORMATION IS ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE NEW YEAR'S REGISTRATIONS.



BASIC SOCCER RULES & DIVISION INFORMATION

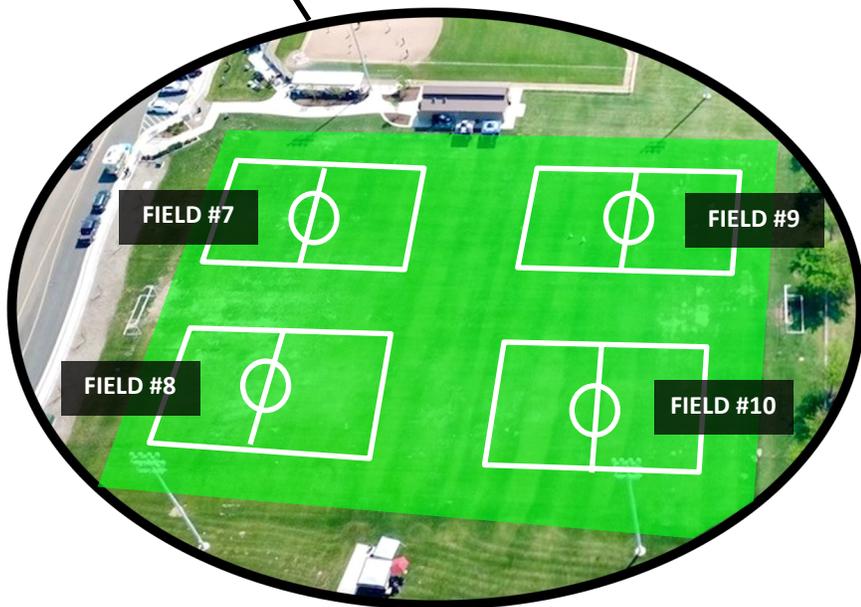
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	<u>4U COED</u>	<u>6U Girls</u>	<u>6U Boys</u>	<u>8U Girls</u>	<u>8U Boys</u>	<u>10U Girls</u>	<u>10U Boys</u>	<u>14U Girls</u>	<u>14U Boys</u>
Number of Teams:	8	6	8	6	8	4	4	4	6
# of Players in Div.:	64	60	80	60	104	56	60	48	69
Roster Size:	8	10	10	10	13	14	15	12	12
# of Players On-Field:	6 v 6	8 v 8	8 v 8	8 v 8	10 v 10	11 v 11	11 v 11	9 v 9	9 v 9
Game Day:	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Mon Night	Mon Night	Wed Night	Wed Night
Fields Used:	Fields 7-10	Fields 7-10	Fields 7-10	Fields 3-6	Fields 3-6	Fields 1 & 2			
Length of Game	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 30 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 30 min halves mid-game break
Ball Size:	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Goal Keeper:	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (Goal Kick)	Yes (Goal Kick)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside:	No	No	No	Unfair Adv.	Unfair Adv.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutions:	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Minimum Play:	20 mins	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	30 mins	30 mins
Practice Time (max):	1HR a Week	1HR a Week	1HR a Week	1.5 HR a Week	1.5 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week
Skills to Develop:	using inside of foot, head-up dribbling	stay in positions, passing, add throw-ins & goalies	stay in positions, passing, add throw-ins & goalies	rules/positions, passing to team mates	rules/positions, passing to team mates	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques
Approx. Field Size:	30x35 yards	30x35 yards	30x35 yards	35x60 yards	35x60 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards
Goal Size:	4x6 feet	4x6 feet	4x6 feet	6.5x12 feet	6.5x12 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet

**If not all players show up, play the total # of players on the smallest team*



FIELD LAYOUT MAP



UPPER FIELD SET-UP FOR 4U & 6U DIVISIONS

Fields are located at approximately 684 Katelyn Lane | Woodlake, CA 93286
Fields do not have bleacher seating. Please bring chairs/blankets & umbrellas.

MLS GO UNIFORMS



OFFICIAL PLAYER JERSEYS



ATLANTA UNITED



AUSTIN FC



CHARLOTTE FC



CHICAGO FIRE FC



FC CINCINNATI



COLORADO RAPIDS



COLUMBUS CREW



DC UNITED



FC DALLAS



HOUSTON DYNAMO FC



SPORTING KANSAS CITY



LA GALAXY



LOS ANGELES FOOTBALL CLUB



INTER MIAMI



MINNESOTA UNITED



CF MONTRÉAL



NASHVILLE SC



NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



NEW YORK RED BULLS



NEW YORK CITY FOOTBALL CLUB



ORLANDO CITY



PHILADELPHIA UNION



PORTLAND TIMBERS



REAL SALT LAKE



SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES



SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC



ST. LOUIS CITY SC



TORONTO FC



VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC

PROVIDED UNIFORM:

- Jersey (*reversible; no numbers on back*)
- Shorts
- Socks

NOT PROVIDED:

- Shin Guards
- Cleats (or tennis shoes)

