

INTERESTED IN PLAYING COMPETITIVE YOUTH SOCCER?



Your Introduction to *Rapids Kickers* Competitive Youth Soccer



www.rapidskickers.com

What Is Competitive Youth Soccer?

Competitive Youth Soccer, a.k.a. Rapids Kickers, is one of three divisions of Rapids Area Soccer, Inc. (RASI). Rapids Recreational Soccer and Wisconsin Rapids Adult Soccer comprise the other two divisions. All operate as not-for-profit divisions.

The Rapids Kickers Club is dedicated to promoting competitive soccer in the Wisconsin Rapids area. This is achieved through a higher level of competition involving league play and tournaments with an advanced level of coaching techniques and practice.

What are the goals of the club?

Our mission is to train, coach and motivate players to become as effective as possible in developing soccer skills, while promoting good sportsmanship.

Is there travel involved?

The Rapids Kickers play games in the Central Wisconsin Soccer League. The league season generally begins in mid-May and concludes by mid-July, and consists of teams from Marshfield, Stevens Point, Schofield, Wausau, Rhinelander, Waupaca and Eagle River. Each team plays 8 to 12 league games. Most games are played on week nights, but some games may be scheduled on a weekend during the month of May. Some travel is involved to the various league cities.

In addition, teams participate in weekend tournaments. The Board of Directors, with input from coaches, decides on tournaments the club will attend. The club tries to find tournaments within a two hour drive that can accommodate all club teams. Additionally, teams participate in our Rapids Kickers Home Tournament.

What team ages are played?

With sufficient numbers there will be coed and girls team brackets at U-9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

What about roster sizes?

U-9 & U-10 teams can roster up to 14 players. U-11 & U-12 teams can roster up to 16 players. All U-13 to U-19 rosters can roster up to 22 players but are limited to 18 players on game day. This is a mandate of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA). All players must initially register with their age appropriate team.

Are there tryouts?

If, after registration, the size of a team roster is exceeded, tryouts may be necessary and will be scheduled by the respective coach.

What does U-10, U-11, etc. mean?

A player's birth year determines the age bracket in which (s)he will play. For example:

Bracket	Birth Year
U-9	2011
U-10	2010
U-11	2009
U-12	2008
U-13	2007
U-14	2006
U-15	2005

Do all teams attend tournaments?

For the full year registrations, the U-9/10 age division teams play in our Rapids Kickers Tournament as well as two other away tournaments (one fall, one spring) determined by the club/coach. All other teams (U-11 to U-18) play in our Rapids Kickers Tournament and four other away tournaments (one fall, three spring) determined by the club/coach.

Tournament information for partial year registrations can be found on the Kickers website. Tournaments above and beyond those sponsored by the club are additional expenses paid by those families that choose to attend.

How much does it cost?

The 2019-2020 registration fees for a tournament player is \$300.00 for U11-U18 (birth years 2007-2000) and \$225.00 for U-9/10 (birth years 2008-2009). Other registration options are available on our website.

This registration fee includes: player participant insurance, referee expenses, player registration fees for league and all club sponsored tournaments, and club fundraiser buyout. All players are required to purchase a team uniform at a cost of approximately \$100. The uniform is theirs to keep. Soccer bags and various club apparel items are also available for purchase.

Players will also have additional expenses resulting from tournaments that are attended. This may include: hotel stays, meals, souvenirs, etc. Some families stay at all the tournaments, while others make the daily commute for tournament games.

How often are practices held?

Individual coaches determine when their teams will practice. Fall practices are held outdoors until late October. Indoor practices typically begin in January and are held at a minimum every other Sunday at the Mid-State Technical College gym. Spring practices move outdoors as soon as the weather permits. Playing on a competitive team requires a level of commitment. Attendance at practices and games is very important; all players on the team are depending on each player's commitment.

When is registration?

Registration takes place in June and must be completed on-line at www.rapidskickers.com. Registration closes on July 1st. A registration link can be found on the Kickers home page. If at any point of the on-line process, you have questions, please contact the Girl's Registrar at lisa.kubis@icloud.com or the Boy's Registrar at lyngski@gmail.com.

The online registration requires a photo of your child to be uploaded. This photo will be used for the player's individual player card. In addition, **new players** must also upload a copy of a certified birth certificate (obtainable from the county Register of Deeds office in which the player was born).

Late Registrations are accepted if room is available on teams. More information on our website.

What if a registered player doesn't make a team?

Registered players not rostered to a team will be refunded 100% of the registration fee. If a player's family relocates from the area before the first tournament/league game or if a player experiences a season ending injury before the first tournament or league game, (s)he will be refunded 80% of the registration fee. If a player decides not to join a team, the complete registration payment is non-refundable.

Registration fee hardship?

If payment of the registration fee presents a financial hardship, a parent/legal guardian can contact the club Secretary (Marcia Bruns) or club Treasurer (Larrie Hayes) to discuss a partial or full waiver of fees. The secretary or treasurer will notify the Board of Directors of the number of applications, but the identity of the applicants will remain confidential.

What is the Academy?

The Junior Kickers Academy is for youth ages 4 to 7 (and those players who will be turning 8). The skills sessions focus on soccer fundamentals and proper techniques while creating a fun environment that allows athletes to learn the game of soccer.

Players will train weekly for 7-10 sessions and participate in a round robin tournament with other CWSL communities. They will learn in a fun environment with age-appropriate activities and games. The cost for the program is \$60.

What is State League?

A coach, with board approval, may elect to play in WYSA State League with competition against Milwaukee and Madison clubs.

What is the Rapids Tournament?

The Rapids Kickers will be hosting their 34th annual soccer tournament in 2020. It is anticipated that over 60 teams will be participating. This is the major fund raising event for our club and many volunteers are needed to make it successful. *Parents of players are expected to work a predetermined number of hours at the Rapids Kickers tournament for each child participating.* There are a variety of tournament volunteer jobs, including: concessions, field marshals (checking in teams before their matches), tournament set-up and preparation, and post tournament clean-up.

Club Website

Our club website www.rapidskickers.com contains much more information about our club. Club by-laws and policy manuals are located under Documents.

Board Members

Please contact any of the following board members with further questions:

Ron Rasmussen (President)	608-393-0042
Nate Weidman (Vice President)	715-572-7146
Marcia Bruns (Secretary)	715-572-7577
Larrie Hayes (Treasurer)	715-422-0248
Karen Stashek (Referee Rep.)	715-424-0746
Megan Johnson (Player Dev.)	715-697-9707
Lisa Kubis (Girls Registrar)	715-424-3496
Lynette Gruszinski (Boys Registrar)	715-663-0847
Amanda Akkerman (Volunteer)	715-213-2081
Renee Fischer (Communications)	715-459-4307
Keith Wirtz (Dir. Of Coaching)	715-213-4756
Erin Wilson (Tournament)	715-459-2553
Brian Piesek (Fall Soccer)	715-572-4979

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