

# OHYA Soccer

## Questions and Answers

### General

**Q** - What is SAY Soccer? How is it different from select programs?

**A** - SAY stands for Soccer Association for Youth. It is a less competitive form of soccer than the typical Select programs. It is often referred to as Recreational Soccer. While it is competitive, it is more about Kids having fun!

**Q** - What is SAY Premier Soccer? How is it different from regular SAY Soccer or Select/Club programs?

**A** - It is more competitive than regular SAY soccer, but is probably still a little less competitive than the typical Select/Club programs. It cost more to play than the regular SAY program, but still cost much less than the typical select or club soccer. Players must try out for the SAY Premier teams similar to how players try out for Select/Club teams. For more information see the separate document with specific details on this program.

**Q** – Can my child play for a **Regular SAY** team and also play **SAY Premier**?

**A** – Yes, it is possible. However, they will need to work out details with the Regular SAY team coach as the expectation is that they make the SAY Premier team events over the Regular SAY team. Games are usually on different days, so there should not be much of a conflict for games.

**Q** - What soccer programs does the Oak Hills Youth Athletics Soccer offer?

**A** - OHYA has a **Little Kickers** program for children 4 & 5 years old, a **Regular SAY** program for children 6 through 13 years old, a **SAY Premier** program for children 6 through 13 years old, and a **Minors/Seniors** program for players 14 through 18 years old.

**Q** - What are the different levels in SAY Soccer?

**A** - The Lollipop level (we call **Little Kickers**) is for 4 and 5 year old players. The **Regular SAY** program consist of the **Passer** level (6 & 7), **Wing** level (8 & 9), **Striker** level (10 & 11) and **Kicker** level (12 & 13). The **SAY**

**Premier** program consist of levels U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14 and U15. The "U" stands for "Under" so the U9 program is for players who are basically 8 years old.

The **Minors/Seniors** program consist of **Minor** (14 & 15) and Senior (16, 17 & 18) levels. Minors & Seniors players may not be also playing for ANY High School sports team. Seniors who are 18 may not be playing for any college soccer team.

## Registration

**Q** - When does the Fall registration process begin?

**A** - Online registration begins April 1st. The primary registration period goes to May 31st. However, depending on teams numbers and player counts the registration for some levels may be cut off early or extended longer depending on player counts.

**Q** - What does it cost to play SAY soccer for the Oak Hills Youth Athletics Soccer?

**A** - The Oak Hills Youth Athletics Soccer has 3 programs for SAY soccer. The **Little Kicker** program for 4 & 5 year old players costs \$35 per season.

The **Regular SAY** program for 6 through 13 year old players costs \$68 per season. The Minors (14 & 15 year old players) and the Seniors (16 through 18 year old players) costs \$60. The maximum fee per family for the Fall season will be \$155 total, regardless of the number of players in the family. However, this does not include the additional cost for the SAY Premier program.

**Q** - Can I get a refund if my son or daughter registers to play soccer with Oak Hills and then later decides not to play or makes a select/club team and will not be playing soccer for OHYA?

**A** - There are **no** refunds available after registration, except for the following conditions:

- a. A player is unable to play due to illness. A physician's note may be required.
- b. A player becomes a member of an Oak Hills High School sports team.

**Q** - What is the absolute last date that I can register my son or daughter to play soccer?

**A** - The last date for registration depends on team sizes and number of teams at each level. OHYA starts closing down levels in late May or early June when all of the teams at a level are full and it is determined that another team cannot be added. Sometimes a waiting list is created if there is a chance of forming another team. The best way to be sure your son or daughter has a place on a team is to register in April or early May. Once the team draws have occurred space is limited and it is not possible to add another team.

**Q** - How does Spring registration work and when does it begin?

**A** – OHYA does not play spring soccer. In recent years we have not had enough interest to have teams in spring and our league has had the same issue.

## Teams

**Q** - Can my son/daughter be placed on a specific **Regular SAY** team for car pool reasons or to play with a friend?

**A** - SAY National rules **do not** allow placement of a player on a specific team for any reason other than Team Integrity or being the son or daughter of the head coach or 1st assistant coach. The Little Kickers program does allow placement on a team with other players or a specific coach. Please notify the soccer coordinator if you have a request.

**Q** - What is Team Integrity?

**A** - If a player played on an Oak Hills team last year and was at the lower age group for that level (i.e. 6 year old Passer last year who is now 7), then that player will normally automatically be on the same team for their second year at the same level if they register to play for the current year by the draw date. Once the team draws have occurred, a player who registers late no longer has team integrity and must be randomly placed on a team if space is available. An exception to team integrity may be made if the league WCSA and/or Oak Hills league representative decides to perform a total redraw of any level due to the best interest of the players.

**Q** - Can my son or daughter play on more than one **Regular SAY** team during the same season?

**A** - No, SAY National Rules specifically state that this is not allowed.

**Q -** Can my son or daughter play on a SAY team and a Select team during the same season?

**A -** Yes, this is permitted under SAY rules. However, OHYA Soccer asks that you notify your SAY coach and work with them to attend as much practice and games as possible so as to not leave your SAY team short.

**Q -** Can my son or daughter play up to the next higher level?

**A -** Yes, playing up to the next higher level because of skill level or to play with other players of the same grade level, etc. is permitted. Please indicate this when you register.

**Q -** Can my son or daughter play down to the next lower level due to a disability?

**A -** Yes, in the regular SAY program, playing down to the next lower level is permitted. However, you must have a signed doctors note stating that the child would best be served by playing at the lower level. Please indicate this when you register by adding a note in the comments area in the online registration or by emailing the Oak Hills Youth Athletics Soccer coordinator.

**Q -** How are new players and players who played last year that have moved up to the next higher level, placed on teams?

**A -** In the regular SAY program, all new players and returning players who do not have Team Integrity are placed on teams in a random draw process controlled by the WCSA league officers.

If a sibling of the same gender is already at that level, we will do our best to place them on the same team.

**Q -** How are coaches selected for the teams?

**A -** Coaches and Assistant Coaches are selected by the Oak Hills Youth Athletics Soccer Officers. Coaches and assistant coaches who coached last year normally will have

first option to return and coach again. Open positions for coaches and assistants will be selected from registration forms where the parents have indicated interest in coaching in the volunteer section. OHYA encourages as many volunteers to help as possible and will try to place a coach with a team whenever possible. This will be done before the team draws whenever possible.

**Q -** How do I find out what team my son or daughter will play on?

**A –** You will be contacted by email or phone using the contact information you supplied at registration. For the **Little Kicker** program, you will be contacted in late July or early August. For the **Regular SAY** program, the coach will contact you after July 15<sup>th</sup> and usually by last week in July. For the Minor/Senior program, you will be contacted by mid-August as this program starts later than the other programs. Please do not contact the OHYA officers for this information. For the SAY Premier program you will be contacted about try outs and later by a coach or coordinator after try-outs are completed.

**Q -** When can I expect my son or daughter's coach to contact me with information on when soccer will begin?

**A –** You will be contacted by email or phone using the contact information you supplied at registration. For the **Little Kicker** program, you will be contacted in late July or early August. For the **Regular SAY** program, the coach will contact you after July 15<sup>th</sup> and usually by last week in July. For the Minor/Senior program, you will be contacted by mid-August as this program starts later than the other programs. Please do not contact the OHYA officers for this information.

**Q -** What items are provided to players who play soccer for OHYA?

**A -** OHYA provides each team with team equipment (practice/game balls, cones, etc.).

For the **Little Kicker** program, players are provided with t-shirts with their team color for all practice and games. The shirts are yours to keep at the end of the season. **Little Kicker** teams are also provided with enough practice balls so that players do not need to bring a ball to practice/games. For the **Regular SAY** program, OHYA provides each player with a team jersey and red soccer socks. The jersey must be returned at the end of the season, but the soccer socks are yours to keep.

For the **Minor/Senior** program, it is the same as the Regular program except the jerseys are t-shirts that are yours to keep at the end of the season.

**Q -** What items do parents need to purchase?

**A -** For the **Regular** and **Minors/Seniors** program, each player should have shin guards, soccer cleats and a soccer ball. Shin guards must be worn to ALL practices and games for all levels.

For the **Little Kicker** program, only shin guards are needed and must be worn to all practices and games. Soccer cleats are really not necessary for the Little Kickers program. **Little Kicker** players also do not need to purchase a soccer ball because they are provide for use each day by OHYA.

**Q** - What size soccer ball is correct for my child's age?

**A** - A **size 3** soccer ball for **Passer** players (age 6 & 7), **size 4** soccer ball for **Wing** players (age 8 & 9) and Striker players (age 10 & 11), and **size 5** soccer ball for **Kicker** players (age 12 & 13) and **Minor/Senior** players (age 14 through 18).

## Season

**Q** - In which league does Oak Hills SAY Soccer play?

**A** - Oak Hills plays in the **WCSA**, which stands for **Western Cincinnati Soccer Association**.

**Q** - When do teams usually start to practice?

**A** - The **Little Kicker** program usually starts in mid-August. Passers teams usually start the last week in July or first week in August. For the rest of the **Regular SAY** program, field permits usually do not allow use of the fields until the first week of August. This also depends on your coaches schedule. The **Minor/Senior** program usually does not begin until mid-August or even later.

**Q** - When do games begin?

**A** - Games for the regular SAY program usually begin the third or fourth weekend in August. This will be determined each year by our league.

**Q** - How long is the Regular soccer season?

**A** - WCSA has an 8 game regular season that may be spread over 9 weeks. Some teams may have a bye during the season, while other may have an open week at the end of the season.

**Q** - Will there be a post season tournament for the **Regular SAY** program?

**A** - Yes, however, not all teams may be eligible. Eligibility depends on the team record as defined by the WCSA League. Please visit the **WCSA** web site at [www.WCSASoccer.com](http://www.WCSASoccer.com) for further details.

**Q** - Where will the games be played?

**A** - All **Little Kickers** games will be on Saturday along with practice times. For the **Regular SAY** program, depending on level, games are played at Cleves, Kuliga, Veterans,

Visitation, St. Jude, J.F. Dulles, Dater, Oskamp, St. Antoninus, St. Ignatius, Sayler Park or Delhi. For the **SAY Premier** program it varies and will be discussed with you by the SAY Premier Coordinator.

**Q** - What day will the games be played?

**A** - Little Kickers have all practice and games on the same day, which is on Saturday. Times are still to be planned for the upcoming season, but will most likely be 2pm or later.

In the **Regular SAY** program - the **Wing**, **Striker** and **Kicker** levels normally play all games on Saturday, but may also have weeknight games. The **Passer** level usually play Sunday games, but may also play some weeknight games. **Minors & Seniors** normally play all games on Sunday. The SAY Premier program also usually plays games on Sunday's except for any tournament games.