

Amherst County Recreation Dept

2023 Fall Soccer Program

Information and details that you need to know about registering your child

If you want your child to have the best chance to have a good experience this season, then one thing that you will want to do is make sure your child participates in the Scouting Combine. Ensuring that your child attends the "Scouting Combine" greatly assists the coaches to assemble balanced teams. This is not a try out but merely a chance for the coaches to get familiar with the players and their skill levels. The combine is only for the U10, U12, U15 & U18 divisions. The players will be split into random groups and will play several short games or drills on a small sized field. This greatly helps the volunteer coaches to assemble balanced teams. Having balanced teams can reduce the possibility of lopsided games. Unbalanced teams tend to short change everyone. The winning team is not really challenged and thus they are less likely to reach their potential. The losing team in some cases can become disheartened and loose interest, which also prevents them from reaching their potential

- Having balanced teams equates to more exciting games.
- Working together with different talent levels teaches teamwork principles
- More exciting games lead to players wanting to and actually working harder.
- Working harder will bring a sense of accomplishment and pride.
- Accomplishment and pride will spill over and have a positive impact on their daily lives.

Once the teams are determined, the coaches will reflect back on the combine to begin planning their practices to help the players to improve upon the areas that they are weak in, as well as to strengthen the areas that they are already strong in. Players who don't attend the combine regardless of the reason will still get on a team, but not being there will likely have a negative impact on the entire age group, as the coaches will not have the opportunity to assess the player. We strive for *each team to have an equal number of players and to keep the number of players on each team to a minimum. The goal is to give each player ample opportunities to learn & grow.*

Important Details for Parents regarding the Scouting Combine on Saturday 8/12/23

1. Weather permitting, we will be on the soccer fields at Coolwell. In the event the player combine is canceled due to weather, coaches will still meet on the day of the combine for a blind draft.
2. When you arrive look for the registration table where ALL players need to get their pre-assigned number.
3. **Shin guards are required** for the Scouting Combine as well as for all practices and games.
4. Once the team assignments have been determined, you will be contacted by your coach and they will let you know the time of the first practice. The rosters & schedules will be posted on the county's web site.
5. **All teams will be scheduled to have their first practice on **Saturday, August 19th 2023.****

Division/Ages	Find the Year of birth to determine which division that is age appropriate for your player.	Do you need to Attend one of the Scouting Combines?	Last day to Register 8-1-23 Fee
U6- 4 & 5, Co-Ed	2018 & 2019	No	\$50
U8 – 6 & 7, Co-Ed	2016 & 2017	No	\$60
U10 – 8 & 9, Co-ed	2014 & 2015	Yes – @9:00 am on 8/12/23	\$60
U12 – 10 & 11, Co-Ed	2012 & 2013	Yes – @11:00 am on 8/12/23	\$60
U15 – 12,13 & 14, Co-ed	2009, 2010 & 2011	Yes – @1:00 pm on 8/12/23	\$60
U18 – 15, 16 & 17, Co-Ed	2006, 2007 & 2008	Yes – @3:00 pm on 8/12/23	\$70

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PURPOSE: The purpose of the Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department's Youth Soccer program is to give the youth of the county the opportunity

- To participate in a team sport
- To learn the skills and rules of soccer
- To learn to use good sportsmanship, have fun, and meet new friends

Each coach is required to play every player 50% of each game. The intent is to help each player to grow individually as well as to learn to work together as a team. We are fortunate to have many wonderful coaches. Some coaches have invested much of their own time to become certified. While these coaches may know a lot about soccer, they may not have had the chance to get to know any of the players prior to forming a team. The Recreation Department is holding a Soccer Scouting Combine. Please see the above for more details on the Scouting Combine.

INFORMATION

Season: Practices will start on Saturday, August 19th, Games will begin on September 9th and end on Oct 28th

Coaches: Our program couldn't exist without volunteer coaches like you. Please let us know if you would be available to help. We offer some resources to our coaches such as a drill packet, one night coaching clinic and apps that can be used for practice planning.

Fields: Most practices and games will be held at Coolwell Recreational Park. Depending on the number of U15 & U18 teams, the U15 and U18 division may need to play half of their games at other nearby localities.

Age limit: Each Division is made up of specific age groups and a player will be placed into a division based on their year of birth.

Registrations: You can register at the Recreation Dept. Monday - Fridays 9:00am-4:30. You can also register online at [Sports / Amherst County, Virginia \(countyofamherst.com\)](https://sports.amherstcountyva.gov/). The Recreation dept is unable to guarantee all requests will be fulfilled when placed at registration.

Uniforms: All players are given a team shirt and socks. Be sure that you specify the correct shirt size when registering. If you find that you ordered the wrong size then to get another shirt you will need to pay an additional cost of \$15.00 and any expedited shipping costs. When specifying the shirt size, we suggest ordering one size larger than you normally would wear, as this may allow extra room to wear warmer layers under their jersey.

Shin Guards: ARE REQUIRED. These are worn for player protection, on the shins, under the socks. They are required for all practices & games. They can be purchased at stores in our community.

Shoes: Soccer cleats are recommended for older players (8 & up). Make sure your shoes DO NOT have a cleat right under the tip of the shoe, as in baseball or football shoes. This is a danger to other players if they get kicked. Players must use soccer cleats.

Balls: It is recommended that you bring your own soccer ball to practices as it enables more time with the ball and your child to practice at home. The Rec Dept. provides some practice balls to the coaches but these are returned to our equipment shed at the end of practice.

Insurance: The Amherst County Recreation & Parks Department does not carry insurance on players, coaches, or volunteers, or spectators. Parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of any and all medical bills relating to any injuries.

Refunds: If you email or write to us by or on 8/18/23 regardless of the reason, we will gladly issue a full refund. No refunds will be given after 8/18/23 regardless of reason. Unless there are not enough players to form a division.

For more information about the program & for practice schedules please visit [Sports / Amherst County, Virginia \(countyofamherst.com\)](https://sports.amherstcountyva.gov/) or call 434-946-9371.