



## **Welcome Parents and Players to the 2022 Branchburg In Town Season!**

By way of this email, THANK YOU on behalf of the entire Branchburg In-Town Soccer Board, for joining us this season! We are excited to get back on the field in just a short few weeks.

Below you will find the basics on the season structure, and what to expect on the field.

There is a LOT of information in this email, so please be sure to review it carefully!

### **SEASON:**

Our Season starts Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and runs 10-weeks through Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

### **TEAM AND GAME STRUCTURE:**

Below you will find a breakdown by division of times and games for SATURDAY SCHEDULES. PLEASE SEE TRAINING SECTION FOR MONDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE.

ALL TIMES BELOW ARE GAME START TIMES, PLEASE PLAN TO HAVE YOUR CHILD ON THE FIELD, GAME-READY, AT LEAST 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START TIME.

#### **TOPSoccer:**

- GAMES: TOPS practices at 9am on Saturdays.
- FORMAT: TOPS is a flexible, child specific environment format, and will be assisted on field by TOPS Trained Coaches, and our TOPSoccer Buddies
- LOCATION: TOPS takes place on Field 4 (Field Subject to change based on field conditions closer to the start of the season)

#### **Pre-K:**

- GAMES: Pre-K practices at 9am on Saturdays.
- FORMAT: Pre-K is a scrimmage format, and will be assisted on field by our professional trainers, as well as several of our BITS Referee's.
- LOCATION: Pre-K takes place on fields 6,7 and 8.
- On the day of the first session, all players should report to field 8, to meet the trainers, and be separated into their age groups.

#### **Kindergarten:**

- GAMES: Kindergarten Plays at 10:45am.
- FORMAT: Kindergarten will begin the season with our professional trainers, working on skills with the trainers, and the volunteer coaches. As the season progresses, Kindergarten will begin to separate into round robin games, and learn game play.
- LOCATION: White Oak Park – Fields TBD
- COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE TEAMS, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

#### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (Coed and Girls Divisions)**

- GAMES: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade plays at 12:30pm

- FORMAT: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade players will be placed on a team, and groups will play small sided games with BITS referees and parent coaches.
- LOCATION: White Oak Park – Fields TBD
- COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR KINDERGARTEN, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade – (Coed and Girls Divisions):**

- GAMES: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions play at 10:45am
- FORMAT: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade players will be placed on a team, and will play 9v9 games with BITS referees and parent coaches.
- LOCATION: White Oak Park – Fields TBD
- COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade TEAMS, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING
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### **6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade (Coed and Girls Divisions):**

- GAMES: 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Divisions play at 9:00am
- FORMAT: 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade players will have a pick-up style scrimmage. BITS referees and coaches will be on the field, but due to numbers each week, there will not be assigned teams
- LOCATION: White Oak Park – Fields TBD
- COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade TEAMS, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

## **UNIFORMS:**

### **BITS Provides a Reversible Pinnie for each player**

You will need to provide you child with the following items:

- Dark colored athletic shorts (or pants)
- Soccer socks (any color, but this must be soccer socks to cover shin guards properly.)
- Shin guards (for K through 8th grade, optional for PreK.)
- Grades 1-9 SHOES: SOCCER-Specific Cleats. No other shoes will be allowed, cleats with a front spike will not be allowed, and children will not be allowed to play.
- Pre-K and K SHOES: Soccer Cleats or Athletic Sneakers.
- GOALIES: If your child would like to ever play in goal as a goalkeeper please have them wear a bright shirt under their pinnie and keep a pair of goal keeper gloves in their bag.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT LIMITED QUANTITIES OF SHORTS AND SOCKS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION AT UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION IN AUGUST

As always, no jewelry will be allowed. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, etc.

***For girls that have newly pierced ears, we cannot make an exception to this rule, we understand that the beginning of the school year is a popular time for ear piercing - all earrings MUST be removed prior to the start of the game. No tape or bandaids will be allowed over earrings.***

## **TRAINING:**

**Pre-K and K:** Our youngest divisions only training, takes place during their Saturday session. Pre-K and K do not have additional weekly practice or training

**GRADES 1-9:** Training and Practices will take place in several formats this year:

- **MONDAY NIGHT TRAINING:** Our Professional Trainers will be holding Monday clinics in September and October
  - These will be on a divisional rotation schedule between times, either 5-6pm, 6-7 pm or 7-8pm.
  - The final training schedule will be released in August
  - Monday Night training takes place on WOP Field 4 (with lights)
- **COACH-LED PRACTICE:** Each coach for grades 1-9 may elect to hold a weeknight practice
  - Please note, practices are not scheduled by BITS, they are at the coaches discretion, and are most frequently one night per week for grades 1-5.
  - Due to travel and BCMS soccer schedules, Grades 6-9 do not typically hold additional practice, outside of the Monday scrimmage
- **GOALIE CLINIC:** Due to an overwhelming success last season, BITS will be holding a GoalKeeping clinic for any interested player grades 1-9
  - Goalie Clinic dates TBD
  - BITS can supply goalkeeper gloves for sharing, but we do recommend that players purchase their own gloves for proper fit, prior to the clinic
  - Clinic signup will be sent in August

## Finally, a note on our club philosophy, and The Sideline Project:

Our philosophy as an organization, is to **provide a fun and safe environment for the children of Branchburg to play soccer**. Please keep that in mind as you come to the park on Saturdays; we have a prideful reputation as an organization.

Please be kind to coaches and referees. The coaches are parents just like you, and the referees are our children. Encourage those around you to be supportive of those who are playing, coaching, or refereeing a game. THIS IS NOT THE WORLD CUP, IT IS REC SOCCER. Your kids are on the field because they want to have fun. **They won't remember the score, they will remember how you made them feel during or after the game – make it a positive experience for your child!**

This season, **Branchburg In-Town Soccer is again partnering with The Sideline Project to improve our on-field experience.**

The Sideline Project, part of the Soccer Parenting Association, is a free movement to improve youth soccer sidelines by educating coaches and parents about sideline behavior.

We encourage all parents and coaches to watch this short two minute video, and sign the Virtual Pledge Wall. This quick and engaging video will walk you through the three types of behavior on the sidelines, and lead you to frame your behavior a bit more intentionally, to support players and referees on the field.

Please find the pledge here: [TheSidelineProject.com](https://TheSidelineProject.com)

If we all work together, the intended results of The Sideline Project have a huge impact on our children, and our entire organization:

- Parents will be more mindful of their sideline communication: **End Distracting Communication**
- Develop a more **productive and engaging** relationship between coaches and parents
- More children will **Stay Active in Sports, and Healthy for Life**
- Parents will place **Less Emphasis on Winning**, and more emphasis on all players feeling inspired
- Eliminate **Hostile Communication** from the Sidelines

Thank You for all the support you give to the club throughout the year.

We wouldn't have a season or a successful club without you, so we truly appreciate our soccer family gettogether.

MUCH MORE TO COME!

### **Your 2022 Branchburg In-Town Soccer Executive Board: (The Red Shirts)**

- Gretchen Keller: President
- Heather Grande: VP of TOPSoccer
- Rebecca Hoffman: VP of BITS
- Tony L'Altrelli: Treasurer
- Kerrin Asinger: Secretary
- Stephen Parry: Referee in Chief
- Jeremy Mitchell: Training Director
- Tim Mohn: Uniform Director
- Diana Gallagher: Picture Day
- Jennifer Rutledge: Community Coordinator
- Lauren Krueger – Pre-K Coordinator