

# Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club

## Club Handbook



We encourage you to read the club handbook as it will answer many of your questions.

For further questions, please contact a member of the Chippewa Strikers Board of Directors.

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## Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club Organization Summary

The Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club is a non-profit organization that is a member of Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) and affiliated with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA). The organization provides an opportunity for boys and girls to play competitive summer soccer through MYSA East District league play and WYSA Western Wisconsin Classic Soccer League play (WWCSL). The teams in the East District consist of Western Wisconsin and East Central Minnesota teams. All U11 and older teams have the opportunity to play in MYSA's League and Regional playoffs at the end of the season with those who qualify participating in a State Championship Tournament. U10 and below teams will have an opportunity to play in MYSA's Jamboree at the end of the season.

The ideals of dedication, commitment, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect are stressed by the organization. It is the obligation of all members of the organization to encourage the spirit of fair play, the appreciation of competition, the essence of sportsmanship, and to teach the sport of soccer to the best of their ability.

The Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club functions with a volunteer Board of Directors (Board) which holds monthly Board meetings open to all members. Attendance at board meetings allows you to provide feedback on open discussion topics. We also encourage attendance at these meetings to further build and improve our soccer program. Meeting times and locations are posted on the Strikers web page. The Board reserves the rights to hold closed door meetings when necessary.

**The Board of Directors** consists of the following elected positions each serving 2-year terms:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Registrar
- Boys and Girls Club Representative

The Board has been established to ensure a smoothly run organization. A current listing of Board Members, Coaches, and Team Parents/Managers can be found on the Chippewa Strikers website.

**Coordinator and Committee Responsibilities** - Parents are asked to volunteer as one of the following coordinators or participate on any of the following committee's. (Committee's will be led by a Board member or designated coordinator)

- Concessions Committee - Organizes the setup and sale of concessions at home tournaments.
- Equipment Coordinator – Purchases, inventories, and distributes the organization's equipment. Ensures coaches have the needed equipment and supplies.
- Field Coordinator – Coordinates the home fields the teams practice and play on.
- Fund Raising Committee – Determines, coordinates, and implements opportunities to increase revenue for the organization through fundraising.
- Marketing and PR Committee - Focal point for all Club announcements (web page, newspapers, etc)
- Referee Coordinator – Coordinates referee schedules for all home games. Contacts individual referees with game assignments.
- Team Parent/Manager Committee - Meets to discuss best practices and implements these with each team to ensure consistency amongst the organization in the Team Parent/Manager role.
- Tournament Committee – Coordinates all home tournament activities.
- Uniform Coordinator – Responsible for uniform research, purchase, and distribution.
- Webmaster – Administers and maintains the Chippewa Strikers web page.

**Team Parent/Manager Responsibilities** – Each team is required to have a team parent/manager to coordinate team duties. The Board encourages team parents/managers to delegate duties to various parents on the team. These duties may include the following:

- Assist the team coach(es) with administrative duties.
- Attend all team and organizational meetings representing the team.
- Create, maintain, and distribute team contact tree that consists of player jersey number, player name, parent's names, home/cell phone numbers, email addresses, and any other necessary information.
- Provide and maintain team's game schedules.
- Distribute game maps and/or directions to the team's families prior to each game.
- Coordinate meeting location and carpooling to games.
- Update team's webpage with scores and player results.
- Assist with organization and planning of all team tournament participation.

**Coaches Responsibilities** – Coaches hold a prominent and influential position in the Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club organization. As youth soccer becomes more “professionalized” and competitive at all levels, we need to remind ourselves that the “youth” are still the constituent. As such, all coaches involved need to be prepared for, and to observe high standards of ethical behavior. The MYSA Youth Council adopted the following Coaches Code of Ethics:

- Soccer is the player's game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment, and safety of their players.
- Coaches bear responsibility for teaching players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the laws of the game, all while showing the highest levels of sportsmanship.
- Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity, and shall teach their players to do the same.
- Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise.
- In both victory and defeat, the behavior of the coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.
- Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: clubs, schools, sponsoring organizations and sports governing bodies.
- Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of the game.
- Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, and prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse; both in their lives and in the lives of their players.
- Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of the game.
- Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of all players.
- Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport - violence, abuse, dishonesty, disrespect and violations of the laws of the game and rules governing competition.

Coaches will pursue and obtain adequate coaching license in accordance with WYSA standards.

**Player Responsibilities** – Players require an understanding of the rights and responsibilities that come with playing on a competitive soccer team. Players who choose to play competitive soccer are expected to:

- Be committed to the sport of soccer and to becoming the best player you can possibly be.
- Be committed to being at every possible practice and game. Special arrangements must be made with the coach if the player has other regular commitments (such as other sports teams), which will cause the player to miss, or be late to practices or games.
- Show good sportsmanship at all times regardless of the score.
- Refrain from use of abusive language or physical violence toward teammates, opponents, coaches, or referees.
- Allow coaches, teammates, and opponents to function without criticism.
- Support your team, teammates, coaches, and the club.
- Display team and club loyalty.
- Have proper equipment for all games and practices.
- Set positive examples for teammates and spectators, through words and actions.
- Be prompt to all team functions and events.
- Know and understand the rules of the game.

## Team Formation

The Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club is a community based soccer club which strives to maximize the number of local kids involved in competitive soccer.

It is the desire of the Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club to maintain a process of player selection that is fair and unbiased. Teams will be formed based on factors such as age, gender and in some cases ability of the players. Preference will not be given to keep friends together or to maintain rosters that may have played together in prior seasons. The team creation process will be managed by the Board in advance of the new season.

In accordance with MYSA rules, every attempt will be made to place players at the appropriate age and form a team at each age group. In some cases, team formation will need to be done by combining two age groups if registration counts make this necessary. The Board will attempt to form a team with the maximum number of players on each roster whenever possible. Injury and sickness take a toll on players throughout the soccer season. Planned family vacations and other personal commitments can also reduce the number of available players.

Maximum roster sizes are set by MYSA policy and subject to change:

U9 and U10 – max players 12 + 1 over roster

U11 and U12 – max players 14 + 2 over roster

U13 through U15 – max players 18 + 2 over roster

U16 through U19 – max players 18 + 4 over roster

The decision to over-roster a team will be that of the Board and only be made when it cannot place a player on another suitable team. The Board will notify affected individuals and coaches when they have an over roster situation. The player(s) who are considered over-roster will be determined by registration date.

League policy stipulates that each team can suit up the team maximum allowable number of players for league games. The Board expects the team's coach to manage the over-roster players throughout league play to ensure all players have an opportunity to play as often as possible.

During MYSA League playoffs and the State tournament a team may only roster the maximum number of players based on their age group as listed above. Assuming all roster players on a team were available for playoffs, the over-roster players would not be eligible to be on the playoff roster. If one of the roster players is unavailable for postseason play, thereby opening a roster spot, the first over-roster player could take

that spot. If a second roster spot is opened the second over-roster player would be eligible and so forth.

In some situations over roster of a team may be advantageous but in others it is not as desirable, the Board will attempt to avoid over roster whenever possible. Players who are in an over-roster situation and decide not to participate in league play will be offered a registration fee refund if they notify the Board prior to formal team registration with the MYSA and based on refund policy. The Board will notify coaches and individuals in this situation of these dates (they vary from year to year) well in advance.

## How Chippewa Strikers Works

### **Qualifications**

Any female or male that is currently age 8 – 19, from any school district in the Chippewa Valley and surrounding communities, is eligible to play.

### **Fees**

Each player will be assessed an annual registration fee and an additional cost for game uniforms. All players/parents are responsible for the costs of individual player equipment and clothing, i.e.: jerseys, shorts, socks, shoes, shin guards, etc. All annual registration fees must be paid in full before players will be placed on team rosters.

### **Practice**

Practice dates and times are determined by the team's coach (with input from parents) and based on the availability of open fields and gyms. Players are expected to attend all practices. Missing practices (without a coach's' approval) may have an effect on playing time. Transportation to and from all practices and games is the responsibility of the parent.

### **League Play**

League play consists of home games, as well as away games where travel is required. Away games may be up to two hours away. Car-pooling is highly encouraged. Game days are weeknights.

### **Tournament Play**

Tournament play will be decided by each team's coach and individual families. Tournaments are typically held on weekends. Tournament cost will be paid by individual team families or by a corporate sponsor if available.

### **Playoffs**

MYSA League Playoff participation will be decided by each team's coach and individual families. All individual teams (U11+) are urged to participate in the playoffs upon conclusion of league play. League standings, League Playoffs, and Regional Playoffs will determine participation at the State level Championship Tournament. All playoff fees are paid by the Strikers' organization. U10 and under teams are encouraged to participate in MYSA's Jamboree with all fees being paid by the Strikers' organization.

### **Teams**

Individual teams will be determined based on the number of players registered by the registration deadline. Roster sizes (minimum and maximum player counts) are determined by MYSA age group rules. Late registrations may be accepted based on each team's individual needs and MYSA roster size. Tryouts (player evaluations) may be used to finalize team numbers, if needed.



**Attire**

All players shall wear adequate athletic attire to practices. Players should also bring their own shin guards, water bottles, and soccer balls to practices. Players shall be responsible for bringing their game jerseys (both yellow and white), black shorts, team socks, shin guards, and regulation soccer shoes to each game.

**Refunds**

Refund of Registration Fees will be made only under the following circumstances: 1) a season ending injury occurring before the first game of the season, 2) the player's family has moved out of the area prior to the first game of the season, or 3) over-roster player decide not to participate in league play and notifications are made to the Board prior to formal team registration with the MYSA. All players will be charged a \$25 registration fee with the balance being refunded. Uniform Fees will not be refunded once a player has received his/her uniform. Uniform refunds will be handled directly with the supplier by the purchasing agent.

**Injuries**

It is understood that the Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club organization will not be responsible for any injury that may occur to a player. A parent or guardian must sign a health history / emergency form and waiver / release form before the player may practice. The coach will keep this form in case of an emergency. WYSA does provide insurance for the Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club's organization and individual players which is included in the registration fee.

**Problems or Concerns**

The Board will handle all problems or concerns that arise with a player, parent, or coach. Please contact any Board member with any concerns that need addressing.

**What is expected of Chippewa Strikers families?**

The Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club is run exclusively by volunteers. We rely on all to help provide the services we offer to our soccer members. Contact any board member or team parent/manager if you would like to volunteer.