



LAKELAND HIGHLANDS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 5023
Lakeland, FL 33807-5023
www.lhysasoccer.com

Home Field
Loyce Harpe Park
Lakeland, Florida

WELCOME TO LHYSA!!

On behalf of the board members and coaches, I welcome you to Lakeland Highlands Youth Soccer Association (LHYSA). LHYSA is one of the largest and finest youth soccer programs available in Florida. Lakeland Highlands Youth Soccer Association was formed over 25 years ago and has provided a great soccer experience for thousands of Lakeland youth during that time. LHYSA provides opportunities to children of all ability levels from the ages of 4 to 18 years of age. It is our goal to maximize each player's development by offering a wide range of programs including:

- Recreational League (Fall)
- "Shockers" Competitive Program
- Player development clinics (Winter)
- 3v3 league (Spring)
- Competitive clinics (Spring)
- Soccer camps (Summer)
- Topps (exceptional child program)

Under the guidance of our Director of Coaching Mr. Ernest Head (Coach Ernie), LHYSA has made significant strides in player development. Coach Ernie brings a wealth of knowledge from his professional playing days in England and his role as an instructor for the MLS league to LHYSA. Coach Ernie's emphasis on technical skill has begun to pay huge dividends as we have seen the success of our recreational teams in Judge's Cup and our competitive teams in the United Soccer Association grow tremendously over the last few years.

This LHYSA "Green Book" will help you keep up with the scheduled events for the upcoming year. It also provides general information for your reference. Inside you will find many of the volunteers who have helped in putting our program together. LHYSA board members are all volunteers, as are our recreational coaches, assistant coaches and team parents. It takes a tremendous effort, involving significant time and effort from over two hundred volunteers to put the LHYSA programs together. While all are not listed, we are very thankful to all who volunteer to help us bring an enjoyable and rewarding experience to the youth of Lakeland. Please feel free to contact any of our staff should you need a specific question or problem addressed.

Sincerely,

Tim Rice
President, LHYSA

General Information

LHYSA is a non-profit corporation for the sole purpose of organizing a soccer program for the youth in our community. While our foundation is based on a recreational program, we have developed competitive teams to offer our players a higher level of soccer. Recreational players are drafted using a *random* draft, while competitive players are chosen by *tryouts*. We allow a maximum of four “*protected*” players (five with the recent sibling rule) per team (Head coach, assistant coach, sponsor, floating sponsor, and sibling) to promote coaches and sponsors for our league. Players returning to the same age group, return to their same team. We have found that this has been the best method for balancing out the teams in the various age groups. Should you desire to coach or sponsor a player, please contact the appropriate age director prior to the draft.

Board members volunteer their time and effort, and spend many personal hours to provide the children and their parents with a “first class” program. Any parent desiring to become a working Board member, please contact the LHYSA President at 647-3101 or check out the web site at www.LHYSAsoccer.com.

The emphasis of play for our league is *safety*. LHYSA plays under FYSA rules. All parents MUST read the FYSA Code of Ethics to provide your child with a great experience. In addition, LHYSA has developed local rules to insure that our players play in a safe environment. *All* referees are certified and they enforce these rules. Most of our referees are young players themselves, and need the support of both players and parents as they gain in experience in refereeing.

Coaches who volunteer their time attend a certification clinic to promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-confidence.

The cost for each player to participate is substantial. Costs include, but are not limited to, uniforms, insurance, referees, county fees, field maintenance, trophies, and equipment. Registration fees cover only part of this expense. Fundraisers and sponsorships are necessary to make up the difference. We have an annual fundraiser in which each player participates. LHYSA is fortunate that we have the interest and support of businesses and individuals in our children’s development and growth and who sponsor our teams. Through all these sources of revenue, we can continue to make improvements to the league and park.

All LHYSA players receive an award of participation. The U-6 league will have a “Christmas Award Ceremony” prior to Christmas break. Ages U8 and above will hold end of the year tournaments, in which placement awards will be given. Sponsor plaques and team mom gifts will be given in appreciation at the Tournament of Champions finale. For ages U10 through U14, our annual Judges Cup will be held in December. The Judges Cup is a tournament in which LHYSA teams will play against teams from other leagues in Polk County. Any LHYSA team finishing first or second in its division will receive a Judges Cup Award.

LHYSA is tax exempt, and any contributions made are tax deductible. We are privileged to have county schools and property on which to practice and play. Please be mindful and help all of us by not abusing any of these facilities.

LHYSA promotes your children’s physical and mental development not only as an individual, but also as part of a team and league. We feel that parent participation and support can only enhance this effort. Your support is invaluable. We invite your participation and any suggestions you may have.

Our coaches donate their personal time and effort to their teams; they need the support of their team’s parents. We ask that parents make sure that their children arrive on time before and after practices and games. LHYSA policy is never to leave a child alone on the fields.



LHYSA “Shockers” Competitive Teams

The enthusiasm for soccer has grown in the last few years at a feverish pace. Many young players have dedicated themselves to learning the game and competing with others at increasingly higher skill levels. Consequently, LHYSA has sanctioned the formation of competitive level teams. Competitive teams, unlike recreational teams, are registered in a competitive league made up of teams from other areas, outside of the local recreational organization. Participation on a competitive team involves travel to play other teams, participation in weekend tournaments and scheduled games against statewide Division 1 (Premier), Division 2 or Division 3 teams.

Player try-outs normally held in June determine participation on a LHYSA competitive team. Team coaches, based on demonstration of the player’s ball skills, understanding/demonstration of team play and commitment to competitive level demands, make selections. Player involvement usually extends from August through May. Presently, there are teams for U-9 through U-18 boys, and U-9, through U-18 girls. Teams are added or subtracted each year based on available talent, player’s interest and coach availability.

Competitive team players pay a registration fee to LHYSA (\$70.00), which covers insurance, league fees, FYSA registration and field maintenance fees. The players pay for uniforms and referee fees, which unlike recreational players are not part of the registration fee. Competitive teams are responsible for their own fund raising and are not recipients of funds from the recreational league's fund raising activities. Each competitive team pays all of its own fees for equipment expenses, FYSA registration, travel expenses and tournament registration fees. Scheduling and use of the fields at Loyce Harpe Park for games and practices falls under the jurisdiction of the LHYSA board and the competitive teams are treated as any other LHYSA team.

It is the policy of the LHYSA and the Player Development Committee, that eligible players **will not** be recruited from recreational teams by the competitive coaches during the recreational season. In some cases, recreational players may be provided the opportunity to play with a competitive team as a guest player with the understanding that the player's first allegiance is to the recreational team. Recreational players desiring to play competitive soccer should talk to their recreation team coach first and then should initiate contact with the Director of Coaching and Player Development.

In the short amount of time that the LHYSA competitive teams have been in existence they have already distinguished themselves in USA League, Region C and tournament play. They are taking the outstanding reputation of LHYSA to a higher level by competing against other Florida teams. Come out and watch the teams play and support LHYSA competitive soccer.

For more information regarding competitive soccer contact:

Ernie Head, Director of Coaching and Player Development
Or check the club website at www.LHYSAsoccer.com

LEAGUE EVENTS

Registration – Now available online at www.LHYSAsoccer.com. If you prefer manual registration, get there early to avoid the lines.

Coaches Certifications - LHYSAs coaches receive instructions to help them in coaching their players. Competitive team coaches and all trainers are required to hold at a minimum an E license from Florida Youth Soccer Association. Team soccer balls and safety kits will be issued at the coaches' clinic.

Player Notification - By August 26th, you should be notified by your coach as to what team your child is on and the date and time of the first scheduled practice. If not, please contact your Age Director whose name and phone number is listed in this booklet.

Team Parent Meeting - (Mandatory for all Team Parents or a representative of the team) - Information for the fundraiser, team and individual pictures, uniforms, awards, tournaments, and other league events will be discussed at this important meeting. Team parents are an important part of every team.

Uniform Pass Out & Candy Money Turn In – (Mandatory for all Team Parents or a representative of the team) This is the time when you must turn in your fundraising money and pick up uniforms for your team. All money for each team must be turned in before uniforms are issued for the team.

Season Games - Scheduled in advance. All players should be at the fields 30 minutes prior to game time.

Picture Day - Please note that a picture day schedule will be issued for the picture times and game times on this special day. Pictures will be taken on Sept. 22nd this year. Comb your hair, brush your teeth, and don't get your uniform dirty.

U6 End of season - U6 ends their season at our Christmas break. It's time for them to celebrate!

Holidays - Take a break - NO GAMES – Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Judges Cup Tournament - Our U10, U12, and U14 teams participate in the annual Judge's Cup tournament in honor of Judge Holmes. LHYSAs teams compete with teams from the other leagues in our area for this fun filled inter-league tournament. Over 100 teams participate in this tournament, and you never know who will come out on top.

Tournament of Champions - All of our players are champions in their own right, and it is only right that our players have one last chance to determine who the top teams are.

FUND RAISERS

Annual Fund Raiser

As with everything today, it takes a great deal of money to do anything worthwhile. Soccer is no exception! To meet our financial needs, LHYSA has a mandatory fund raising program for all our players. This year we will again offer the opportunity for all parents and players to help us meet our financial goals with a fund raising program. This means that each family will be required to either sell a product or to pay a \$35.00 fee to “buyout” of fund raising. **Buy out is mandatory for all players that register after our final registration on August 18th**

Our fundraiser begins on registration and lasts until uniform pick-up on September 13th. Your team parent **must** have all money collected by **September 13th**, (uniform pick-up day), as uniforms will be issued only to players who have paid in full. No child will be allowed to play until he or she has a uniform. **Please help your team parent by paying early and in full.**

Sponsorships

LHYSA Sponsorship Levels

Club Sponsor: (2) Recreational Team sponsorships
\$1,000.00 3 vs 3 season shirt sponsor
Sponsorship Plaque
Website listing
Club sponsor listing on LHYSA publications

Team Sponsor: Recreational Team sponsorship
\$250.00 Sponsorship Plaque
Website listing

Sponsor fees help pay a majority of our expenses to put our players on the fields. Civic minded individuals, private businesses and public corporations have always supported the league and our players. Benefits of sponsorship are: Sponsors advertise and promote themselves on the players' uniforms, the cost of the sponsorship is tax deductible, all sponsors receive a plaque to display at the end of the season, and most of all, sponsors assist in providing a great opportunity for the youth of our community.

All raised funds that are distributed directly back to our league. The money is used for equipment, referees, uniforms, insurance, referees, field upkeep, and park improvement.

We hope you find your child's season enjoyable.

2007-2008 LHYSA SCHEDULE

August 11 Saturday	First Registration 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Lakeland Highlands MS
August 18 Saturday	Second Registration 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Lakeland Highlands MS
August 23 Thursday	Mandatory Coaches Meeting 6:30 PM U-8 through U-18+ Age Group Draft	Lakeland Highlands MS
August 25 Saturday	Coach's Clinic 9:00AM – 12:00PM	Loyce Harpe Park
August 30 Thursday	Team Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM	Lakeland Highlands MS
August 25 Saturday	Field Work Day 9:00-12:00	Loyce Harpe Park
September 4 Tuesday	Practice Begins	Loyce Harpe Park/Other sites
September 13 Thursday	Uniforms Issued 6:00pm to 7:30 pm	Lakeland Highlands MS
September 15 Saturday	Season Game 1	Loyce Harpe Park
September 22 Saturday	Season Game 2 (Picture Day)	Loyce Harpe Park
September 29 Saturday	Season Game 3	Loyce Harpe Park
October 6 Saturday	Season Game 4	Loyce Harpe Park
October 13 Saturday	Season Game 5	Loyce Harpe Park
October 20 Saturday	Season Game 6	Loyce Harpe Park
October 27 Saturday	HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL AT Loyce Harpe Park	NO GAMES
November 3 Saturday	Season Game 7	Loyce Harpe Park
November 10 Saturday	Season Game 8	Loyce Harpe Park
November 17 Saturday	Season Game 9	Loyce Harpe Park
November 24 Saturday	THANKSGIVING WEEKEND – NO GAMES	
December 1 Saturday	Season Game 10	Loyce Harpe Park
December 8&9 Sat & Sun	Tournament of Champions	Loyce Harpe Park
December 8 Saturday	U-6 Season Final Games and Awards Ceremony	Loyce Harpe Park
December 15 & 16 Sat & Sun	Judges Cup U-10, U-12 & U-14	TBA

SPRING SOCCER 2006

Registration will take place at Loyce Harpe Park and online at www.LHYSAsoccer.com during the months of November and December. Stop by the tent and register your child for SPRING SOCCER. Schedule as follows:

February 2 Saturday	Game 1 & 2	Loyce Harpe Park
February 9 Saturday	Game 3 & 4	Loyce Harpe Park
February 16 Saturday	Game 5 & 6	Loyce Harpe Park
February 23 Saturday	Game 7 & 8	Loyce Harpe Park
March 1 Saturday	Game 9 & 10	Loyce Harpe Park
March 8 Saturday	Game 11 & 12	Loyce Harpe Park

Last week of June ***LHYSA SUMMER SOCCER CAMP***** Loyce Harpe Park**

Soccer camp registration at www.lhysasoccer.com

RECREATIONAL AGE DIRECTORS

U6 CO-ED	MIKKELE CONNER	510-6086
U8 BOYS	JOHN SCIMONE	712-3037
U8 GIRLS	ALYS LANZA	644-1651
U10 BOYS	CHRIS HARRISON	581-1056
U10 GIRLS	ARLENE HERNANDEZ	514-8278
U12 BOYS	RICHARD GRANT	701-8258
U12 GIRLS	ERIN WASILEWSKI	644-8260
U14 & ABOVE BOYS	KEVIN MOREY	647-1645
U14 & ABOVE GIRLS	DON WASILEWSKI	701-7790
VP OF RECREATIONAL (BOYS)	TIM GOEHRING	644-8258
VP OF RECREATIONAL (GIRLS)	DON WASILEWSKI	701-7790
VP OF COMPETITIVE	GREG OSWALD	647-2823
VP OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT	JOE LENARD	286-2066
PRESIDENT	TIM RICE	647-3101

SPONSOR DIRECTOR	TORI LEHMAN	619-3749
SCHEDULE DIRECTOR	DON WASILEWSKI	701-7790
UNIFORM DIRECTOR	TONY MARTINEZ	648-2663
TROPHIES & AWARDS	BRANDON LITTLE	644-2321
HEAD TEAM PARENT	PAT BLANCHETTE	648-0420
FIELD DIRECTOR	TIM LEWIS	646-2656
SAFETY DIRECTOR	TONY MARTINEZ	648-2663
REGISTRAR	LINDA RICE	647-3101
FUNDRAISING	ROBERT PRISBE	255-2947
REFEREE ASSIGNOR	ERNIE HEAD	682-3068
SECRETARY	TORI LEHMAN	619-3749
TREASURER	RICHARD GRANT	701-8258
SOCCER CAMP COORDINATOR	KELLY CANUP	701-7646

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

Age Groups

To find proper age group, determine the child's age on July 31, 2007 and refer to chart below.

<u>Age on July 31, 2007</u>	<u>Proper LHYSA Age Group</u>
1, 2 or 3	Not eligible to play in LHYSA
4 or 5	U6 Co-ed
6 or 7	U8 Girls/Boys
8 or 9	U10 Girls/Boys
10 or 11	U12 Girls/Boys
12 or 13	U14 Girls/Boys
14, 15, 16, 17 or 18	U18 Girls/Boys

Player Safety

All players must wear approved shin guards under their socks at all times during practice and play. Players may not enter a field for practice or play without wearing their shin guards.

Players are not permitted to wear necklaces, rings, earrings, or hard casts.

Shoes must be soccer shoes with round rubber cleats. Sneakers or flats may be worn, however they are not recommended. Baseball, square cleated, or steel cleated shoes are not allowed for practice or games.

Eyeglasses are to be secured by straps.

Parking

Loyce Harpe Park Complex - Parking is provided in designated parking areas.

Practices

Each team will be assigned a specific field, day and time for its practice(s). Players are encouraged to attend all practices, however no player will be denied their minimum playing time because of unattended practices or games

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Game duration</u>	<u>Goalies</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U6	Four ten minute quarters, three five minute breaks	none	3
U8	Four twelve minute quarters, three five minute breaks	4	3
U10	Two twenty five minute halves, one ten minute half time	2	4
U12	Two thirty minutes halves, one ten minute half time	2	4
U14	Two thirty five minute halves, one ten minute half time	1	5
U18	Two forty minute halves, one ten minute half time	1	5

Pre Game Warm Up

All pre game warm ups will be performed on that team's designated side of the field. No drills are to involve the opposing team's players or their half of the field.

Playing Time and Substitutions

All attending team players must play at least one-half of **each game**. Exception: Any player that becomes ill or injured. Teams found not in compliance are subject to disciplinary action and or forfeiture.

For U10, U12, U14, and U18 standard substitution rules apply (substitutions allowed when it is your team's throw-in, any goal kick, and after either team scores a goal. The U6 and U8 age groups can only substitute at quarter intervals.

Play shall be stopped whenever the referee notices that a player is down and injured. A substitution will be allowed for any injured player. The referee shall reestablish the ball possession. The injured player may return to the game at the normal substitution for that age group, providing that both the player and the coach have determined that the player is fit to play.

A player can only play on a team to which he or she is rostered, unless playing up to the next oldest age group. Playing up is only allowed during regular season games, and must be approved by the Director of Coaching and Player Development prior to any such play. It is not allowed, under any circumstances, during the LHYSA tournament or during any interleague tournament play. Any player who is asked to or wishes to play up must have permission from their rostered team coach to play up.

Uniforms

Players in every game must wear team uniforms. In cold weather, any additional clothing will be worn under the uniforms while on the field of play and must be approved by the referee. Exceptions: In case of a color conflict, the home team is responsible to change shirts.

Standing Rules of Competition

In all game situations, FIFA rules shall apply. Exceptions will be local rules listed here, and in LHYSA Rules and Procedures. Due to a shortage of players, teams may play short to the minimum number of players for their age group, or invite a player from the next lower age group. **Refer to the LHYSA rulebook for compliance of this rule.** Players are not allowed to play up during the LHYSA or Judges Cup tournaments.

All regularly scheduled season games and round robin tournament games can end in a tie. Tournament semifinal and final games will not end in a tie. Typically, overtime period(s) followed by shootouts will be used to break ties in these games.

High Scoring Games: Coaches and teams are encouraged to play sportsmanlike soccer. This includes moderating score margins. Any team winning a regular season game by a point differential of 10 or more goals may be subject to forfeit of that game.

Coaches and referees are responsible for players wearing the proper equipment, insuring the fields are safe to play on, and nets, lines, and corner flags are installed properly.

Coaches can provide instructional guidance to their players during the games. Directing a player's position or the team strategy in a positive and upbeat manner is encouraged. However, no foul language will be tolerated. Coaches may not use any type of mechanical device to amplify their voice.

Coaches and spectators must remain in their designated areas. No coaching or distractions from the end zone areas will be allowed.

Player, Coach & Spectator Conduct

It is the coaches, referees, players, and spectators' responsibility to conduct themselves in a respectable manner. Parents, we ask that you refrain from smoking or using other tobacco products while at the practices and games in front of the children. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages allowed.

The **referee** controls the game. Their calls are final. Badgering or unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone on the field of play will not be tolerated.

A yellow card directed at a player/coach is a serious warning, and is the only warning given for a foul or misconduct. A red card directed at a player/coach is an ejection from the game. A red card also means that player/coach will not participate in the next scheduled game. Only a flagrant act of misconduct or a repeated foul will cause a referee to

administer a red card. The Board of Directors of LHYSA will be notified of the misconduct and will take appropriate action.

Rain Outs

Rain outs generally will be decided by the center referee of that game just prior to or during the game. Unless notified, **always attend scheduled games.** Otherwise your team risks a forfeit. Games may be delayed, yet not cancelled. Calling a board member, the morning of the game will not help! All decisions are made at the fields. In the event that the weather conditions dictate a decision may be made by the league president and or the league referee coordinator on the fields the morning of the scheduled games. A message will be placed on the website (www.LHYSAsoccer.com) indicating that **all** games are canceled for the day. The age directors will establish make up dates for cancelled games. **All competitive "Shockers" teams should always contact the coach before considering a game rained out!**

Protests

Any protest of a game must be verbally given to the age director within 48 hours of the protested game. A written protest must then be submitted accompanied by a \$25.00 fee to the age director within 7 days of the game. The league president, league referee assignor, and a board member shall meet and determine if the protest is valid, and what action, if any, will be taken. If the protest is denied, the \$25.00 fee will be deposited into league funds. Judgment calls by the referee cannot be protested under any circumstance.

Loyce Harpe Park

Loyce Harpe Park was built for the enjoyment of all our families. While the county provides employees to maintain and supervise the facilities, it is the responsibility of each player, parent and coach to keep our park clean. **Please** help keep the grounds picked up and do not leave trash on the fields. We are also responsible for keeping the restrooms clean.

Accidents

Accidents may happen in any contact sport. LHYSA has made every attempt to provide your child a safe and enjoyable experience. Should any accident happen requiring medical treatment occur during practice or games, it must be reported. Report forms and first aid kits are available at both concession stands.