



**HOOD
RIVER
DYNAMOS
YOUTH
SOCCER
CLUB**

PARENT HANDBOOK 2007-2008

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Please be sure to also read our Policy Manual on the web at <http://www.dynamossoccer.net> or contact the Registrar to request a copy (see inside front cover)

2006-2007 Contact Information

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A Message from our President

Hi Dynamo,

Welcome to the Hood River Dynamos Youth Soccer Club.

We have grown from one boys team in 1995 to 6 boys teams and 9 girls teams in 2007. Thanks to our scholarship program, all athletes are able to participate. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for Gorge athletes to progress from their community soccer programs to a more competitive level of play.

The club is only as strong as its members. Please familiarize yourself with our policies and personnel. Feel free to offer your ideas and time to make it a better organization.

If you have comments (both positive and negative) or concerns, please call or email to me at 386-6523, jknapp4@gorge.net .

Lisa Knapp, President

2007-2008 DYNAMOS CALENDAR

May 1	Forms available on website for downloading and mailing in or delivering as well.
May	Tryout/Observation Days for all ages at Westside U10 thru U12 May 8 & 10, 6 – 8 PM U13 & U14 May 15 & 17, 6 – 8 PM
June 1	Fall HRD Player Registration Fee goes up \$10
June	Competitive Team paperwork/\$\$ due to OYSA
July 14	3 v 3 Tournament at Westside as fundraiser for Dynamos & Community Ed soccer (all teams help with labor)
Late July	Rec-Plus (DRL) paperwork due
August	Competitive teams play in Qualifying Tournament Recreational teams start practicing and finalize rosters Recreational team paperwork due
September	Fall competitive and recreational team games begin Paperwork due to OYSA for fall rec. tourney
October	Fall recreational OYSA tournament (player cards) Competitive teams finish play
November	Tryouts for U15-U19 teams for winter Recreational teams finish play
December	Team Income/Expense reports due to Treasurer
Feb/Mar	Competitive Spring season starts late Feb/early March
April	Recreational Spring seasons games start

Who are we?

We're the Hood River Dynamos Youth Soccer Club. We create an opportunity for kids, age 9 to 19, to play organized soccer in the Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA). You'll find our teams have players and coaches from Hood River and many surrounding towns in Oregon and Washington including: Odell, Parkdale, Mt Hood, Mosier, The Dalles, Dufur, Bingen, Trout Lake, Underwood, and White Salmon.

First and foremost, we want kids to enjoy the game of soccer by being able to play on a team that's right for their skill level. To do this, our club has both recreational and highly competitive (Classic level) teams (see explanation on next page). All teams emphasize skill development and good sportsmanship.

Coaches also work toward further developing their own skills. Hood River Dynamos provides opportunities for coaches to get together and share successful coaching techniques. The club also encourages coaches to take licensing courses offered by OYSA, and periodically hosts those clinics in Hood River.

In the past, the main club fundraiser was a summer tournament for competitive teams only. We hosted as many as 50 teams. This year our main fundraiser will be a community 3 v 3 tournament. It is a joint fundraiser with Community Ed Soccer. Players from Kindergarten through all ages of adults are invited to play.

One of the consistent comments we hear from visiting teams is what great playing fields we have. Hood River Dynamos board members and volunteer parents work hard to maintain that quality in partnership with Parks and Rec and the school district.

We hope you'll become part of our family. New players and parents are always welcome to join Hood River Dynamos.

Which Team's Right for You?

Our club is divided into three types of teams – recreational, rec-plus (DRL) and highly competitive (Classic and Premier level). The differences go far beyond skill level.

Recreational teams offer players an opportunity to play soccer in a fun, but disciplined team environment. Parents can plan on some travel (plus expenses), mostly to the Portland area. Players will find themselves responsible for working to improve their playing skills and for showing up at all practices and games. The emphasis is for players to develop their soccer skills while having fun playing for a team.

Rec-plus (DRL) offers a higher level of competition, slightly higher price, few-week longer season, but no games on Sundays.

Classic/Premier teams emphasize the more competitive side of soccer. These teams demand a higher commitment from the players -- including skill level, practice hours, and willingness to travel to games and tournaments around the state. Parents can expect more travel (quite often an entire weekend) and expenses to increase significantly.

Both Recreational and Classic/Premier teams may play in spring and fall leagues. Tryouts for all teams are in early May, but many teams do consider new players year around, depending on openings. U15 and above teams play only in the winter to prevent conflict with school teams, so their tryouts are late in the fall.

All players can expect to pay club membership dues annually (approximately \$50 per player). Uniforms are \$45, but should last several years. League fees vary for each team. Partial scholarships are available for families who qualify. Please contact the Registrar for more information on costs and scholarships (see contact information inside front cover).

Age Groupings

On the recreational teams, we strongly recommend that players play with their peers/classmates. Playing up 1 to 2 years is allowed with permission from the club and approval by the coach(es).

However, on competitive teams, the age limits are strictly followed. The chart below

This chart is for the 2006-2007 season

Age Group	Born between	Age As of 7/31/06	Typical Grade in School
U10	8/1/97 – 7/31/98	9	4 th
U11	8/1/96 – 7/31/97	10	5 th
U12	8/1/95 – 7/31/96	11	6 th
U13	8/1/94 – 7/31/95	12	7 th
U14	8/1/93 – 7/31/94	13	8 th
U15	8/1/92 – 7/31/93	14	9 th
U16	8/1/91 – 7/31/92	15	10 th
U17	8/1/90 – 7/31/91	16	11 th
U18	8/1/89 – 7/31/90	17	12 th
U19	8/1/88 – 7/31/89	18	

See also www.oregonyouthsoccer.org for OYSA Age Groupings

The Parent's Role

Parents-

The formula for Dynamo's continued success includes involved parents at both the team and club level. It's up to all families to commit some amount of time each season.

And as mentioned, the type of team your son and/or daughter plays on will determine the commitment you must make regarding your time, travel, and expenses.

Parents also have responsibilities that are free and easy to give:

- Always be positive and encouraging to your child and coach
- Be respectful toward the other teams, coaches
- Respect all referee decisions
- Refrain from criticizing players, coaches, or referees in the presence of your athlete
- Drop off/pick up your child on time from all practices and games
- Provide your player with food and/or money for a light snack before and/or after away games
- Promote healthy eating and sleeping habits
- Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship
- Cheer whether winning or losing
- Volunteer to help your soccer team and/or club:
 - Fundraising
 - Organizing social functions
 - End of season party
 - Post game snack
 - Set up and take down of field for home matches.
 - Assistant coaching
 - Holding a club board position and performing the required duties

Remember, the goal of Dynamos is to make soccer **fun** and **rewarding!**

Player Responsibilities

First and foremost, you should play on a Dynamo's team for the pure enjoyment and love of soccer. But remember, along with the fun and the chance to learn, comes responsibility. That's because, when you're on the field, you're representing your team, your club, and your community.

- Show respect for your coach and teammates AND for the other team
- At all times, be respectful to and do not question the referees
- Be on time for all practices and games
- Play hard, but always within the rules and with good sportsmanship
- Always be prepared by bringing all needed equipment (including shin guards, ball and water bottle)
- Be ready to start games and practices on time
- Do not criticize others for their mistakes
- Remember to also practice at home
- **HAVE FUN!**

Small-Sided Games

Traditionally soccer is played with 11 players a-side (11 on each team). For youth however, research has shown that all players learn at a faster rate when playing with team sizes that are appropriate for their age. The national soccer organization that governs OYSA (Oregon Youth Soccer Association – our parent organization), and thus Dynamos, has been promoting small-sided soccer for youth soccer.

The Dynamos club and OYSA are working to provide this “small-sided” game environment. In 2005, we started this transition, and for fall 2007, we will play 6-a-side for U10, 8-a-side for U11 (except competitive teams), and 11-a-side for U12 and up. The changes have been well-received by players and parents. OYSA will complete the transition for U11 competitive teams in fall 2008. We are encouraged to see the transition to small-sided games in OYSA and other programs like Community Education.

See http://www.oregonyouthsoccer.org/test/coach/small_sided.pdf for more information on small-sided games.

Our club runs on parent participation

Please
volunteer!

Every effort makes a difference

<http://www.dynamossoccer.net>