

Hood River Dynamos Youth Soccer Club

Policy Manual

Welcome to the Hood River Dynamos Youth Soccer Club (HRDYSC). This policy manual is intended to introduce you to the world of competitive youth soccer as seen through the eyes of our organization.

It is the goal of the HRDYSC to:

- Supervise the playing of soccer under FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), USYSA (U.S. Youth Soccer Association) and OYSA (Oregon Youth Soccer Association).
- Provide an opportunity for youth of our community to play soccer at a competitive and affordable level.
- Provide suitable playing facilities.
- Encourage all players to have fun, improve their skills, and practice good sportsmanship.
- Secure suitable and adequate funding for these purposes.

The HRDYSC was founded in 1996. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors (BOD) utilizing the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and this Policy Manual. The Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of the month. All meetings are open to the public. Elections for the Board of Directors are held at the Annual General Meeting in October. Anyone interested in participating on the Board or committees may contact one of the board members listed in this handbook.

## **TEAM MAKE-UP**

### **Ages**

HRDYSC teams consist of girls and boys from 9 to 18 years of age. The age groups are limited to U10 (under 10) through U19. The legal age is determined by how old the player is on Aug.1 of that year. The HRDYSC emphasizes that under normal circumstances, all players should play in their own age group. However, if a player would like to “play up” in an older age group, or if there are not enough coaches or players to form a team in a particular age group, it is possible for a U10-U14 player to “play up” one age group. If there is a dispute or if there is a request to play up more than one year, the player must be evaluated by the Director of Coaches who will decide which team is the most appropriate. U15 and older can “play up” in any group. A player may not play down in a younger age group.

### **Teams**

The number of teams will be determined by:

- The availability of coaches.
- The number and ability of players available for each age group.

U10 teams play at the Recreational level. U11 through U14 teams can play at either the Recreational or Competitive level. U15 and older teams play at the Competitive level. With the current population of the area we serve, there will usually be one team in each age group. If there are enough players for two or more teams in the same age group

the coach(s) involved and the Director of Coaches will decide which players will be on each team (one team may be Competitive and one team may be Recreational). If an agreement cannot be reached, the final decision will be made by the BOD. Competitive team coaches will determine the size of their team and will select their players based on try-outs. Team formation is done annually and players that were on a team one year may not be selected the next year. Recreational team coaches will determine the size of their team and returning players, then those with the earliest registration dates, shall have preference. If there are too many players for one team, but not enough for two, or if there are no coaches available, some players may not be able to participate.

Once teams have been formed, players are encouraged to stay with that team. However, if a player would like to play for another team they must go through the following process:

1. Consult with their parents and present coach about the advisability of changing teams.
2. If they determine a change would be beneficial, the coach must consult with the coach of the new team.
3. If the coach of the new team has space and is willing to have the new player, the player must submit a "Request to Change Teams" to the Director of Coaches.
4. If the Director of Coaches determines the requested placement would be beneficial, he/she will send written approval to the parents, all coaches involved, and the BOD. If the request is denied, the parents may appeal the decision to the BOD. The BOD will make the final decision.
5. Under no circumstances will the coach of one team approach (or solicit others to approach) a player (or parents of a player) from another team to encourage them to change teams.
6. If a coach would like to temporarily add a player to their team for a specific tournament or league, and the player's present team is not participating in that tournament or league, the coach must first consult with the player's present coach(s) and be sure they are willing to release the player.

## **Registration**

All players wishing to play for a HRDYSC team must register on one of the scheduled registration nights or by mail (received no later than the last registration night). Any player registering after the last registration night will be assessed an additional \$10.00 fee. Dates of registration will be published in the Hood River News. Each player will need to bring or send:

1. A copy of their birth certificate (for new players only)
2. A 2x2 photo
3. The registration fee (refunded if the player is not placed on a team)
4. A signed application (available at [www.gorge.net/dynamos](http://www.gorge.net/dynamos) or at the registration site)

## **Try-out/Observation Days**

Every returning and new player wishing to play on a HRDYSC team must be present at the appropriate try-out/observation session. A parent or guardian must accompany all players U14 and younger. The dates for these sessions will be posted at registration, and will be in the Hood River News.

- U15 – U19 girls and boys sessions will usually be held in late April
- U9 – U14 girls and boys sessions will be held after state cup finals (early May)

Only registered players may participate in HRDYSC on-field activities. Each player will need to bring cleats, shin guards, water, and a ball. All players will be notified of their team status within seven days.

## **Team Rosters and Player Cards**

All competitive teams are required to have a team roster (maximum 18 players) signed by the registrar, and player cards for all the players on the roster, before they can participate in league or tournament games. Since it takes approximately two weeks to get player cards from OYSA, it is essential to plan ahead. Traveling papers are required for out-of-state play.

## **COMPETITION**

There are various options for how teams will participate in HRDYSC.

- **FRIENDLY GAMES** – Coaches may contact teams in similar age groups to play practice games. This can be done as single games or round robins with local or visiting teams. OYSA must be notified by the coaches before any friendly games.
- **TOURNAMENTS** - Most tournaments last two or three days over a weekend and are organized by individual clubs around the Northwest. They take place from May to October. You are usually guaranteed 3-4 games over the weekend. Some tournaments offer prizes for top teams in each age group. Each tournament requires registration about a month in advance, so planning tournament play is an important early job. Many teams use tournaments as warm-ups for League play.
- **OYSA LEAGUES** – The fall league is organized by OYSA for U11-U14 teams that have qualified in a special qualifying tournament in August. Teams are placed in Premier, and Classic 1,2,and 3 leagues. Those teams choosing not to play in the qualifying tournament will automatically be placed in Classic 3. The league consists of 11 games over 5 weekends. The U-15 and above age levels play in late winter. Games can be played anywhere in the state, but the majority are in the Portland area.
- **SPRING LEAGUES** – There are spring leagues (operated by Westside Metros, F.C. Canby, and Portland Youth Soccer) for U11-U14 teams.

## **Recreational**

Most recreational leagues in OYSA are played within individual clubs or associations. Any HRDYSC team wishing to participate in one of these leagues (usually the “Columbia River Youth Soccer Association” in the Fall) should contact the HRDYSC Director of Coaches. HRDYSC teams may play in tournaments in the recreational division if they have not played league at the Classic level.

## **Classic/Premier**

Classic level is the next step above Recreational. It is divided into Classic I, II, III from highest to lowest. The state cup for Classic teams (President’s Cup) is held after league ends. Any Classic team that has played in Classic league may enter. Classic teams must also play in tournaments as Classic or Premier teams, not Recreational. Remember, you can always play “up” an age group or level but not “down”.

Premier play is the highest level of competition available for youth soccer. There is a separate qualifying tournament and league for Premier teams. Because there are fewer Premier teams in the state there is usually more travel associated with Premier play. The State Cup for Premier teams (Snicker’s Cup) is played after league is completed.

## **State Select - Olympic Development Program (ODP)**

Any individual player between the ages of thirteen and eighteen may try out for the State Select teams in August. Try-outs are usually held in Salem.

## **FEES**

### **Club Registration**

The club fees are determined annually by the BOD and include OYSA fees (insurance) and the operating costs of the club.

### **Tournaments**

The cost of tournaments varies. They can range from \$175.00 per team to \$425.00 per team, usually depending on age and the level of play.

### **League**

League fees range from \$150.00 to \$800.00.

### **Food and Lodging**

Each player is responsible for their own food and lodging for tournaments or any other travel. Many teams make camping arrangements in advance to cut down on costs. Motel arrangements can be coordinated as a group. Teams should recognize that we have a wide range of income levels in this club and that it is very important to keep expenses as low as possible.

## **Coaching Fees**

All current coaches in HRDYSC are strictly volunteer. However, if the occasion arises where a coach needs to be compensated for their work with the HRDYSC, The Board has adopted a policy to address this issue. The criteria to be met are:

- They must have at least an OYSA “D” level coaching certificate.
- The players’ parents/guardians must approve the fee.
- The HRDYSC board must approve the fee.

## **Team Finances**

Each team is responsible for their own finances. All team checking accounts should be at Columbia River Bank in Hood River. An annual team financial statement must be submitted to the club treasurer by February 1, for the previous calendar year. Since club soccer can be quite expensive, we suggest that team fund-raisers be implemented. This activity should be organized by a team parent. If the out-of-pocket costs for each player are reduced, it will provide a greater opportunity for more families in the area to participate. All teams are permitted to solicit contributions and sponsorships from organizations or businesses. Sponsors may put their logo on team bags, warm-ups, and/or uniforms; however, logos on uniforms will not exceed a total of 48 sq. inches. Logos must not promote alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs.

## **Scholarships**

The HRDYSC would like to provide an opportunity for all youth to play club soccer. Realizing that the required fees may eliminate some players, the HRDYSC has established a scholarship fund to help those in need. Applications are available at registration or from the registrar or coaches. Applicants must pay the \$50.00 club registration fee and will be refunded \$40.00 if they are approved by the Scholarship Committee.

## **UNIFORMS**

All teams are required to use one of the designated HRDYSC uniforms: (the Kappa “Manchester” or the Adidas “Liga” in royal blue and white). Any additional uniforms (e.g. sleeveless for warm weather play) must be approved by the BOD. We encourage sizing uniforms on the large side so players can get 2-3 years per uniform. There is also the possibility of buying a used uniform.

## **COACHES**

All applicants for positions as HRDYSC coaches and assistant coaches must submit an “Application To Coach” and a Disclosure Statement and be approved by the BOD before they begin coaching.

All HRDYSC coaches and assistant coaches must complete a Disclosure Statement and a Coaches Contract annually. All coaches should attend a minimum of two coaches meetings annually.

## **TEAM VOLUNTEER JOBS**

- Team Manager - Executes non-coaching details. Initiates phone tree, contact with other clubs, organizes and coordinates other team volunteers.
- Treasurer - Maintains team checking account. Tracks payments due from each player. Coordinates with fundraising leader to collect money. Pays what few bills team may have (Club fees, tournament and/or league fees etc.)
- Phone tree - Two or three people to assume responsibility for passing information to all team families. Breaking the list into small parts, each phone tree volunteer passes the message on to a portion of the team.
- Snack Coordinator - If necessary, assigns weekly snack duties and confirms that drinks and snacks will be available for each game.
- Fund Raising - Coordinates and manages teams’ responsibilities relative to any team or club fund raising activity. Distributes goods to be sold and collects money for the treasurer.
- Practice Assistants - Adults who are willing and available to attend and assist with practices on a regular schedule.

**Please contact your Team Manager to sign up for one of these jobs. Remember, the success of your child, team and club depends on each one of us taking the time to help out.**