

General Information for Parents

Volunteers

We cannot serve the soccer needs of half a dozen age groups, a dozen of teams, and hundreds of athletes without your help. We need referees, field maintenance, fundraisers, and administrators at all levels. Please see the Club home page for volunteer ideas. *Remember, each family needs to do 10 hours of volunteer work!*

Referees

Each team **must** provide at least two certified referees willing to be scheduled several weekends during the season. We offer referee certification classes and workshops.

Field Marshals

Duties of Field Marshals at Bozeman Blitz FC Matches:

In 2004, our club instituted a new guideline. At all home matches, each Bozeman team is required to provide two adult field marshals. The general idea is to help provide decorum off the playing field, itself. This includes the following:

- Arrive at the fields 30 minutes prior to game time. Wear your orange vest at all times.
- Introduce yourself to the officials for your game and welcome them to the match.
- Ask the Center Referee if there is anything in particular they would like you to do, or not do.
- Make a point of welcoming the visiting fans and be available if they have any questions about the Adam Bronken Memorial Soccer Complex, our community, or Club.
- During the game, tactfully talk to any fans exhibiting inappropriate behavior. "Inappropriate" is not easily defined, and the field marshal must use their best judgment. Examples include any cursing, chastising the officials beyond simple questioning of a call, or approaching the field of play. If a simple mention to the fan does not have the desired effect, and the behavior still seems inappropriate, approach the nearest Assistant Referee and speak to them at the first available moment. Inform them of the perceived problem, being cautious not to distract them from their immediate duties. Allow the officials to take any additional action, and refrain, yourself, from any further action.
- Ensure no one is behind the goal during play that could potentially distract the players.
- Retrieve any balls leaving the area, returning them to near the outside of the goal. You may request another parent to do this.
- After the teams have congratulated each other and the officials, thank the officials for their work, no matter what the outcome of the game.
- Check the technical areas for the teams, ensuring that the players pick up all trash before leaving the technical area.
- Finally, check the entire complex, picking up litter at all fields (not just the one for your child's game) and the parking lot.
- Notify the Club Administrator immediately of any unsafe, unsightly, or other conditions requiring club attention.

Costs

Soccer is cheaper than many sports, as it requires only a ball of some sort to practice alone. Once a player progresses into team play, the requirements increase:

- shin guards are required for safety in all group practices and games, and
- soccer shoes, which are designed for traction and ball control, thus safety and skill enhancement, are encouraged.
- In addition, organized youth soccer requires uniforms, coaches, referees, fields, and equipment.

The direct costs of your child's play thus fall directly on you, their parent. In developmental soccer we try to ensure maximum player "touches" in practice and games through short-sided (less than eleven players) play. Although efficient in terms of player development, short-sided soccer requires more coaches (see "Volunteers", below)! In competitive soccer our teams are pitted against those from elsewhere in the state and region. Additional costs include more formal uniforms, more professional coaching, and of course, travel. Although registration ranges from \$200 to \$300 depending on level and timely payment, complete may run from \$500 to \$1500 and possibly higher.

- ***It is club policy to try to find a way to assist any interested player to participate. If the costs appear unmanageable, please contact the club to arrange scholarship support for your child!***

Obligations

The competitive juices flow heavily in our players, and in many parents! Please read our club 's parental behavior policy, and commit to it. Win or lose, soccer is still only a game.

Expectations

We **require** parents and others to behave themselves while at competitions, home or away (above). We **expect** that parents will support their children, their coach, their team, and their club.