



**WARREN COUNTY YMCA  
CO-ED Spring Soccer 2023 (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)**

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

**Welcome to 2023 Spring Soccer at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you so much for signing your child(ren) up for our program! I am excited to return to the pitch this Spring along with my fellow coaches: Ramon Godina Contreras, Becca Green & Oniza Royeen.**

**Practices – As of typing this letter, the plan is after this opening week, each coach will hold 1-2 practices per week depending on our schedules. New this year, each coach will hold practices for their team(s) at their own times so we give the kids much more 1 on 1 time than we have in the past versus having 40 kids on the field all at once doing the same thing. We feel this will help the development of the players much better and will help us get a much better feel for our individual teams. This will also help us as we have a large number of new players joining us this season! I am very much looking forward to how these changes help your kids and their ever growing soccer skills.**

**Games – As some of you already know from past seasons, I enter us into the Knox County YMCA Soccer League each season (Spring & Fall). We play all of our games on Saturdays at the Knox County YMCA in Galesburg. Games this Spring will be on the following dates: April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 & 27. Knox will try and give us at least one make-up day due to bad weather if needed which is currently TBD. Knox is also responsible for making the schedules so as of now, I do not know specific team/game times but know they will happen between 9am-2pm on Saturdays. Please be aware of this. I should get/hope to get that information within a few weeks. Once I get it, I will immediately edit it for our needs, and get it to you asap. This season, to help out Knox, I will be doing some refereeing. This also will help keep our costs low to enter the kids into the leagues in Galesburg. They have assured me that I will be able to referee while I coach my teams so we should not run into any major scheduling issues.**

**Picture Day – I have picture day scheduled for the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> (after our first games). Depending on when each individual team's practice times are, that will determine what time Shyvel's Photography will be here. Once I know when practices are for everyone, I will schedule times with Shyvel**

**and Beckie! A big thank you to the both of them for returning to do our pictures again this year!**

**Shirts – I will do my best to make sure shirts arrive during the week prior to our first game and will do my best to have them available for the kids at their last practice prior to games. Worst case scenario, we hand them out at the first game. Team names and shirt colors have been picked; I just need to finalize all teams’ rosters before submitting our order. Parents, if you are interested in purchasing a team shirt for your child’s team, you will be able to purchase them by stopping at the Y front desk or calling the Y (309) 734-3183. The desk will sign you up for a shirt and you will pay for it there. I will then order those shirts later in the month! The shirts will be \$15 each.**

**Communication – I (Coach Ben) will send messages out as needed during the program. These messages could be reminders, changes to the program, cancellations, etc. I currently use a free texting program; however, we are currently transitioning to a new program called Daxko Engage (Daxko is our computer system we use for the Y). Engage has the ability for me to send out mass text messages to program participants. Eventually, it will be the main program we use for multiple programs at the Y. The main difference with this new program is that, in order to receive messages/notifications from me, you will have to “opt in”. To “opt in”, text WCYMCA to 54539. There is no charge to do this. If you choose not to, that is fine, but if I send out a cancellation message for example, and you did not opt in to get messages, you will not see it. This will be important for quick communication for our programs and more moving forward at the Y!**

**I hope you find this letter helpful, especially those of you new to the program! Again, thank you so much for allowing us to work with your children and teach them the fantastic sport of Soccer! Please email me with any questions/concerns via [ben@warrencountyyymca.org](mailto:ben@warrencountyyymca.org) . You can also call the YMCA at 734-3183 and I can talk to you when available! Enjoy the rest of your day and please enjoy the season!**

**Best Regards,**

**Ben Davis**

**Youth Development Director**

**Warren County YMCA**

**The Y: We’re for Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility**