



WARREN COUNTY YMCA Spring 2026 Rookies Soccer Parent's Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026 Rookies Spring Soccer Program at the Warren County YMCA. Thank you so much for signing your youth up for our program! I am excited to return to the field this Spring and teach your youth the "fun"amentals of the most popular sport in the world, soccer! We will be teaching the basics to the kids including kicking/shooting skills, simple footwork, how to dribble the ball while walking & running, where and when to use hands, throw-ins, etc., and will combine these skills into fun activities to help make the learning process as fun and engaging as possible with the time we have available. We will also do our best to give each child as much 1 on 1 support throughout, even with a big group. I am joined this season by Eddy Esparza, the Program Enhancement Director (our newest Director here at the Y), who will assist me in teaching new skills to the kids and helping make things fun!

This program is a Learn How To Play Program meaning the basics of the sport will be taught. This is not a league. League soccer starts at 1st grade here at the Warren County YMCA. This group is for kids in PreK-Kindergarten or ages 3-6. In this program over the next 7 weeks, my goal is that your player, beginner or not, has fun, learns new skills, makes some friends, and develops excitement for soccer and will want to play again in our leagues in a year or two when they hit 1st Grade.

Program Dates/Starting Times: This program will meet at the following dates/times:

Dates - Monday Afternoons - March 30, April 6, 13*, 20, 27, May 4 & 11

Time - 4:30-5:30pm

Make-Up Dates: I will have 1 planned make-up date available if needed. That date is currently TBD. I have done the following Monday after the season in the past and have also moved to another night during the week. I will always try to have soccer no matter what. However, it is Spring in Illinois, which means 1 week, it could be 40 degrees and windy and/or rainy, then the following week it is 80 degrees and sunny/humid. I will only cancel if I deem the weather to dangerous (looming thunderstorms/ severe weather or weather warnings, extreme heavy rains, severe cold, freezing rain/snow mix, blustery wind etc.). Plan on there being soccer unless you hear from me. Please dress your children appropriately for the weather. If I don't message you, consider soccer ON! Please don't bombard the YMCA with calls as I will let you know.

Picture Day: The asterisk (*) above on Monday, April 13 means that it is Picture Day! We will hand out picture forms the prior week (April 6) as a reminder. Shyvel's Photography is returning again this year to take our team and individual pictures. Thank you, Shyvel!

Communication: I am asking that you PLEASE "opt in" to receive messages from the YMCA via Daxko Engage. To do so, simply text WCYMCA to 54539. If you choose not to do so, that's fine, however it is on you if you do not receive all/any communication throughout the season. You can stop receiving messages from the Y at any time. Please consider opting in with Daxko Engage to confirm that you get all updates during the clinic season. I sent out a message via Engage the day before the clinic. If you did not get that message, you are not opted in. Also, please save your child's coach's phone number once you receive it for communication purposes.

Finally, if you are interested in sponsoring your child's team/group/sport, the cost for the soccer season is \$200. This helps offset t-shirt, equipment, and staff/referee costs. Your logo/business or family name will be added to the back of your child's team/program shirt. If interested, I will need confirmation and will need your logo artwork sent to me prior to Friday, April 4th when I order shirts. As an extra thank you, I will also have a 2x2 banner made for you that will hang outside on the baseball field fence during all Spring, Summer & Fall Sports in 2026. We would love the support! Please let me know if you are interested!

Thank you so much for reading this letter. I hope you and your child enjoy our program this spring! If you have any questions, call me at the Y at 309-734-3183, or email me at ben@warrencountyyymca.org.

Thank You,
Ben Davis
Youth Development Director

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