

We are pleased to offer two programs again this year. This allows us to serve as many children as we can, and continues to fulfill our goal of involving as many children in the game of soccer as possible. The programs offered are listed below.

The SKILLS Program (U8 and U10)

This is the larger of the two programs we offer in the winter. Last year we had over 100 kids enroll in the program! This program is a fantastic compliment to the volunteer coaching that we have during the fall because it exposes the children to professional coaches and give them a structured program through which they will become better soccer players.

We partner with the professional coaches from UK Soccer (who supply our fall league coaches) to run skills clinics and scrimmages (the SKILLS Program). We offer a 10 week program which is conducted at San Mateo High School Stadium Field on the turf. This is an all-weather field and we hold the sessions rain-or-shine. We have added two additional weeks this year so that we should be able to have 8 dry weekends.

The SKILLS Program provides an excellent curriculum for children to expand their skills, interact with other kids their age, and have fun and play scrimmages. In general, the program will run on Saturdays from January through March.

"SELECT" TEAMS (U10 through U14)

Hillsborough AYSO Winter League provides an opportunity for kids to continue building skills and competing throughout the offseason. Because the Winter League is a much smaller league, there are fewer teams, less coaches and fewer fields. Players remain at the same age group as they played in the fall (U12 Fall = U12 Winter, regardless of birthdate).

In general, we run one team per age group for which we are able to get a coach. Therefore, there are a limited number of spaces available on the Hillsborough AYSO SELECT teams. The opportunity to participate is open to all, and each team carries 14-16 players on the roster. In order to fill these limited spots, we conduct Team Formation Sessions. These sessions are typically conducted in late November or early December. Candidates are evaluated for technical skill, tactical awareness, and overall attitude towards the game. The head coach has the final decision on who is offered a position on any SELECT team.

The dates of any Team Formation Sessions will be posted on the website (www.hillsboroughayso.org) as soon as we finalize coaches and fields. U10 children who are not selected for these teams may register for the SKILLS program afterwards.

In general this program will run on Saturday and/or Sunday from January through March. Depending on field availability, there may be one weekday practice. The teams will travel throughout the region and play against other SELECT teams. All U10 teams will play 9v9 and the games will play across the short side of the field with smaller goals. We do not know the exact field dimensions yet, but will post it as soon as we know. U12 through U14 teams will play 11v11 on full sized fields

Coaching Winter Select Teams

Please don't be intimidated by this process! Anyone is eligible to be a coach for the winter league, but because the number of coaching spots is limited (we only run one team per age group), we have established a screening process for identifying and selecting coaches for Winter League teams.

Process for coach selection for Winter League 2009-10:

1. Send an email to hillsboroughwinterleague@gmail.com. Include:
 - a. Contact information
 - b. Age Group for which you would like to volunteer
2. Please detail any prior coaching experience that you may have which would be relevant to your fit for winter league (no prior experience is required, but it helps us evaluate suitability)
3. All submissions must be received no later than November 13th.

4. A committee which includes a board member, the division director, and a referee representative will review all candidates and will select the coaches who they feel best represent the values of AYSO and best fits the needs of our winter league program. Coaches will be notified by November 20th.