

BELLEVUE IOWA YOUTH SOCCER
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE
2026 FALL SEASON (GRADES K-6 IN THE FALL):

GRADE DIVISIONS: (K/1) – Kindergarten and 1st Grade
 (2/3) – 2nd and 3rd Grades
 (4/5/6) – 4th, 5th, and 6th Grades

To participate in the K/1 division, a player must be five years old on or before October 18, 2026. The U-ages for each division are roughly U8 for K/1, U10 for 2/3, and U13 for 4/5/6. However, we try to keep athletes playing with their classmates rather than strictly adhering to the U-ages.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We anticipate forming eight K/1 division teams, six 2/3 division teams, and eight 4/5/6 division teams. We need at least one coach per K/1 team and two coaches per team for the older divisions. We cannot have a fall soccer league without them. You do not have to be knowledgeable about the game of soccer to coach in this recreational league. If you are willing to mentor youth athletes and learn about the game, other coaches, volunteers, and BIYS board of directors members are willing to help you with practice ideas and game strategies. Head coaches will plan practices (two to three in the preseason and once a week during the season), coach seven or eight games, and communicate with the parents of the athletes on their team. Assistant coaches help in a variety of roles depending on the needs of the head coach.

FORMING TEAMS: The team selection process sincerely tries to balance the teams competitively. For the K/1 division, the draft is primarily a blind draw, but we do group the athletes by age level before the blind draw begins. The 2/3 and 4/5/6 division drafts are a little more fine-tuned, as we group by both age level and ability before the draft begins. After forming each roster, we look one last time for competitive balance problems that remain and adjust accordingly. Even with these safeguards in place, there will be teams that dominate and teams that struggle.

SIBLINGS IN THE SAME GRADE DIVISION: If you have siblings playing in the same grade division, they will be placed on the same team, unless you let me know otherwise. During registration please indicate that you have siblings playing in the same grade division. In the spirit of competitive balance, requests for your athlete to play with cousins (and also particular coaches or friends) cannot be guaranteed.

TEAM T-SHIRTS AND EQUIPMENT: Your registration fee includes a team t-shirt. Each head coach picks a team color. Shin guards are required for all players, but these are NOT included with your registration. Cleats are optional but must be soccer cleats (no baseball, softball, or football cleats).

CLINIC NIGHT: In August, we will kick off the fall soccer season with a clinic night for all coaches and players. Clinic night is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 16th. The rain date would tentatively be Monday, August 17th.

PRACTICES: Each head coach determines his or her practice schedule after the clinic night. Practices can begin on Monday, August 17th.

GAMES: Games will be played at Cole Park on Saturday mornings (August 29th and September 12th through October 17th). There are no games on Labor Day weekend. The championship games will be played on Sunday, October 18th in the late afternoon and evening.

WEATHER: We play in most weather conditions. Gloves, stocking caps, and layers of clothing are certainly encouraged when temperatures are cold. Two things will cause a game to be delayed or postponed: lightning or poor field conditions (including steady rain or snow).

QUESTIONS? Contact Gary Penniston at info@bellevueiasoccer.org or 563-340-4529.