

# Sands Eagles Soccer Program Overview

## Player Eligibility

Gender: open to Boys and Girls. Teams are all girls and all boys (no co-ed teams).

Age requirements: players must reach age 6 and not be older than 11 as of July 31 – current year. Players who are 5 and entering the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and will turn 6 by September 30 are eligible.

Players who will be turning 12 before July 31 – current year are NOT eligible to play for Sands – but can play for the school for which they will be attending for Grade 7 and up (e.g. Walnut Hills, Clark Montessori).

## Registration

To participate – parent or guardian must complete Sands Eagles Soccer Registration form and submit it to the Sands Soccer Coordinator along with any required fees (Reg / Jersey)

Please print clearly on form. Give best contact info for email and phone number to quickly reach parent/guardian – this is needed by the coach to send out team info.

All checks payable to SMPO (cash is accepted but discouraged – no tracking)

Requested fee refunds will be honored if player drops out before second (2<sup>nd</sup>) played game.

An email for registration confirmation is generally sent back

Players whose forms are complete and including the registration fee or written financial assistance request will be considered first for team placement. Teams will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis according to availability and the rules established by SAY. No guarantees of team placement can be made since team formation is dependent of coaching availability.

## League Basics

Sands participates in both the Fall and Spring soccer seasons as a District in Soccer Association Youth (SAY), a national organization dedicated to recreational soccer. The league is a recreational and instructional one that promotes fun and good sportsmanship. This is a non-select league and scoring is generally not kept, except for Striker teams during the fall season. More information regarding the league can be found at [www.cincinnatieastsay.org](http://www.cincinnatieastsay.org) and [www.saysoccer.org](http://www.saysoccer.org).

Supported SAY divisions: Passers U8 (ages 6-7), Wings U10 (ages 8-9), and Strikers U12 (ages 10-11)

Spring season is 8 games played mid April through May – (no game Easter Weekend).

Fall season is 10 games played September through early November. Games played only on weekends between 9 am and 5 pm – same field location for each game

Practices are held normally during the week at times and locations decided by the team's coach. Practice fields locations included: Linwood (off Wooster Rd.), Kellogg fields, Armleder Park, and Clear Creek. Practices generally begin several weeks before the first game (depending on weather conditions and coach availability).

**Game Schedules and location** are generally not available until about a week prior to the first game.

## Team Assignments

Notification of player's team assignment will not begin until after 'On-Time' registration period is over and the District Representative has had time to decide on the total number of teams to support for a particular season. Parents should expect a delay of several weeks before inquiring about team assignment.

Players are normally assigned to teams by a blind draw (at random). Note that siblings may play on the same team in the appropriate age division. Please understand that request for specific team assignment for 'transportation' reasons or for reasons of more convenient practice times/locations are not favorable to SAY league ethics rules. Players should not request team placement based on friends or past team performances.

SAY Teams sizes: Passers (U8) – 7 players on field (roster limit – 14), Wings (U10) – 9 players on field (roster limit – 18), Strikers (U12) – 11 players on field (roster limit – 22).

### **Limiting Team Sizes**

To help develop a better player experience, Sands may limit team roster sizes for the Wings (U10) and Strikers (U12) divisions below that of the SAY maximum allowed number. For Strikers, an ideal team size is generally 16-17 players, and for Wings it is generally 13-14 players. Passers level (U8) may have roster sizes that reach SAY maximum levels since this young age division is better suited for large team sizes.

Players can request to “**play up**” to next higher age level (Wings or Strikers). However, there is no guarantee the move can be made and is subject to Soccer Coordinators discretion for team structuring. Players can not request to play down (move to a lower age level than their age allows).

### **Playing Time**

**Players are expected to follow SAY rules of conduct – good behavior and proper sportsmanship.**

Players are normally eligible to play ½ half of the game – sometimes longer depending on availability of players for any particular game. SAY keeps the team's roster limited at two times the number of players on the field so that every player can play a minimum of ½ of a game. Coaches decide when to actually have the player enter the field to play and playing time may be broken up through out quarters.

Players who are unable to attend practices to due to scheduling conflicts must notify their teams coach as early as possible. In this case Players can still play in games even if they do not attend any practices – though this is situation is strongly discouraged as the player will miss out on skill training.

Players who do not attend practices and do not notify their teams coach are not guaranteed to play a full ½ game (playing time may be reduced per the coaches discretion).

### **Parent Volunteer Coaching**

Sands Soccer teams are coached by parent volunteers. Please mark desired position on form to volunteer as a head or assistant coach. SAY offers one day coach training class on a Saturday – free. Prior soccer experience is not needed to coach. Sands suggests eligible coaches are ones that are 1) responsible, 2) organized, 3) good communicators and 4) ethical - showing good sportsmanship. Access to email and web is also required.

### **Uniforms and Playing Gear**

**Sands Eagles Soccer Jersey is \$16.00.** Please indicate size of registration form. Players can use Jerseys from previous seasons (not required to purchase new each season).

Please also provide Black nylon shorts, Black soccer socks, soccer shoes, shin guards, and soccer ball if possible. Shin guards must be cover most of the shin and be fully covered by the socks. Sands has equipment re-use bin at parent center. Players should also bring their own water bottles to practices and games.

Ball sizes: Passers use a size #3 ball, Wings and Strikers both use a size #4 ball.

Players may not wear jewelry of any form during a game (including starter earrings that are taped over). Players also cannot participate in a game if they are wearing a cast or brace of any form.

## Financial Scholarships

Financial Assistance to be applied to the registration fee is available to players in the free/reduced lunch program.

**Scholarship amount is 70% - parent / player expected to pay 30% or \$10.**

Applicants must include a note with their registration form explaining their intention to use financial assistance for the soccer program..

## Participation Awards

Sands will do it best to have each player receive a soccer participation award at the end of each season. Typically awards are smaller size trophies.

## Soccer Budget Expenditures

Sands charges players a nominal playing fee for spring and fall soccer (typically \$36). The money collected is used to pay for the following: SAY East league team memberships (\$150-\$175 per team), SAY league game referee fees (\$10-\$20) per game, team equipment (cost varies), participation awards (typically \$3-4 per player), Scholarship coverage, practice field rentals, additional 3<sup>rd</sup> party coaching support, and limited administrative expenses. Members of the Sands soccer program are strictly volunteers and are not paid for their time or services.

## SAY Liability and Accident Coverage

SAY provides league administrators, coaches, assistant coaches, sponsors, referees and volunteers with liability insurance coverage. In addition, SAY provide accident insurance to all official team listed players (\$50,000 per incident, \$100 deductible).

## SAY - Player Code of Ethics

**Try to develop my skills to the best of my ability** and to give my best effort in competition. Personal development is a big part of soccer.

**Compete within the rules of soccer.** Winning isn't everything.

**Be respectful to coaches, referees, parents and players.** Do not create an incident that would be cause for your removal from the game.

**Be a positive influence on the team.** Recognize that your behavior becomes a model others may choose to emulate. Good sportsmanship and positive support for your teammates, and others, is a necessity for all players.

**Follow the team rules established by the coach.** If the coach is constantly confronted with discipline problems, practices and games will not be fun for anyone.

**Attend every practice and game that I can** and will notify my coach if I cannot.

**Alert my parents and/or coaches if soccer stops being fun** or if I feel that I have not received a fair and equal amount of playing time.

**Not allow practices and games to take precedence over school and homework.** Soccer is a game. There are many things in life that are more important.

## SAY – Parent's Code of Ethics

Have children pre-hydrate by drinking water before they arrive, as well as during the activities.

**Volunteer to assist the coach or team.** Be a "team player!" If you have soccer skills or knowledge, or are just good working with kids, offer to help at practice. If not, make calls, bring snacks, collect money for events, collect paperwork or do anything else that needs doing. The coach is busy coaching; don't make him/her do all the management as well.

**Support the coach's and referee's decisions.** They are both doing a difficult job to the best of their abilities. If you have real concerns, speak with the coach in private.

**Communicate with my child.** Recognize your child's individual performance. Ask, "How did you do?" not "Did you win?" Then listen to their reply. Be honest; don't use flattery. Be sure to address any concerns they may have. Do not belittle their fears or opinions.

**Give praise freely.** When someone, anyone, is doing a good job at what they're doing, don't be afraid to let them know! Whether it's your child, another child on the team, a child on the opposing team, the coach or, yes, even the referee!