



Parents,

Thank you for participating in this spring's Jackson Little Kickers' Instructional Program and the J-League Soccer Program. The rosters and schedules are posted on line at www.jacksonselect.org. Please read the information in this letter so you are prepared and know what to expect from the program. We are able to keep all the same aged children playing at the same place at the same time. Many requests were not considered because of this. If you have siblings that were accidentally separated, please let me know and we will correct that.

OBJECTIVE: Our main objective is to have fun, free from injuries. The program runs more like a clinic. The games are fun, not competitive. We will not keep track of scores or team records. We ask you and the players to celebrate goals, but in a sportsmanlike manner. Horseplay will not be tolerated, especially hanging on the goals/ nets. Please assist the coaches and require your child act in an appropriate manner. For the Little Kickers Program, the coaches will run through a footskills session during the first half of the session. The second half will be a coach-officiated game. For the game, your team will be divided in half and will play against another team. You may have to move to a different field for the game. Please be prepared for this, especially if you are carting little ones around. The J-League will start with practice-only sessions and games will pick up after a week or so. Please check the schedule for more information. All sessions will last for about an hour.

COACHES: Once again, the Boys' and Girls' varsity soccer players from Jackson will be volunteering their services to coach the teams. Most of these boys and girls are also playing themselves, and there may be some weekends they will not be available to coach. Therefore, the coaches working with your team may change from time to time. However, it is our goal to have as much continuity for coaching as possible.

VOLUNTEERS: Several parents indicated they would like to help coach and we welcome more parental involvement. To make it easier, I am requesting that you feel free to help the high school players coach. You will NOT be stepping on anyone's toes. All I ask is that you allow the high school players to lead the session. It is as much for them to work on their leadership, working with adults, and coaching their team. Each week, the lead coaches are given an itinerary of objectives for the footskills session. Any help you can provide to keep the children behaved and increase exposure to the skills being worked on is our goal for the volunteer program. If you feel your assigned coach is struggling, please let myself, or the director in charge know and we will work to resolve the issue.

LOCATION: We will be playing all the games at the **Stuhldreher Soccer Fields** located at the corner of Hills and Dales and Stuhldreher. If you need directions, please check the www.jacksonselect.org little kickers page.

RAIN DATE POLICY: In case of inclement weather, you may check the website (www.jacksonselect.org) to see if the session is called off. You may also call (330) 807-6461. If there are any further questions, please let me know. We will work hard to handle your requests. Thanks again for your interest in our program

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS: Be sure your child is properly equipped. This includes clothes conducive to running and being active. *Shin Guards are necessary for their protection.* Soccer Cleats will reduce the risk of injury, especially on wet days. We also ask each player bring their own ball. We will use a **size 4** soccer ball for all games. Mark your name on the ball with a permanent marker to avoid losing it. Please bring water or sports drink for water breaks for your child. Finally, make sure your child is not wearing earrings, jewelry, or hair clips. Elastic ponytail bands are fine.

WHAT THE PARENTS NEED: A chair (optional), sunscreen (maybe), camera, and/or video camera. Relax and enjoy your child and the game. We will take care of everything! If you wish to volunteer, please read the above volunteer request. Please be careful in the parking lots with all the young children that will be there. Please stay and watch your child for the duration of the session. The coaches are not to take the players for bathroom breaks. They will notify you to take your child.

WHAT'S NEXT? Our experienced Little Kickers, should move on to the J-League in the fall. Our experienced J-League players may consider joining either Jackson Select (boys) or Jackson Fury (girls). These are the local travel programs for soccer in Jackson. They are also the feeder programs to our very successful high school soccer programs. On the girls' side, Coach Frank Gagliardi has led Jackson to back-to-back Elite 8 (Ohio Div. 1) appearances, while winning the Federal League Championship for the 15th straight season in 2007. On the boys' side, they captured another Federal League title last season as well as played in their first State Championship match in school history.

Thank you again for your participation. If there is anything I can do to make things run better, please do not hesitate to let me know!

- Coach Michael Biros

Director: Jackson Little Kickers
Head Coach: Jackson Boys' Varsity Soccer

Fields:

