

## ***South Hadley Pioneer Valley Travel Soccer League Parent Informational Flyer***

**Introduction:** The PVJSL promotes fun, safe and exciting soccer play for children in grades 3-8. Players of all ability levels are invited to sign up and play the most popular sport in the world! Visit the league website at [www.pjvsl.com](http://www.pjvsl.com).

The Recreation Department will also offer recreational leagues for those that are interested; signups for those divisions begin June 7.

**Teams:** This League is for players entering grades 3-8 in the fall 2010. We will attempt to group kids together by grade level; however due to league rules, we need to stay within the birth-date requirements for each age level. The age levels are:

- U9 - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
- U10 - 4<sup>th</sup> graders
- U11 - 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- U12 - 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- U13 - 7<sup>th</sup> graders
- U14 - 8<sup>th</sup> graders

The age cutoff day is August 1, 2010; you cannot reach your age division's age prior to this day. This rule assures that all players in a division will be within one calendar year of the other players. Teams will then be placed in a division which is based on the team's skill level and this should ensure that teams are competing against teams of equal skill level and ability. Records from prior seasons are used set the divisions and are up to the PVJSL.

If there are too many kids signed up for a specific team for U11 – U14, tryouts may be required. League rules prohibit rosters larger than 18 players. We may ask kids to play up a division to avoid a tryout whenever possible. If tryouts are needed, they will be held in late June or early August. If this is the case, you will be notified by mail/email. If you do not receive any information, there are no tryouts; your coach will call you for the first practice.

For U9 and U10, registrations will be first come, first served basis. We will accommodate any amount of teams; however we will not have cuts for this age group. If there are multiple teams in one age group, the Recreation Department in conjunction with the coaching staff will determine how to split the teams up.

**Travel:** Away games will be played within the Pioneer Valley. The furthest you may have to travel would be to towns like Agawam, Monson, Ware, Gateway and Greenfield. Directions to all fields can be found on the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League website: [www.pvjsl.com](http://www.pvjsl.com) (**click on the field info link**).

**Coaching/Instruction:** Pioneer Valley requires all teams to have at least one coach who has completed an introductory coaching course (this course will be held at a local site by Mass Youth Soccer Association). Practice will begin in early/mid August giving players an opportunity to

practice without the burden of schoolwork. We are always looking to develop new head and assistant coaches; if you are interested please contact the Recreation Department. League rules permit only two coaches on the sideline for any game; however more are encouraged in practices.

**League Website:** All information for the league is on the website at [www.pvjsl.com](http://www.pvjsl.com). You can find the following:

- Game schedules
- Field directions
- Cancellation information
- League rules and regulations

**Registration:** Sign-ups will begin May 3 and end May 28 at the South Hadley Recreation Department. Registration requires a small photograph (for player ID card) and a fee of \$75 for all players.

**All new PVJSL players and players entering the 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grades will be required to sign their id card either at the time of registration.** Participants can also provide an address sized sticker with the player's signature and printed name on the back. Any returning 6th or 8th grade player does not need a new player pass this year. Each participant will be required to read and sign the "zero tolerance" form prior to the season. Players signing up after May 28 will not be guaranteed placement on a team. Any player that does not turn in the proper paperwork will not be eligible to play until they have completed it and the league has approved it.

**Tournaments:** At the end of the season the **PVJSL** will host a playoff tournament at Gateway Regional High School for the top four teams in each division (grades 5-8). There is also a jamboree for players in grades 3 and 4. Dates and schedule will be announced on the league website: [www.pvjsl.com](http://www.pvjsl.com).

Teams will be eligible to enter additional tournaments upon the coach's discretion. Fees to enter tournaments will be the responsibility of each team through fundraising or a small fee.