**Frequently Asked Questions**

**My child wants her friends and won’t play without them:**

* We cannot honor friend requests. Just like all other sports and clubs, by allowing it, can create a perception of unfairness in teams and favoritism to certain families. Further, there is no way we can actually make it happen perfectly for all, so we will not honor for any families out of fairness.
* We will try to accommodate sibling requests as able and have a space for sibling requests in our registration process
* We create teams based on the school they attend, so likely they will be on the same team or with other classmates/
* Due to the large volume of emails/requests we receive, we may just cannot respond with a yes to this or an EXCEPTION.

**What should my child bring to practice?**

* Shin guards (required to participate & available to purchase for $5.00)
* Soccer socks (available to purchase for $5.00)
* Size 4 soccer ball for grades 1-4; Size 3 soccer ball for PreK & K
* Water bottle or a drink for your child

**Are there restrictions/changes due to COVID-19?**

We are following the most recent state guidelines. Currently, we do not expect restrictions due to COVID-19 for the Fall 2021 season. Please review [HFC United's COVID Info page](https://www.hfcunited.org/latest-covid-19-return-to-play-info) for more information.

**What grade do I register my child for?**

**Spring**: Register your child for the grade they are currently in.

**Fall**: Register your child for the grade they are going into for the upcoming school year.

***If you feel they are ready for a more competitive age group, you may register for the age group above their current age group.***

**When does the season start/end?**

Spring: early-to-mid April and end in the middle of June.

Fall: late August and ends mid-October.

**Where are games located??**

We have two main fields we play at:

[Lions Park](https://www.google.com/maps?f=l&hl=en&q=1043+5th+St+W%2c+Hastings%2c+MN+55033)

[Wallin Park](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1655+Northridge+Dr,+Hastings,+MN+55033/@44.7266283,-92.8910314,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x87f7c68e112e4f6b:0xc2021623c1acb4f5!8m2!3d44.7266283!4d-92.8888427?hl=en)

**What days are games/practices for fall/spring?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ages | Weekday | Times | Weekends |
| Pre-k-K | Tuesdays | 6-7 PM | 9-noon timeframe\* |
| 1/2nd graders | Mondays | 6-7PM | 9-noon timeframe\* |
| 3/4 th graders | Wednesdays | 6-7PM | 9-noon timeframe\* |

\*specific game times will be sent out to each team or can be found in the “schedule”.

**Are all teams and age groups co-ed now?**

Yes, all ages are now co-ed. We looked at our club numbers and what other successful clubs similar to our size are doing and have moved to an all co-ed rec league.

**What is the difference between HFC United's Youth Rec Academy & Competitive Travel Soccer Programs?**

[Click here](https://hfcsoccer.demosphere-secure.com/_files/programs/travel/new-player-information/HFCUnited%20Competitive%20Soccer%20versus%20Recreational%20Soccer.pdf) for information on the difference between "Travel Versus Recreational Soccer."

If you have an enthusiastic seven or eight year old that enjoys playing the game of soccer, you should consider placing your child in HFC United's Competitive Travel Soccer program.  Review the helpful information on HFC United's Travel "[Player Information](https://hfcunited.org/competitive/travel/player-information)," or [contact a director of coaching](mailto:westley.hfcunited@gmail.com) to see if your child would be a good fit for playing travel soccer over a youth rec academy team.

If you are concerned about the cost of travel soccer, please email: [hfcunited.adm@gmail.com](mailto:hfcunited.adm@gmail.com) about financial support. As a community club, we are committed to helping players play!

**What size ball does my child need?**

* Pre-K through Kindergarten grade: size 3
* 1st-4th grade: size 4

**Note**:  Please make sure your child brings their ball to every practice and game.

**Are shin guards required?**

Yes, shin guards are required at all practices and games.

**Are cleats required?**

No, cleats are not required. However, they will help keep your child from slipping when the ground is wet.

**When will I get my child's team/schedule?**

Teams and schedules will be posted online after registration closes.

**What are "Academy" Days?**

All teams, with their coaches, attend training sessions run by our trainers. These are regularly scheduled sessions that will be on your schedule.

**Who will be coaching my child?**

**Hopefully, you!** To keep registration fees low, we rely on parent-volunteer coaches.  So without volunteers willing to help, we do not have teams.

**\*if you have a child that is anxious, coaching can help them and also by pairing up with another family will create an environment that will foster the love of soccer.**

**But I don't have any experience, how can I then coach**?

Don't sweat it!  HFC United provides coaches training prior to the season and provide practices available to you online. Also included are Academy Days (ran by HFC United), where the club's Director of Coaching, and an Age Group Coordinator, will help out. The Age Group Coordinator concentrates specifically on the rec players and is there for you as a continued resource.

Please consider coaching, assistant coaching or co-coaching your child's team. We cannot form teams until we have two coaches per team. Register to coach when you register your child.  We allow teenagers to help coach as well.  Please contact Rec. Director if interested.

**Volunteer Coaching A Youth Rec Academy Team counts for your Volunteers Hours for Traveling Soccer Families**

If you have a child in traveling soccer, coaching a youth rec academy team will cover your volunteer hours for the season.

**Can my preschooler play?**

Yes, most kids registered for our Youth Rec Academy program are ages four and five.  These players are combined with the kindergarten age group for fall/spring, which means there might be some six year-olds on their team

**REFUND POLICY:**

**HFC's refund protocol is as follows**:

1. **100% of registration costs if teams have not been formed.**
2. **50 % will be given after your child has been assigned to a team.**
3. **No refund will be given once the games have started.**

**Who do I contact for more information on Recreational Soccer?**

**Please contact the Director of Recreational Soccer at** [hfcunited.board.recdirector@gmail.com](mailto:hfcunited.board.recreation@gmail.com)