

PARENT HANDBOOK

for Auburn Recreational Leagues:
U6, U8, U10, U13, U16, and U19



City of Auburn



Auburn Soccer Association,
Auburn Parks & Recreation Department

Revised Fall 2021

AuburnSocccA.org



League Motto

I am honest in competition,
I am humble in victory,
I accept defeat without envy, and
I have an attitude of sportsmanship.

The Auburn Soccer Way¹

WE PLAY THE RIGHT WAY

We uphold the true values of the game—not just on the field, but off it too. We are committed to supporting and improving our community.

WE GROW TALENT

We turn potential into excellence, and strive to produce intelligent, technically proficient players in a fun, challenging, and positive learning environment.

WE'RE FORWARD-THINKING

We will be successful tomorrow, as well as today. We spend our time and money wisely, and invest sensibly in the future.

WE PUSH THE BOUNDARIES

We lead, not follow. We constantly innovate beyond the expected in every aspect of our association and invest in quality facilities.

WE NEVER STOP

We constantly strive to be better in everything we do. Whatever the circumstances, whatever the pressure, we never stop believing in who we are and how we do things. We never stop moving forward.

¹ Adapted from "The Southampton Way"

OVERVIEW

The Auburn Soccer Association Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Auburn Parks & Recreation Department, directs the operation of the recreational soccer program in the City of Auburn, Alabama. The board meets at the Auburn Soccer Complex at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month throughout the year. Meetings are open to the public, and interested persons are invited to attend.

Through the work of its various committees, the Board sets policies and procedures, operates registration, establishes calendars, provides for fundraising activities, assists in the renovation and development of facilities, and carries out other projects as needed.

The Board is self-perpetuating, which means the current Board will elect the new year's board members in May. Persons interested in learning more about the Board—or becoming a member of the Board—should contact Houston Manning, Athletic Programs Administrator, at HManning@AuburnAlabama.org or 334-501-2942.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

Executive Director • Becky Richardson
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

President • Russell Wood
russell@auburnsocca.org

Vice President • Rodney Turnbull
rodney@auburnsocca.org

Past President • Jeff Glasscock
pastpres@auburnsocca.org

Secretary • Ivori Redditt
secretary@auburnsocca.org

Treasurer • Kevin Kelly
kkelly@auburnalabama.org

Recreational League Director • Chad Parish
chad@auburnsocca.org

Recreational League Commissioner, U6-U8 • Lindsey Turner
lindsey@auburnsocca.org

Recreational League Commissioner, U10-U13 • Greg Hayes
greg@auburnsocca.org

Recreational League Commissioner, U16-U19 • Rhonda Foradori
rhonda@auburnsocca.org

Adult League Director • Chris Correia
adult@auburnsocca.org

Athletic Director • Houston Manning
hmanning@auburnalabama.org

League Sports Coordinator • Jason Burnett
jburnett@auburnalabama.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Auburn Soccer Association is to provide youth soccer opportunities by offering a challenging and educational program, while developing a lifelong passion for the sport in all of our athletes. Our program is dedicated to the development of both individual and team skills while emphasizing leadership, character, good sportsmanship, and commitment to compete at the highest level of desired play.

CLUB CULTURE

Our players are not here to “Boooooot it!” during games. We are teaching and learning soccer, having fun, making mistakes, and constantly striving for a higher standard of play. We aspire to grow independent, intelligent, creative soccer players who play the beautiful game beautifully. We work hard to keep all of our players involved in soccer through their U19 years and beyond—as referees, young coaches, team sponsors, board and committee members, and eventually soccer parents with their own soccer-loving kids.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The purpose of the Auburn Soccer Association **Player Scholarship Program** is to further the Association's mission by awarding financial aid to ensure that all children and youth in the Auburn community who wish to play recreational soccer are able to do so.

The scholarship covers all registration fees, and is awarded per season.

Supplemental aid to help players purchase proper soccer equipment is also available, and free soccer cleats are available through the Association's "Cleat Closet" (online at CleatCloset.org).

For more information, visit
AuburnSocCA.org/Scholarships

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- ▶ I will give my best effort in every training session and game.
- ▶ I will do my best to attend and be on time for every training session.
- ▶ I will plan on attending every game.
- ▶ In the event I cannot attend training or games, I will contact the Head Coach as soon as possible.
- ▶ I will be humble in victory.
- ▶ I will accept defeat with grace.
- ▶ I will not address the referees, with the only exception being emergencies or safety issues.

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- ▶ No foul or offensive language will be tolerated at practices or games.
 - ▶ Foul play with the intention to harm will be dealt with decisively.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The support of parents is absolutely essential to the success of our soccer programs. As a parent, your attitude and perception of the game has a significant impact on your child's ability to enjoy soccer. This support is reflected in certain parent responsibilities.

I hereby pledge that:

- ▶ I will not address the referees, with the only exception being emergencies or safety issues.
- ▶ If I have a serious complaint about a referee, I will seek out the League Sports Coordinator and put my complaint in writing.
- ▶ I will not coach or direct play from the touchline.
- ▶ I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials.
- ▶ I will conduct myself with dignity, and encourage the same behavior from others.

- ▶ I will not address my child's coach with matters relating to the game directly prior to, during, or after a match. I will wait 24 hours before sharing post-game concerns or questions.
- ▶ I will address my concern to my child's coach, first, at the appropriate time. If further action is necessary, I will then direct my concern in writing to the League Sports Coordinator.
- ▶ I will encourage fair play.
- ▶ I will emphasize fun and a spirit of competition.
- ▶ I will de-emphasize winning games, and focus on my child's long-term athletic and personal development and maturation.

SOCCER COMPLEX RULES

- ▶ No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere in the park.
- ▶ Trash receptacles are provided at various locations and should be used by players and fans.
- ▶ No one should climb or sit on any fence at any time.
- ▶ **No one should climb or hang on the goals.**
- ▶ Vehicles should be parked only in marked spaces. Those double-parked or parked in handicap spaces are subject to being towed.
- ▶ No pets are allowed at the Auburn Soccer Complex.

COACHES

- ▶ All Recreational League coaches are recruited and vetted by the League Sports Coordinator.
- ▶ Coaches are hired on a strictly volunteer basis.
- ▶ All coaches must have a background check, and must follow the **Code of Ethics**.
- ▶ Coaches are expected to obtain at minimum a US Soccer Federation **Youth Module I** or **Youth Module II** certification, paid for by the Association. The YM1 is for coaches in the Under 6 and Under 8 age groups. The YM2 is for the Under 10 and older age groups.
- ▶ By Alabama law, all youth sports coaches must be certified by the **Coach Safely** program. A “coach” is defined as anyone who is a head coach, assistant coach, or other person older than 14 years that helps coach or instruct during youth practices and/or games. The City of Auburn will implement these requirements.
- ▶ Any person interested in coaching recreational soccer should contact Jason Burnett, League Sports Coordinator at JBurnett@auburnalabama.org.

TEAM SELECTION

- ▶ Recreational teams in the Under 6 and Under 8 age groups are formed solely based on birthdate.
- ▶ Recreational teams in the Under 10 and older age groups are formed using player ratings.
- ▶ The player rating system is used in an effort to make each team as evenly competitive as possible.

UNIFORMS

- ▶ Recreational league players are provided 1 jersey and 1 pair of socks.
- ▶ No jewelry (e.g., watches, chains, rings, bracelets, earrings) should be worn at games or practices.
- ▶ Cleats and shin guards are required for participation in soccer games and practice, and shirts must be tucked into the pants.
- ▶ Players may obtain free cleats from the **Cleat Closet**, a player-organized club service project, which collects gently-used soccer cleats, cleans and inventories them, and makes them available for free to Auburn Soccer Association players and families. For more information, visit **CleatCloset.org**.

EQUIPMENT

Each player is responsible for bringing his or her own equipment to practice. This consists of a soccer ball (marked with player's name or initials), shin guards, cleats, and water bottle.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

- ▶ Teams are assigned a regular practice day and field for the season. The coach sets the practice time and day.
- ▶ Players are required to attend practices. Coaches should be notified in case of an illness or an emergency.
- ▶ Coaches are not required to play those who miss practice or those who have discipline problems.
- ▶ The coach may cancel practices. Coaches should make the team aware of his/her policy for rained out practices.
- ▶ Coaches are not responsible for transporting players to and from practice.
- ▶ Parents should make every effort to have players at practice **ready to begin on time**, and to pick them up when practice concludes.

PRESEASON CAMPS

Whether it's a player's first season ever, or they're a seasoned veteran, **Preseason Camp** is a great way to kick-off the season in a positive, encouraging environment. Registration information for the free recreational preseason camps is publicized before each season: AuburnSoccA.org/PreCamp.

There are benefits for participating **players**, because they can meet and interact with their teammates, league-mates, and the various coaches. They will learn some fundamental skills and knowledge to build on during this season and beyond. And, the sessions help set a positive tone for their season.

There are benefits for **coaches**, because Auburn Soccer Association staff can introduce and rehearse some "best coaching practices", and provide a structured environment wherein our coaches can interact on a less competitive stage.

For the entire Recreational program (including **parents**), preseason camp serves as an important culture-building activity demonstrating "this is how we do things here."

PLAY-UP PRACTICE DAY

Near the end of each season, players “graduating” to a new age group in the following year are invited to practice with a team in the older age group one day during the current season.

For example, a current U10 player may practice with a U13 team on the specified day.

“Play-Up Practice Day” is an opportunity for kids to dip their toes in the water, meet some of the older players and coaches, and build some confidence—so that they stay involved in soccer.

As soon as the dates are available, the coach coordinating this free program will email parents with details and registration information.

BAD WEATHER / RAINOUTS

WEEKDAY DECISIONS ON GAME/PRACTICE
CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER OR FIELD CONDITIONS
WILL BE MADE BY **3:00 P.M.**

AFTER THAT, THE DECISION WILL BE MADE AT THE FIELDS.

Text message alerts notifying parents/participants
of field closures are provided through Active.

- ▶ When you register your child for soccer, your mobile phone number is added to Parks and Recreation's text alert system
- ▶ To add an additional mobile number, or to unsubscribe and no longer receive text alerts, contact the League Sport Coordinator

ONLINE CALENDAR

The official Master Calendar of the Auburn Soccer Association's Recreational Soccer League is available online at AuburnSocccA.org/Calendar.

SPONSORS

Each recreational league soccer team is sponsored by a local or regional business or organization at the cost of \$300 per team.

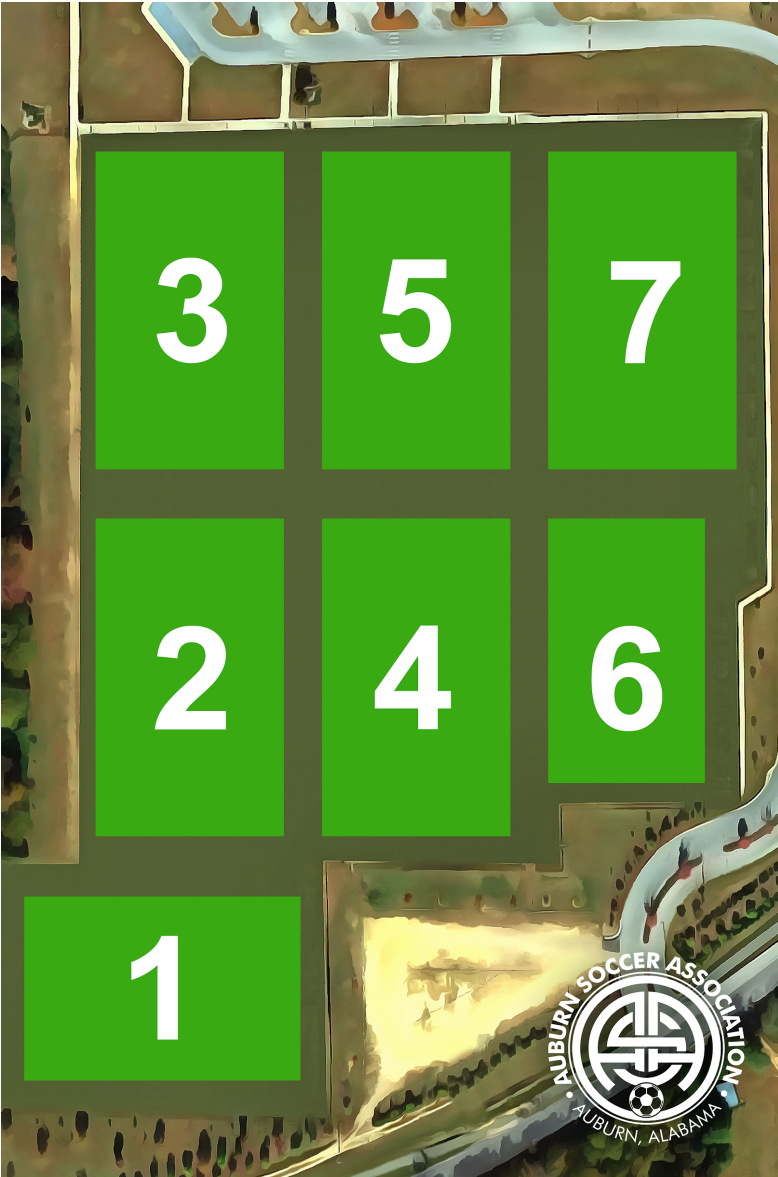
If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a soccer team, contact Jason Burnett with the Auburn Parks & Recreation Department at JBurnett@auburnalabama.org or 334-501-2943.

► In addition, **3' x 5' Banners** are sold for advertising at the Wire Road Soccer Complex. Banners will be placed on the inside of the fences surrounding the fields. Each banner will be sold for \$1,000, which includes the purchase, production, and installation of the banner for 1 year from purchase date.

Each banner must be approved by the Board of Directors. All proceeds will be donated to Auburn Soccer Association. Please contact Jason Burnett, League Sports Coordinator for more information.

SOCCER FIELDS

Auburn Soccer Complex
2340 Wire Road, 36832



INSURANCE

Insurance to supplement your family's regular medical coverage is provided to all players. Parents must first file an accident claim in their personal insurance. Upon filing such a claim, immediately contact Kevin Kelly with the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 334-501-2932.

PICTURES

Individual and team pictures will be made during the first few weeks of the season before a scheduled game. Details will be provided by Jason Burnett, League Sports Coordinator. The company awarded the picture contract will be responsible for the collection of money and the distribution of pictures.

FORMAL COMPLAINTS

The following procedure should be followed to register a formal complaint:

- ▶ All complaints must be in writing and submitted to Jason Burnett, League Sports Coordinator as soon as possible by email, via online form (see AuburnSocCA.org/Complaint), or by mail (Auburn Soccer Association, 425 Perry Street Auburn, AL 36830, ATTN: Formal Complaint).
- ▶ A committee of at least three board members will meet to determine if any corrective action is needed.
- ▶ Any recommended action will be submitted to the Board President for approval.
- ▶ All interested parties will be informed in writing of the board's findings and any corrective action.

SOCCER PARENTING

The Auburn Soccer Association provides **free**, club-wide access to the **Soccer Parent Resource Center**, the online parent education platform of the Soccer Parenting Association.

This membership is free to all of our soccer parents, guardians, and coaches, and provides complete access to the interviews, articles, seminars, ebooks, courses and amazing community of level-headed parents at the **SoccerParentResourceCenter.com**.

► To begin your free membership, simply register via **AuburnSoccA.org/SPRC**.

The mission of the Soccer Parenting Association is to inspire players by empowering parents:

- We believe youth soccer parents will be difference makers when it comes to improving the game.
- We believe when parents seek information about how to best support their player, great things will happen.
- We believe a collaborative environment between coach, parent, club, and player is in the best interest of player development.
- We believe a strong and supportive community of level-headed and like-minded parents and coaches will inspire players.

SURVEYS

► Online evaluation forms will be distributed near the end of each season for feedback concerning Coaches, Directors, and the state of the Auburn Soccer Association.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact us! Questions and suggestions can be directed to the appropriate board member or the League Sports Coordinator. Updated contact information for board members can be found in this handbook and on AuburnSoccA.org/BOD.