

OPTIMIST SOCCER LEAGUE

Noon Optimist Club of Niles
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SOCCER SIGNALS

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Optimist Soccer League

A youth project of the Niles Noon Optimist Club
with the assistance of the Niles-Buchanan YMCA

www.nilesoptimist.org/osl



If you receive this in the mail and haven't yet heard from your coach, call 269-240-7189 ASAP.

WELCOME TO THE 33rd YEAR OF OPTIMIST SOCCER IN SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN !

Optimist Soccer is a recreational league... we don't keep standings or hold playoffs. Above all, Optimist Soccer should be FUN!

Optimist Soccer is a youth project of the Noon Optimist Club of Niles Michigan, dedicated to bringing out the best in youth. As such, we ask EVERYONE'S assistance in providing a positive and pleasant soccer experience for our players, parents, coaches, and referees.

Profanity is unacceptable, whether used by players, coaches, parents, or other spectators. Please note that the authority of the referee does NOT end at the edge of the field! If necessary, the referee has the authority to suspend play until a disruptive influence has left the area.

Please be respectful of our referees.

No matter how much you feel a call was in error, you can be certain that the referee is TRYING to make the fair and correct call every single time.

HOW TO REACH US...

Buchanan-specific questions can be directed to Louanne Wesner at 695-3098.

Niles, Cassopolis, and ALL General Questions

can call Michelle or Robb at 269-240-7189 or e-mail optimistsoccer@comcast.net Michelle Morse is the Administrative Coordinator for the Optimist Soccer League. Robb Morse is the OSL Committee Chairman.

Please, no calls before 9:30am or after 9:00pm.

Please make every effort to play the games as scheduled. A complete schedule is enclosed with this edition of Soccer Signals.

*****Your player's team number is printed on the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label.*****

TEAM UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

All players will be given their team jerseys prior to the first game. THESE ARE YOURS TO KEEP! We suggest all players wear their team jerseys ONLY for GAMES and keep them clean and neat during the soccer season. Coaches and Players, remember that a player's jersey must be tucked in at the start of the game and at the start of each quarter or half.

Other recommended team uniform parts include:

- Shorts - Black or Team Color
- Shin Guards (mandatory for all players)
- White Soccer socks (or socks matching team jersey) **Socks MUST completely cover shin guards.**
- Either "all sport" or soccer cleats; gym shoes are also good, especially for younger players... Baseball cleats (cleat at front end of the shoe) are PROHIBITED.
- A mouth guard is strongly recommended.

DIVISIONS & BALL SIZES

The first digit of your team number is the division number.

It is always a good idea to have a soccer ball to practice with at home. The sizes we use are:

- Div. 1 - Kindergarten - Boys & Girls SIZE 3 BALL
- Div. 2 - Grades 1 & 2 - Boys & Girls SIZE 4 BALL
- Div. 3 - Grades 3 & 4 - Boys & Girls SIZE 5 BALL
- Div. 5 - Grades 5 & 6 - Boys & Girls SIZE 5 BALL
- Div. 7 - Grades 7 & 8 - Boys & Girls SIZE 5 BALL

A properly inflated soccer ball held high above your head should bounce back up to your shoulder. Coaches: 2 inflation needles are included in your first aid kit.

SOCCKER FIELDS INFORMATION

Please note that **smoking** is now prohibited on most of the properties on which we play, including fields located on school grounds as well as the AEP fields in Buchanan. Please refrain from smoking at Optimist Soccer League activities.

The Optimist Soccer League also respectfully requests that you not bring **dogs** to league games.

Parents, Players, and Coaches... Please help us keep the community and our soccer fields clean by picking up trash you may see and depositing it in an appropriate receptacle, even if it's not your trash !

Coaches, please bring an empty plastic grocery bag to each game for trash collection (empty juice boxes, orange rinds, etc.)

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation of the First Missionary Church and the benevolence of the Bertrand Township Board, we will again have 2 game fields at Harvest Field, located on West River Road at US-12.

There are **NO** soccer practices at Harvest Fields with the notable exception being those coaches who are members of First Missionary Church.

There also will be **NO** practices by OSL teams at the Buchanan Middle School.

DIRECTIONS TO OSL PLAYING FIELDS

Niles

N-2 - Ballard School: 3rd/4th grade games

On north side of Chicago Road (Business US-12) on the west side of town, at top of the hill. The small field is in front of the school.

N-3 - East Side Park (not Eastside School): KG games

Sycamore at 17th street in Niles.

Also, 3 blocks south of the Niles High School athletic fields.

N-4 – Harvest Fields Small: 1st/2nd grade games

N-6 – Harvest Fields Large: 5th thru 8th grade games

Take US-12 to W. River Rd. (just west of the St. Joe River) Turn North on W. River Rd, fields are to your left.

Please, absolutely NO shoulder parking on River Road!

Buchanan

B-1 & B-3 - Middle School fields:

Take Red Bud Trail to Fourth Street, go west one mile. The school is on the right. The bus lane to the back of the school leads to the parking lot. B-1 (East) is the second (far) large field on your left, B-3 (South) is the smaller field to your right.

B-4 - McCoy Creek Park:

Take Red Bud Trail south from Front Street (turn left if coming in on Niles-Buchanan Road) and turn right on Smith Street. Located next to High School's Memorial Field, off Smith Street.

B-5 - Ottawa School:

West on Front Street through the city to Ottawa Street, right to Ottawa School.

AEP Complex:

North on Red Bud Trail, left on Elizabeth Street to Circle Drive. Remember, we are guests of AEP, and there is a smoking ban on the AEP property. Please comply.

Cassopolis

C-1 – All Games in Cass played at Sam Adams Elem.

Take M-60 to Cassopolis. Turn right to stay on M-60 at the stoplight at State Street in Downtown Cassopolis. Sam Adams School is 4 blocks down State Street on your right... go just past the school and turn right on Depot street, the fields are behind the school.

ADULT SUPERVISION:

All teams **MUST** have at least one coach 21 years of age or older on the roster. Furthermore, there must be at least one adult 21 years of age or older present during every practice, and on the coaches' side of the field during every game. Note that this could be a parent of a player if necessary – it does not necessarily have to be the listed adult coach. This also does not rule out a younger assistant coach acting as head coach during a game, so long as there is an adult present at the team's bench.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Again this year many dedicated volunteers are giving an unbelievable amount of their time to help make the 2010 Optimist Soccer League season another successful athletic event for the young people of our communities. A special thanks to all those who volunteered this year to coach, referee and maintain the various soccer fields. Our deepest appreciation goes to the parents and youth who enthusiastically support this program by participating each year.

MEN AND WOMEN – You can continue serving the youth of our communities by becoming a member of an Optimist Club. The Niles Club meets every Tuesday at noon upstairs at the Bell Building, Sycamore and 4th in downtown Niles. Please visit us and find out more about the many other exciting Optimist programs and activities. Drop by any meeting, or call Robb or Michelle for a personal invitation.

REFEREES

Because of changing commitments, some of our referees from previous years cannot officiate this year. We have recruited many new referees who received training in February. Anyone interested in becoming a referee in the future, please call Mark Tumbleson at 269-695-2685.

Although at least one referee is scheduled to work each of the **280+** OSL games this year, there may be times when no referee is present. Coaches, please continue the game using volunteer coaches or parents as substitute referees, and **NOTIFY** Michelle or Robb after the game and let us know your refs were missing.

Remember that the purpose of the Optimist Soccer League is to provide recreational and instructional soccer to the youth of our communities. No standings are kept and no trophies are awarded, so keep playing the games.

TROPHIES and MEDALS DISCOURAGED

We **STRONGLY** discourage parents, coaches, and sponsors from awarding any sort of trophies or medals to the members of their teams. Certificates are permissible. If adults affiliated with a team wish to do something special for their players, the league suggests hosting a season's-end pizza party or similar function.

TEAM PHOTOS

We welcome back our photographer, FULLER STUDIO, for our 2010 season. The time for your team's appointment is on the individual photo order forms available from your coach.

AFTER THE SEASON...

COACHES, Please take ALL league-issued Equipment (including any equipment left over from 2009) to your last game. After your last game, please IMMEDIATELY return your equipment to the Niles-Buchanan YMCA or to Louanne Wesner in Buchanan. There is no need to wash your goalie shirt first... we will take care of that. We check your equipment back in based on the team number on your first aid kit so there's no need to label your bag of returned equipment.

Thank you for your assistance!