

THE SKYLINE NET

Message From The President... Tony Haas

The lessons of life can be learned in many places. They are learned in a classroom, a church or synagogue, and within a family. They are also learned on a soccer field and with a soccer team. As I work with dozens of teams each season, I continue to marvel at how players grow in ability from season to season. It is about more than their ability to kick a soccer ball, run, and stay in position; it is also about their ability to work with their teammates to achieve a desired result, to bring out the best in one another and to allow the best to be brought out in them by someone else, to win and lose with dignity, and to learn how to do one's best no matter the circumstances. These are the lessons that can be learned on a soccer field and why I love soccer so much and working with the young people in our club. The lessons learned here will hopefully carry over to other areas of their lives making our players better students and eventually valued members of any organization or business.

Since 1967, Skyline Soccer has been providing young people in southeast Denver the opportunity to play soccer. Currently, roughly 1,000 young people from the age of 4-18 play soccer in our organization. From the Munchkins and Grasshoppers program, where 4 and 5 year olds learn the basic skills of soccer and prepare to join a team, through our Developmental program, where the majority of the players in our club participate by playing anywhere between 4v4 small sided games to 11v11 teams playing on a full sized field, to the Competitive program, where players and teams compete with the best players in the state, and even the best players in the country, we at Skyline Soccer strive to provide the opportunity for every player to play soccer based on their ability and desire. It is our hope that we can increase the number of teams at both the Developmental and the Competitive levels, providing the opportunity for each player to grow on and off the field.

There have been some changes at Skyline Soccer since our fall season. Melanie Vanzant, our club administrator, made the decision to leave Skyline to pursue other areas of interest to her. We benefited greatly from her leadership and will miss her. I am happy to announce that in January we hired Aaron Nagel as our new administrator and we are very excited about the skills, vision, and passion for soccer that he brings to our organization. I am confident that he will continue to keep the vision of Skyline Soccer alive and well in southeast Denver.

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The Skyline Net is
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Skyline Soccer Association
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Free Skyline Clinics

Developmental Clinic (4:30-5:30)

April 10: Dribbling Technique (Inside, Outside, Laces)
April 24: Passing Technique (Inside)
May 8: Shooting (Laces)

Academy Clinic (4:30-5:30)

April 10: Defending 1v1
April 24: Midfield Combinations
May 8: Attacking, shooting to score

Competitive Clinic (5:30-6:30)

April 10: Functional Practice
April 24: Phase Play
May 8: Shadow Play

All Skyline Soccer Association Clinics are coached by Skyline professional coaches. Any additional questions please email Scott Keena clubcoach@skylinesoccer.org

To register for all Clinics please email administrator@skylinesoccer.org or call 303.691.5662.

U10 - U11 Transition - Finding your place at Skyline

All Skyline players and teams are given options at the end of every U10 Spring Season to further their soccer experience. Scott Keena, Director of Coaching, will help determine where and what level each player and team should be playing at the U11 age group. It is Skyline's responsibility to offer the correct program and level of play for each and every U10 player within its program. All options are highlighted below:

Competitive Soccer

What is Competitive soccer and how is it different from Recreational soccer?

Competitive soccer is designed for players who want to continue their soccer experience at a more challenging level. Competitive soccer differs from Recreational soccer in that players are placed on teams based, in part, on their playing ability. We encourage all U10 players to pursue playing Competitive soccer, and the DOC will have final say on rosters. It is a Skyline policy that we try to keep players of similar or equal playing levels on the same teams; again, this will be determined by the DOC.

Skyline Soccer Association will hire a professional coach to coach teams at the Competitive level; this coach will have a minimum of a National D License.

Where and who do we play and compete with?

Skyline Soccer Association is a member of Colorado Youth Soccer (CYS). CYS is a not-for-profit entity whose responsibility is to organize games between its member clubs. Member clubs in CYS are predominately in the Denver metro area but also include Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cheyenne, Laramie, Grand Junction and other cities throughout the state. Depending on the division a particular team is playing in, there may be travel to these areas.

What are the different divisions of play?

In the age groups of U12 through U14, CYS groups teams into divisions from highest level of play to lower level of play of Premier 1, Premier 2, Classic Silver, Classic Blue, Challenge 1 and Challenge 2. There is no difference between Classic Silver and Classic Blue. At the age level of U15 and above the divisions of Elite 1 and Elite 2 are added above the Premier 1 level. U11 teams are placed in groupings of Premier, Classic and Challenge. There is no difference in the subgroups of these divisions. For example, Premier A, Premier B and Premier C are all the same.

Intermediate Soccer

What is Intermediate soccer and how is it different from Recreational soccer?

These teams will play nine or ten games instead of seven or eight, and have a wider travel area than Recreation soccer. Our Option 1 Program is designed for WHOLE TEAMS to advance, not individual players to move from team to team. Intermediate soccer is still very competitive as player levels vary across the board.

Where and who do we play and compete with?

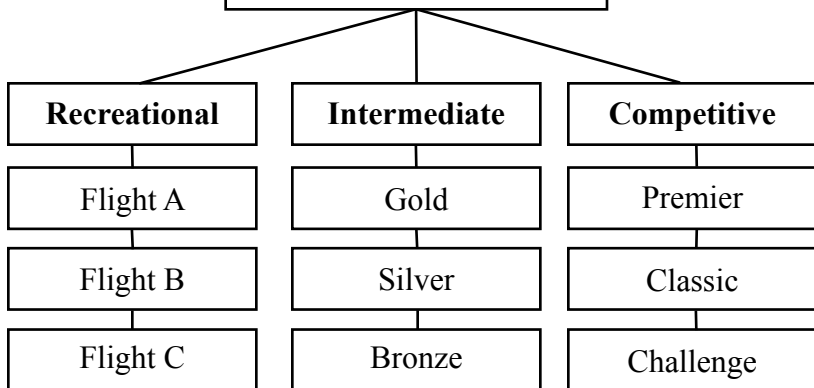
Skyline Soccer Association is a member of Colorado Youth Soccer (CYS). CYS is a not-for-profit entity whose responsibility is to organize games between its member clubs. Member clubs in CYS are predominately in the Denver metro area. Skyline teams may also be scheduled to play against each other.

What are the different divisions of play?

In the age groups of U10 through U18, CYS groups teams into divisions from highest level of play to lower level of play of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

How the Transition Works

A U10 team/player moving to U11 has a choice of these leagues:



Parent Volunteers

As a parent, there are multiple ways to become involved and engaged in your child's passion. Volunteering to help Skyline is a great way to meet other parents and be a positive role model for your child.

Tournament coordinators, official coordinators, fundraising managers and team managers are a few examples of areas in need. For more information on how you can become involved, contact Aaron Nagel at 303.691.5662 or administrator@skylinesoccer.org.

Newsletter Information

The Skyline Net newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to more than 1,000 league members and families. Soccer is an important part of the lives' of Denver youth.

For more information on advertising or sponsorship opportunities with Skyline Soccer, please contact Aaron at administrator@skylinesoccer.org.

Competitive Coach Spotlight...Don Smith

Although at times members of Skyline may feel the tightness of the club's budget, all players should consider themselves fortunate. Especially those who might let out a complaint every so often about the type of equipment used. After all, even if a soccer ball used during a game is old, at least it's a soccer ball. Consider Don Smith, U13 Lakota Girls coach, began playing soccer in high school in New Jersey. "It was 1968," stated Don, "back when we used a rock for a ball." Don's extensive experience with the game of soccer has shaped him into a successful coach for Skyline today.



After high school, Don went on to play varsity soccer at the University of Vermont for four years. When he looks back at the start of his soccer career, Don stated "I had no idea I would be coaching at all, but now I couldn't imagine not coaching Lakota and the wonderful girls on the team."

Don initially became involved with Skyline when two of his three children played for them in the eighties. His wife Diana and her friend Julie helped reconnect him with the club nearly 20 years later when Julie's daughter's team was looking for an assistant coach. After one year of helping out, Don was asked to become head coach. "I wasn't expecting that, but I agreed, so beginning the spring 2004 season, I became Coach Don," he recalled.

Five years later, Don continues to work with the same core group of girls, now 12 and 13. "Ten players have been on Lakota for over five and a half years, and the other four have been with the team for over three years," Don asserted. "With this much playing time together, they are a group of very good friends and know each others' strengths very well."

This observation becomes fact when noting the team's record from last season. "In spring 2008 Lakota was U12 Girls Option 1 Intermediate and our record was 7-0-3. We moved up to U13 Competitive, Challenge 2, in the fall of 2008, where our record was 6-2-2," Don stated. When looking back over the past few seasons, Don has a few suggestions as to why the girls succeeded. "The girls on Lakota really enjoy soccer, are focused and very determined in games to compete against anyone, and have fun while doing it. The girls are also very fortunate to have a wonderful assistant coach, Mary Leising, working with them." Don believes it's the girls' skill and being a balanced team that also helps them succeed.

Don is looking forward to the Lakota's upcoming season in which the players have progressed to the next competitive level, Challenge 1. "My goal for the Lakota players for the upcoming season is for them to have fun and feel good about playing the much tougher competitive teams, no matter what our record is. Another goal for the players is for them to know they've worked hard individually and as a team." The chemistry amongst the players makes them a fun team to watch. "The girls on Lakota are a wonderful group who are kind and supportive of each other; we stress that for the team. For Lakota to be successful the players must support each other with their play out on the field and just as important with what they say and how they encourage each other."

It is successful coaches such as Don that have made Skyline flourish in the past. Skyline members look forward to seeing where Lakota goes in the coming season.

Summer Camps Offered At Skyline

JUNE

Developmental Camp 1 (U4-U8)

Open to all Developmental players
 Dates: TBA (June)
 Days: Monday-Friday
 Time: 9:00-12:00
 Price: \$90

Technical Camp (U9-U10) Intermediate Level

Open to all Academy players.
 Dates: TBA (June)
 Days: Monday-Friday
 Times: 9:00 – 11:00
 Price: \$120

Technical Camp (U11-U14) Advanced Level

Open to all Comp & Int. players
 Dates: TBA (June)
 Days: Monday-Friday
 Times: 9:00 – 11:00
 Price: \$150

JULY

Developmental Camp 2 (U4-U8)

Open to all Developmental players
 Dates: TBA (July)
 Days: Monday-Friday
 Time: 9:00-12:00
 Price: \$90

Pre Season Camp (U9-U14)

Open to all Academy/Competitive teams/players
 Dates: TBA (July)
 Days: Monday – Friday
 Times: 4:30-6:30
 Price: \$130

Speed, Agility & Quickness Camp U10+

(Intermediate/Advanced Level)
 Open house
 Dates: TBA (July)
 Days: Monday-Friday
 Times: 5:00-6:30
 Price: \$70

THE SKYLINE NET

Events &

Deadlines

Feb 16 - Recreational Registration Deadline
 Mar 4 - Mandatory Coaches' Meeting
 Mar 7, 14-15, 21 - Competitive Season Starts/Continues (2 game weekend)
 Mar 7, 14, 21 - Recreational Option 1 Games
 Mar 18 - U8 Referee Course
 Mar 21 - U9 Cross Quad Games
 Mar 21 - Interleague Starts
 Mar 21 - Recreational Season Starts
 Mar 21, 28 - Recreational Games

Mar 28 - No Competitive Games
 Mar 28 - No Opt. 1 or U9 Cross Quad Games (Rec)
 Apr 4, 18, 25-26 - Competitive League Games (Note 2 Game Weekend)
 Apr 4, 11, 18 - Option 1 & U9 Cross Quad Games
 Apr 4, 11, 18, 25 - Recreational Games
 Apr 17 - KOHL'S American Cup Registration Due
 Apr 25-26 - Option 1 & U9 Cross Quad Games (2 Game Weekend)
 May 2, 9, 16-17 - Competitive League Games (Note 2 Game Weekend)
 May 2, 9 - Option 1 & U9 Cross Quad Games
 May 2, 9 - Recreational Games
 May 16-17 - KOHL'S American Cup Tournament

Skyline Is Looking For Referees

Do you want to make some extra money this summer? Skyline Soccer Association is always looking for referees to uphold Skyline's standards during games. Skyline will provide individuals with the training needed to become a certified referee. Whether you want to officiate a U6 game or a U10 game, Skyline will help you gain the knowledge to make successful decisions all the while putting some extra cash into your pocket.

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The Leader In Youth Soccer