

NWCCSAY Head Coach Information / Commitment

Please consider giving a small amount of your time by volunteering to be a coach. It can be very rewarding and fun! It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child and watch them have FUN and play the game of soccer. For a few hours per week you can be a hero to your child. As parents, most of you are there anyway.

Younger age children do not have to have a coach who is a soccer expert or who has played the game. Older age children may or may not require this experience. NWCCSAY provides training and there are lots of materials (books, videos) available to help you. Parents are relied on a lot, and most are willing to help if you ask.

You get to pick the night(s) and time you want to practice, subject to field space availability. In addition, you may name an assistant coach (such as a friend who has a child who is participating in our soccer program) and that child will be assigned to your team if we are notified prior to the team draw.

Additional information regarding specifics for each division level is available on our website (www.milfordsoccer.com Sign Up and Play) Be directly involved in letting the children run, kick the ball and have fun. Their smiles are amazing! Please contact us if you have more questions.

Coach Responsibilities

Attend coaches training (from 3-80 hours depending on what level of instruction you would like). NWCCSAY provides a free 3 hour coach clinic each season. This is mandatory for head coaches and optional for assistant coaches. The clinic is taught by Alan Grothaus, our coaching director. Alan is a teacher with Milford Schools and has many years of playing and coaching experience. It is a fun class where you will learn soccer basics, drills for the kids, coaching tips, etc. You will receive an area license for your participation. There is also some coaching information on our website (www.milfordsoccer.com Coach Info). We encourage additional training. **

Attend the coaches meeting, or have a responsible representative present. This is a 1 to 2 hour meeting where you will receive your player packet (list of players on your team), practice field assignment, and rules/notes for the upcoming season. After the meeting, contact your players to let them know you are their coach and when your practice will be.

Attend or assign someone to attend **Field Day** for a couple of hours. Field Day is usually held the Saturday before practices begin. We set up and line the fields, distribute goals, etc. Some teams bring others to help. The more help we have, the quicker the work goes. You can help ensure that your field will be ready when practice begins.

Organize practices - it usually takes from 5 to 15 minutes depending on whether you're using "old" or "new" ideas. Run the practice or scrimmage for 1 to 1.5 hours depending on the age level. You are not required to purchase additional equipment, although some coaches buy a few cones to use for dribbling exercises, or perhaps buy some pinnies/t-shirts for scrimmaging.

Attend or assign someone for **uniform/equipment pick up** (uniforms/schedules/rulebooks, etc.) and picture pick up. These will be announced and are usually held on a weeknight during practice time.

Contact parents (as needed) for changes in practices or games or other team activities. Coaches and parents can check our website (www.milfordsoccer.com Cancellation Alerts) for field closures. We play soccer in all weather conditions (except lightning). The park's fields can be closed for practices, but are rarely closed for games. After initial contact with team parents, you can ask for a volunteer "phone mom or dad" to make calls for you or set up a phone tree to minimize the time spent on the phone.

Coach the game (approximately 1 hour per game depending on the age level).

Ensure that your team's **concession stand shift is covered**. Each team is required to provide 2 adults to work a 1 to 2 hour shift (usually 1 team shift per season). Concession stand duty is fun and will not be scheduled during your game time. You can ask for volunteers at a practice and then call the parents who volunteered the night before their shift to remind them.

Many teams offer team treats after games, and some have an end of season party. Ask a parent to volunteer to organize these types of activities. We encourage teams to buy team treats at our concession stand at a reduced price. Our concession stand is our major fundraiser and helps to keep soccer costs from increasing.

If you are interested in obtaining a better understanding of the rules, we encourage coaches to attend a free NWCCSAY referee course that takes about 8 hours (this is optional, but very helpful). You do not have to referee just because you took the course, although we are always looking for more adult referees. Taking the ref class most certainly gives you a different perspective on the game. For more information, check our website (www.milfordsoccer.com Referee Info)

** There are additional coach and referee training clinics available (check www.saysoccer.org). Reimbursement may be available (with prior approval) if you take training outside of NWCCSAY. Coaches are required to have at least 3 hours of instruction before the start of the season but, of course, we encourage more. The more instruction the coach has, the more s/he'll be able to teach the players.

NWCCSAY reserves the right to select/limit coaches based on needs of the organization for that season.