

Frequently Asked Questions about the Yak Attack

Team Setup:

Q: If our team played U14 last fall and this spring, what age group will we play in?

A: At this tournament, we play according to what you will play NEXT year, so your team would play in the U15 grouping.

Q: May teams play up in older age groups?

A: Yes.

Q: From where are the teams coming? Which states? Are international teams invited?

A: Everyone is invited. Most teams are from Washington State but we do get a number of teams of Oregon and maybe a couple of Idaho. Canada is also welcomed.

Q: Do I need player cards?

A: The answer is both simple and not simple. The simple answer is no you do not need player cards if you filled out the application and put the players ID number in the appropriate box. This player card number will be checked by our association to ensure that the player is correct and current. The non simple answer is yes you need to bring a current player card if you make a last minute roster change. A good rule of thumb would be , if in doubt , bring the card.

Q: What are these player cards and player card numbers that you are talking about?

A: All WSYSA players have a special player ID number associated with that player. If you do not know the players number, your association will have that number. It is a series of letters that starts off with the players last name and ends with a bunch of numbers. Pretty lengthy ID number. This is the ID we are looking for. We verify these to make sure they are current and in the right age bracket. If you are not a part of WSYSA, then you have to make sure you are under the US Youth Soccer Association umbrella. There are several organizations that do fit under this umbrella such as AYSO and the YMCA leagues. I am sure there are others. A city Parks and Rec program does not fit under this umbrella. If in doubt, give Sally a call at 509 453-1492 and she'll see what we can do. The bottom line is, all players must be insured by the US Youth Soccer Association so that if a player is injured at our event, all parties are insured including Yakima Youth Soccer Association.

Q: Does my team need permission to travel to this tournament?

A: If you are traveling from another state, your team needs travel papers. Travel papers are necessary for the insurance to be valid. Again, it's about the insurance and covering our butts. Your state association should have details about obtaining travel papers. Keep in mind that it takes a while for your state to process, so don't wait till the end.

Registration:

Q: How does registration work? I heard that it was a little different.

A: Yes it is a little different. Each player will get a wristband put on by the registration staff. Each team will have a certain color assigned to them. The team will register together and each name is verified on the team roster. Once the player is verified, a wristband is placed on and they are ready to play. Players without wristbands will not be able to play.

Q: Do I need to register early?

A: Yes, lines do form as we have to go through each player.

Q: Can the coach or team manager pick up the wristbands since we will not be together until game time?

A: No. The staff must be able to put the wristband on. We do not hand any coach or team manager wristbands as we have had some questionable coaches in the past.

Q: We have a player who has a little league game or has a band concert on Saturday. Can the player still play after the commitment is over?

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A: Yes. As long as the player was listed on the original roster, the player can play. All the player needs to do is come to the registration tent and get the wristband. No coach or manager is needed. If a player is not on the original roster, the player can not play. No player additions will be added to the roster once the first ball is dropped.

Q: What happens if we have several players hurt on Saturday and can't play on Sunday. Can we add some players to the roster so that we can have some substitutes?

A: No. Once the tournament starts, the rosters are frozen. No players can be added whatsoever.

Q: We have a player who has church commitments on Sunday. Can we have a player take her spot for Sunday?

A: Not really. Again, it boils down to the original roster. We use the original roster. If you know of a situation where you know about future plans, it might be wise to fill your roster.

Q: Why such the big deal about wristbands and rosters?

A: In the early days of the tourney, teams would take advantage of each other and intermix players from team to team since a lot of teams split into two teams and have the same uniform. We had a lot of complaints about this or that coach so we decided to make use the wristband system and the system works. It creates a lot more work and hassles but it eliminates the finger-pointing later on.

Q: My player was swimming in the hotel pool and the wristband was destroyed. Now what do we do?

A: Not a problem. Come to registration tent and we will put on a new wristband on. If you have an old one it helps but not a problem if you don't.

Q: Does the team get a "goody bag"?

A: Yes they do. They each get participation pins and some sponsors throw in other stuff as well.

Game Play:

Q: Should teams bring game balls? How many? What size?

A: All teams will be the home team at least once, so all teams should bring 3 quality game balls. One game ball will be in use while the other two are stationed beside each respective goal. U11 and U12 teams will use size 4 balls, while all older teams will use size 5 balls. Remember that we will be using the ball associated with next fall.

Q: Are the fields natural grass, artificial turf, or what?

A: All fields are grass with grass length about 1.25 inches long. The grass at this park plays pretty quickly.

Q: Are any of the games played in large soccer stadiums?

A: No. Actually nobody has ever asked if we play in large soccer stadiums but I thought I would throw that in anyway. We do designate a field as our Championship field to be used for many age bracket finals on Sunday. It does have bleachers and we dress it up with World Nations flags on Sunday to give it a large soccer stadium feel (at least in my eyes anyways). All other fields; bring your lawn chair and your sunglasses. Goalie Wars Field has bleachers as well because many people come and watch the competition.

Q: Are there any requirements about uniforms? Can girls wear sleeveless jerseys? Do undergarments have to match the main uniform color? Can we play in numbered T-shirts?

Can we wear bumblebee socks?

A: This tournament does not have any restrictions on uniforms. In fact we encourage teams to come up with their own special uniform for this tourney. It is fun to see the creativity of the teams that make up their uniforms to match their team names. A lot of teams use the theme to design their uniforms. We ask that uniforms be playable and not hurt anybody, have numbers on their back, and not be offensive.

Q: May a player with a cast play on the field?

A: The referee will decide this issue based on a perception of safety. The tournament itself does not have a rule allowing or forbidding casts or braces.

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Q: May a player with a knee brace play on the field?

A: Yes, if the brace is acceptable to the referee.

Q: May a player wear small stud earrings on the field?

A: No.

Facilities:

Q: Are there admission or parking fees at the tournament sites?

A: No.

Q: Are the parking lots paved? How much parking is there?

A: I would say 90% of the parking is paved some how. The park itself has two parking lots but not for the size of this event. Parking is available in and around the park. We do have parking attendants helping you locate parking for you. We do ask that you help us out by not parking in a parking lot of an open business such as Powerhouse Grill, McDonalds, Comfort Inn or the front half of Bi-Mart. We are trying to good neighbors with everybody there and we don't need anybody towed as that would be a downer. Be prepared to walk a little bit.

Q: Are dogs on leashes permitted at the fields?

A: No. It's not like we don't like dogs, but can you imagine if everybody brought their dog the kind of mess we would have. This isn't a dog show. Of course, we will have people who will still insist on bringing their dog because they like the attention. Just point at their dog and laugh. It will drive these people crazy.

Q: May teams bring water, food, drinks (cans and glass bottled), and coolers into the tournament sites?

A: Yes, however no alcohol.

Q: Should we bring a pop-up shelter for our team? Is shade available to the players?

A: There are some trees in the park and they get used quite frequently. A lot of teams who make it a practice of coming here bring several popups and set up "base camp" You are going to play three games on Saturday throughout the day. Many people just plan on making a day at the event on Saturday. There are some picnic tables around the park, claim your territory early for the best locations. If your team has a pop-up shelter, we recommend that you bring it.

Q: Is food available at the tournament sites?

A: Yep! We have several vendors at the site. Burgers, hot dogs, pop, water, Kettle Corn, espresso, fruit, killer nachos, and maybe some more. There are several restaurants located near the park within walking distance: Taco Bell, McDonalds, Subway, Pizza Hut, Shari's, Fred Meyer. Seriously, you can't beat what is here. Again, that is why so many teams basically stay at the event on Saturday.

Q: How many different sites are there.

A: There is only one site. All activities are in one location.

Q: What are the bathroom situations like?

A: There are flush toilets in the center of the park. They do get used a lot. There are also Honeybuckets with wash stations at both ends too. Honeybuckets gets serviced on Saturday afternoon.

Q: Where will be the lost-and-found?

A: At the tournament registration tent.

Q: Is there camping available?

A: There are places to park motorhomes. The key of course is better selection early in the day than afternoon. I do see quite a few motorhomes come and camp out of Friday night. You can dry tent camp on the grass at the soccer facility. Dry camping is free. There are no shower facilities.

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Q: How do I get a tournament T-shirt?

A: We do have T-shirt vendor called Fine Designs. They sell all kinds of T-shirts and sweatshirts with all kinds of different add-ons that you can add. One of neat things that they do for an additional price is add all the teams in your bracket with the roster of each team and you can highlight your player's name on the back. That is why it is important for the coach to spell the names correctly.

Referees:

Q: Who are the referees? What are their qualifications? How many will there be?

A: All games will be refereed by a USSF-certified referee. All referees will be old enough to officiate the assigned age group. Most referees will speak enough English to be effective as referees but some speak Spanish.

Q: If I come to this tournament, will you be using my games to train or give experience to brand-new referees?

A: We do use this event to train new referees. Keep in mind, this isn't a major tournament as far as rankings go. Nobody outside this event really cares if you won or lost at the Yak Attack so we do use this as a good environment to train referees. We keep these referees in the younger age brackets. The older age brackets have plenty of game experience. Many of our referees come from out of area because of the referee shortage created by the boy's high school district playoffs. I will automatically not like you if you belittle my referees. I will protect my referee especially if it's a kid really trying.

Schedules:

Q: Are there any games on Friday?

A: No

Q: What time do the games start on Saturday?

A: 8:00 AM sharp!

Q: We are traveling from many hours away, can we get a later time start so we can don't have to stay in a hotel on Friday night?

A: When we schedule we try to take that into account. However, as this tournament has grown and a lot of teams from outside the area are coming (thank you!) it becomes increasingly more difficult to make any promises. My suggestion would be to book the Friday night hotel and look and see how you fare when the schedules are posted. We are having activities Friday night as well so it will be fun to be here on Friday night.

Q: How many games do we play?

A: You are guaranteed 4 games; three on Saturday and at least one on Sunday. You keep playing on Sunday until you lose or are the Champion.

Q: Do you guys take scheduling requests?

A: Yes, if you have commitments elsewhere such as another soccer match or a little league game or even a wedding, we will schedule around that.