

AURORA ARSENAL SOCCER CLUB, INC.

P . O . B O X 1 3 2 E A S T A U R O R A N . Y . 1 4 0 5 2

Affiliated with Buffalo & W.N.Y. Junior Soccer League – Youth Division of United States Soccer Federation

August 29, 2008

Dear Arsenal Family,

Even though we have **just** completed the 2008 season, preparations are well underway for the 2009 Travel season. Following is registration and background information about our Travel Program and the Tryout Schedule for the formation of the 2009 season teams. If you have questions not addressed here, please contact our President and Travel Coordinator, Raymond Wrazen at 652-4573 or wrazenra@verizon.net

Or visit our Website at <http://www.auroraarsenal.org/>. Our website is updated regularly with News, Announcements and other timely information. If you are a parent unsure about what Travel soccer is and if it is right for your child, visit our Travel soccer section on the website. Others have asked the same questions or expressed many of the same concerns that you have about Travel soccer. To help give you more information we have compiled many in a FAQ section on the website.

PHILOSOPHY

The Arsenal Travel philosophy is to provide each player the opportunity to play soccer in a supportive, rewarding and challenging environment that emphasizes fun, enjoyment, skill learning and fits his/her interest and ability.

Our goal is to have Travel teams of both genders at every age level from U10 thru U19 and participate in the Buffalo & Western New York Junior Soccer League. **At U10, U11 and U12 we hope to have multiple teams.** Our ability to do this depends on several key factors:

- 1) The availability of a willing and competent coach
- 2) Sufficient registration numbers in an age division to form a team or **multiple** teams
- 3) A minimum player skill threshold to compete in the Buffalo and Western New York Junior Soccer League

Travel soccer is about player development specifically at the U10, U11 and U12 levels. Recently the Buffalo and Western New York Junior Soccer League, of which the Arsenal is a member, made changes so that U10's play 7v7 and U11 and U12 9v9 on smaller size fields. Many studies have shown that this means that each player gets many more touches on the ball than on a full size field thus getting more opportunities to get involved in play and learn the game. The Arsenal Board is fully in favor of this change.

TRAVEL COMMITMENT

Participation in the Travel Program requires commitment from coaches, players, and parents. Many of our teams practice/play indoors regularly during the fall and winter months. We obtain time at the East Aurora Middle school and Sahlen's Sports Park for indoor practice time. The outdoor season extends from early May into early August and consists of 10-13 games depending on the age group. During this time many teams practice twice per week and play a League game one weeknight per week. Many teams participate in one or more local weekend tournaments during the season. Many families limit the length and number or even postpone summer vacations until after the season. We can not stress enough the importance of each player's and family's commitment to their team. Travel soccer, at least during the outdoor season, is not something you participate in just when it's convenient. You are expected to attend every practice and game during the season. It is not fair to your coaches and teammates, who put in numerous hours practicing and preparing, if you can not commit yourself to the same level of participation. Consider this commitment as you contemplate registering your child.

REGISTRATION

DATE: Saturday, September 13th, 2008
TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, Main and Paine St. (lower level)
FEES: All players – includes full uniform - **\$145**

PLEASE NOTE: We have initiated “multi-year uniforms” in an effort to keep costs down. All Travel players will need to purchase a uniform which consists of a numbered jersey, shorts and socks. The intent is for the uniforms to last two years and in the past we exceeded that goal by getting a third year out of the uniforms. Thus with the 2009 season we will be into the first year cycle of uniform use.

Please make checks payable to “Aurora Arsenal”. For **all** registrations **post marked** after September 22nd, there is a **\$10 late fee**. If you are unable to pay the full registration fee by the 22nd, you must still complete the registration form, as well as request a Deferred Payment Arrangement, in order to avoid the \$10 late fee. **Please contact our Finance Coordinator, Cheryl Kraus at 652-3213 if you need to make any financial arrangements.**

If this is your first time registering a child for the Travel Program, we must have on file a photocopy of their birth certificate. If in doubt, please bring a copy with you. **A photo is not required at registration.** Please read the policy covering registration fees, late fees, and refunds, which can be accessed through the Club’s web site at <http://www.auroraarsenal.org/policy.htm>. Registration is not considered complete (and late fees will apply) until all required items are received including registration fee and birth certificate. All fees must be paid in full in order for your child to be placed on a team.

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

To register by mail, please send registration form, payment, and birth certificate to the address listed above. Mail-in registrations must be post marked by September 22nd for **all** age groups, including U17 and older, whether or not tryouts are scheduled or required. **Incomplete registrations will be assessed a \$10 late fee.**

REFUNDS

In the event that your child does not qualify for a team, or teams are not formed in a particular age group, your registration fee will be refunded, less any late registration fees. Once your child has accepted placement on an Arsenal team, refunds will only be considered if we receive written notification that your child will not be playing for that team. Non-recoverable expenses incurred by the Arsenal will not be refunded.

UNIFORMS

We will have the Travel uniform on display at Registration. **If you are uncertain of sizing, we strongly recommend you stop by and try on a uniform.** Once uniforms are ordered, it may be impossible to make exchanges. Please keep this in mind if you are registering by mail.

TRYOUTS/PLAYER EVALUATIONS/TEAM SELECTION

Tryouts/player evaluations will be held on Saturday 9/27, Sunday, 9/28 and Saturday, 10/4, Sunday, 10/5 at Knox Field. **(see the schedule below)** Additional sessions may be scheduled at the discretion of individual coaches. **Attendance is mandatory!** If you have a conflict, contact the coach associated with the relevant age group or Raymond Wrazen at 652-4573 or wrazenra@verizon.net

League rules restrict team size and we will endeavor to fill the roster whenever possible, provided each player has demonstrated the necessary minimum skills required for his/her age group and expected team placement within their division. If there are more registrations in an age division than there are available spots, or players do not demonstrate the minimum skills required for their age group, cuts will be made. However, if there are sufficient numbers and an available coach, multiple teams may be formed at each age level. Players not selected for a Travel team are invited to join our House Program.

AGE DETERMINATION

Player eligibility is determined by the player's age as of August 1, 2009. Players **may** be allowed to play "up" an age division, based on ability and at the discretion of the Aurora Arsenal Soccer Club. Players are not allowed to play "down" an age division. The table below lists birth date guidelines:

<u>Division</u> <u>Born After</u>	<u>Division</u> <u>Born After</u>	<u>Division</u> <u>Born After</u>
U-19 --> 8/1/89	U-15 --> 8/1/93	U-12 --> 8/1/96
U-18 --> 8/1/90	U-14 --> 8/1/94	U-11 --> 8/1/97
U-17 --> 8/1/91	U-13 --> 8/1/95	U-10 --> 8/1/98
U-16 --> 8/1/92		

TRYOUT SCHEDULE

One (1) tryout session will be conducted by the Club at Knox Field for each age group as indicated below. This tryout will be facilitated by our Director of Coaching (DOC) Dave Coulter allowing the coaches to concentrate on observing and evaluating the players. Player evaluations will be completed by the coaches with input from the Travel Coordinator and DOC. Final team selections must be approved by the Board of Director's Travel Committee. **Certain age groups tryouts will be combined for the sake of consolidating the process**, but all players will be evaluated based on their indicated team(s) of choice (i.e., a U-11 player trying out for both U-11 and U-12 will be evaluated at both of those levels). Individual coaches may schedule an additional age-specific tryout at their discretion. Players will be notified by the coaches. All players should make every effort to participate in all sessions specific to their age and aspirations. Players must wear shin guards and bring a water bottle and soccer ball. **Players should arrive at least 30 minutes early to check in and ensure they do not miss any part of their tryout session.**

Players should be prepared to demonstrate their ability in basic 'ball skills' (e.g., dribbling, passing, trapping, shooting, etc.). In addition, 1v1 drills, small-sided drills/games, and larger sided scrimmages should be expected. Players will generally be expected to demonstrate a certain level of technical ability and tactical awareness of the game, depending on their age group.

The coaches listed **are primary contacts** for those age groups indicated, although other coaches will also be involved in the player evaluations. The Age Group coordinators are typically slated to be the A team head coach for one of the teams in that age division. In addition we typically have a ready, willing and able pool of coaches to assist and coach B or C teams if necessary. In some cases final coaching assignments have not been made or the assignments listed below could change depending on registration numbers. When vacancies are filled or changes to assignments are made they will be announced on our Web Site (www.auroraarsenal.org). **If you are interested in coaching, please let us know.** If you have any questions or would like to offer to coach, please contact the Arsenal President and Travel Coordinator, Raymond Wrazen or the coach for the Age Division(s) in which you are interested.

Please note that the game night for the U11 & 12 Girls is now Tuesday night and the U13 & 14 Girls is Monday. This is a League change to help with field capacity issues. Overall in WNY, soccer fields are approaching 90% utilization. By putting the U11 and U12 (9 v 9 games) on Tuesday and the U13 & 14 (11 v 11 games) on Monday more fields are being put into use on the two busiest game nights.

We will inform you of team assignments as soon as possible following the last tryout session. Please do not panic if you do not hear from the coach immediately. Sometimes it can take 3-4 weeks depending on additional tryouts and other factors.

TRYOUT # 1 SCHEDULE All sessions at Knox Field (second Tryouts TBD see web site for details)

<u>Age Div</u>	<u>Game Night</u>	<u>Age Group Coordinator/Phone</u>	<u>Tryout 1</u>
U-10 Girls	Friday	David Nojam (863-5524)	Sunday, 9/28 (9:00-10:30 AM)
U-11 Girls	Tuesday	Kurt Kramer (652-0422)	Sunday, 9/28 (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)
U-12 Girls	Tuesday	Dieter Voss (655-1245)	Sunday, 9/28 (1:00-2:30 PM)
U-13 Girls	Monday	David Downs (316-4801)	Sunday, 9/28 (3:00-4:30 PM)
U-14 Girls	Monday	Chris Ruhland (652-6247)	Sunday, 9/28 (5:00-6:30 PM)
U-15& 16 Girls	Thursday	Steve Buzzelli (652-6203)	Saturday, 9/27 (2:00-3:30 PM)
U-17 Girls	Wednesday	Paul Holbrook (655-2837)	Saturday, 9/27 (4:00-5:30 PM)
U-19 Girls	Wednesday	Raymond Wrazen (949-9953)	Saturday, 9/27 (4:00-5:30 PM)
U-10 Boys	Friday	Bob Morgan (655-4445)	Sunday, 10/5 (9:00-10:30 AM)
U-11 Boys	Monday	Jim Thompson (652-0947)	Sunday, 10/5 (1:00-2:30 PM)
U-12 Boys	Monday	Bob Morgan (655-4445)	Sunday, 10/5 (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)
U-13 Boys	Tuesday	Steve deBoer (652-6617)	Sunday, 10/5 (5:00-6:30 PM)
U-14 Boys	Tuesday	Jim Thompson (652-0947)	Sunday, 10/5 (3:00-4:30 PM)
U-15 Boys	Thursday	Pat Healy (655-6721)	Saturday, 10/4 (9:00-10:30 AM)
U-16 Boys	Thursday	Jay Metzger (655-4815)	Saturday, 10/4 (1:00-2:30 PM)
U-17 Boys	Thursday	Pat Healy (655-6721)	Saturday, 10/4 (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)
U-19 Boys	Wednesday	Dave Coulter (652-8536)	TBD

To help us plan for all the older age teams, it is **REQUIRED** that you **REGISTER NOW**. Insufficient numbers may result in no teams being formed at those age levels in 2009. Bear in mind that we have fees to post and a filing deadline with B&WNYJSL.

"How do I try out for an older age group team?"

We encourage players to stay within their age group, however we realize that some players may be talented enough and/or interested in trying out for an older team. **Players MUST attend the tryout for their own age group. They may also attend the tryout for the age group in which they wish to play.** This will insure that they are considered for their own age group team if they are not selected for the older team. A child who tries out in a higher age division and does not make the team, but has not tried out in his/her own age division, is **NOT** guaranteed a spot in their own age division. Please indicate on the registration form all the age groups that you are trying out for. Inform the coaches involved that you are trying out for two teams so that we can coordinate the selection process. **Remember you MUST tryout for both teams.**

HOUSE LEAGUE

For those who do not qualify for, or choose not to play on, a Travel team, we have a solid House Program that runs during May/June. While not as competitive as the Travel Program, there is a wealth of player and coaching talent within the league. All children ages 5 through 18 may participate in the House Program. House registration will be held as usual at the end of January 2009, with full details provided right after the holidays.

REFEREEING HOUSE LEAGUE GAMES

There is a box to check on the registration form to indicate your interest in refereeing House League games. **Please understand that checking this box does not guarantee you a spot in the referee rotation for 2009.** We have a large pool of veteran refs as well as a waiting list. Your name will be added to the list and you will be contacted only if, and when, you are added to the rotation.

We are looking forward to your child's participation in the Aurora Arsenal Soccer Club's Travel Program. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Home-652-4573, Cell- 949-9953 or wrazenra@verizon.net

Sincerely yours,
Raymond M. Wrazen
President and Travel Coordinator