

Portage Soccer Club Tryouts!

June 18–21 (see below for exact dates/times)

www.portagesoccer.com



If you enjoy playing soccer at a competitive level with excellent coaching and talented teammates, the Portage Soccer Club is the place for you. Home games are played on the lush turf at the Portage Soccer Complex and road games are played within easy driving distances. Look inside for more information!

Portage Soccer Club offers the following advantages to youth-

1. Excellent and dedicated coaches who know the game (skills and tactics) and know how to teach. All coaches have (or will have if 1st year) a USSF "E" coaching license at a minimum.
2. Competitive environment that's healthy without putting excessive emphasis on winning. Teams play at Select, Elite, or Premier level depending on their capabilities.
3. Solid values are taught in terms of sportsmanship and respect and giving good effort.
4. Good value in terms of cost (and time/fuel required to travel to road games). The \$270/yr fee includes a complete uniform and includes all referee and field rental fees.
5. Great place to play. Nine-field Portage Soccer Complex recognized as one of the nicest in the state at a convenient location for Portage area families.
6. New practice facility that will allow coaches to schedule practices at more convenient times, and at a common site to facilitate carpooling and common development activities (e.g., goalkeeper training or striker training).
7. Track record of success in terms of playing ability, character development, and wins. PSC alumni include Olympic Gold Medalist Lindsay Tarpley and Jacob Peterson of the MLS.
8. A non-profit organization run by an elected board that puts the interests of the players first and foremost.

TRYOUTS: players should arrive at 5:30 to complete registration at the Portage Soccer Complex (4422 Bishop Rd); actual tryouts will begin at 6:00 p.m. Look at the table below for the exact days for your age group. Players who cannot be present for both days should call Mark Murry at 324-7947. Preregister at www.portagesoccer.com to save time. Players should bring a 1.5" x 1.5" photo of their face attached to their SIGNED registration form printed out when they register on-line or filled out if they register off-line. Also wear a white t-shirt (no PSC or TKO or Kingdom or ODP demarcation) and shin guards and soccer shoes. The first 300 at tryouts will receive a free numbered t-shirt for use at tryouts and to take home. Bring water and a ball.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Birth Date Range</u>	<u>Tryout Days - Dates</u>
U-9*	August 1, 1998 - July 31, 2000	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21
U-10	August 1, 1997 - July 31, 1998	Mon & Wed - June 18 & 20
U-11	August 1, 1996 - July 31, 1997	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21
U-12	August 1, 1995 - July 31, 1996	Mon & Wed - June 18 & 20
U-13	August 1, 1994 - July 31, 1995	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21
U-14	August 1, 1993 - July 31, 1994	Mon & Wed - June 18 & 20
U-15	August 1, 1992 - July 31, 1993	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21
U-16	August 1, 1991 - July 31, 1992	Mon & Wed - June 18 & 20
U-17	August 1, 1990 - July 31, 1991	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21
U-18	August 1, 1989 - July 31, 1990	Mon & Wed - June 18 & 20
U-19	August 1, 1988 - July 31, 1989	Tues & Thur - June 19 & 21

* per WMYSA rules, up to three U-8 players may be placed on each U-9 team as appropriate

More about Portage Soccer Club

The Portage Soccer Club was formed in 1985 and gained status as an incorporated non-profit organization in February 1991. Today, PSC is one of the largest clubs in the West Michigan Youth Soccer Association (WMYSA) fielding both boys and girls teams from U9 all the way to U19. Despite many changes in the youth soccer landscape in recent years, the PSC philosophy of emphasizing player development remains the same, and our teams have performed very well on the field in terms of both skill and results.

As a volunteer-run non-profit organization with an elected Board of Directors, you can be assured that the interests of the youth are always first and foremost. PSC is a transparent organization with open communications and a budget that's published for all to examine. PSC coaches have an outstanding record of teaching the game at an age appropriate level by being able to relate to the kids the way a parent would, while having a strong knowledge of the game in order to raise their level of play to their maximum potential. All coaches have an E class license or NSCAA license (some first-year coaches may be in the process of obtaining their E license). Many PSC coaches continue with their coaching education to obtain D and higher certification, and many assistant coaches are also licensed through USSF or NSCAA.

The players photographed to the right all started playing in AYSO Region 74 and played in the Portage Soccer Club. For interesting comments from these three outstanding PSC alumni, go to portagesoccer.com and open the February 2006 newsletter. Not everyone has the talent or drive to make it to the MLS or Olympics, but PSC is proud to provide a great environment where growth is stimulated and promoted while avoiding the burnout that too often occurs when development is accelerated too much. For important information about youth development in sports, read the "Parents Guide" at www.sportsmanship.org (see link in leftmost column).



WMYSA is the largest youth soccer organization in Southwest Michigan with well over 2000 youth playing at multiple levels. This makes it easier to find the appropriate level of competition for each child and each team. Portage Soccer Club offers three levels of competition: Portage Select teams play in WMYSA divisions that are more competitive than recreational with other teams based in Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Vicksburg/Schoolcraft, Richland, Battle Creek, South Haven, Sturgis, Marshall, Michiana, SW Michigan, and Plainwell. PSC Elite teams (U12 and older only) play in the even more competitive Elite division with the strongest teams from WMYSA, GVSA (Grand Rapids area), and CASL (Lansing area). Teams earn their way into Elite by strong play in Select. Elite level play offers the same level of competition as in most premier leagues without having to drive to the Detroit Metro area every other game. Elite teams that do well now have the capability to advance to the Premier league if they want.

Small-sided soccer (6 vs 6 and 8 vs 8) is more fun for younger players (U-12 and younger), and provides greater opportunity for development of skills/techniques and tactics because each player is more involved with the ball (the frequency of playing the ball is far higher with 12 players on the field than it is with 22 on the field). Small sided soccer is widely practiced all across the world and now the United States, and there is strong research to support statements that it promotes greater development for the kids, and is more enjoyable. More info is available at www.usyouthsoccer.org.

PSC owns and maintains the Portage Soccer Complex at 4422 Bishop Avenue (east of Sprinkle and south of Bishop/Romence) where home games are played. This 9-field complex opened in 2002 and is now recognized as one of the outstanding soccer complexes in Michigan. PSC is also developing a 6-field practice facility that will open in the fall of 2007 for club teams to use. The Club hosts the Portage Soccer Classic tournament the weekend of June 8-10, which this summer celebrates its 21st year. Last year, the tournament attracted over 150 teams competing at ages U-9 to U-19.

Youth Soccer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is travel soccer?

- Soccer at a more competitive level than AYSO (many youth choose to play both PSC and AYSO).
- PSC offers three levels of competition: Select, Elite, and Premier.
- Soccer taught by excellent coaches who keep winning in perspective (and win a healthy number of games too).
- Soccer where players “win through development” to their maximum potential. Note famous PSC alumni.

Why play travel soccer?

- Travel soccer is fun!
- PSC coaches emphasize player development at an age-appropriate level.
- PSC soccer is an outstanding value (a great experience at a reasonable cost).
- Most Portage high school players played for Portage Soccer Club, many all the way through high school.

Who can try out for the Portage Soccer Club?

- Soccer players from any school district who will be at least seven years old by July 31 are eligible to try out.
- Tryouts are the week of June 18 in the evenings. Go to www.portagesoccer.com to the “Try-out Information” page for information on what to bring, or what to do if you’re going to be on vacation that week.

Where are games played and how much travel is there? How much time is involved?

- Home games are played at the beautifully maintained Portage Soccer Complex conveniently located just south of Bishop (Romence) and east of Sprinkle on the east side of town (4422 Bishop Rd).
- Road games are played at surrounding clubs (usually not more than an hour away, many much nearer).
- A total of eight games are played in the fall and eight games in the spring at different times than AYSO.
- Teams usually travel to one weekend tournament in the fall and another in the spring.
- Teams usually practice twice a week but are flexible with AYSO players.

What’s the difference between Portage Soccer Club and for-profit select soccer?

- PSC is a non-profit volunteer organization that’s been around for over 15 years while for-profit select is run by professionals to make money. PSC is an open organization with a published budget and an elected board.
- PSC Select travel teams play in WMYSA which is the largest youth soccer organization in southwest Michigan, while some for-profit select teams play in the Champions League or GVSA with more teams much further away.
- PSC plays small-sided soccer at U-9 - U12. This promotes the development of skills by facilitating more chances to play the ball (dribble, pass, shoot, or stop the other team), and is practiced by over 80 countries including perennial soccer powers England, Germany, & Brazil. Greater involvement with the ball makes it more fun!

What does it cost and what do I get for it?

- PSC Select costs just \$270 total for both fall and spring seasons (includes complete uniform and referee/field rental fees) plus tourney costs. Scholarships are available (see web site)

WHEN ARE TRY-OUTS? (you can register in advance at www.portagesoccer.com/manager/RegForm.php)

- Look at the bottom of the first page to find out the right dates for you. You should be present on both dates.
- The times for try-outs are 6:00-8:00 pm each day. Please plan on being at the complex at 5:30 to register.
- Try-outs will be held at the Portage Soccer Complex (4422 Bishop Ave, east of SoccerZone).

For information on how to register on-line and what to bring, go to www.portagesoccer.com and select the “Tryout Info” link. If you can’t make the appropriate dates please call Mark Murry at 324-7947 by June 14, 2007

ATTENTION COACHES: PSC still has a few coaching openings, mostly for B teams where there are enough travel-caliber players (see www.portagesoccer.com/tryout.htm for B team coaches already appointed). The Club puts a high priority on coaching and coach improvement, and offers the following to coaches who are appointed and approved by the PSC Board of Directors:

1. NSCAA membership (includes magazine full of coaching tips, see www.nscaa.com)
2. Will pay 50% of registration fee for advanced training (e.g., USSF E or D license & other clinics).
3. Stipend of \$200/season (that’s \$400/year for U14 and younger)
4. Support from PSC’s new Director of Technical Development.

Recent Portage Soccer Club news items-

U16 Boys Elite Team Advances to State Cup Quarterfinals for the second straight year as one of the top eight teams in Michigan. The team was successful at two recent premier tournaments including the PRF Cup in Cincinnati, where they defeated local rival TKO for the championship, and the Nike Chicago Cup. For more details and an interesting story about Paul Kato, go to www.mysoccer.com/misc7/psc0502.php

Five PSC Teams Play in Elite League. Continuing a tradition of excellence, five Portage Soccer Club teams competed in the Elite league this year where the strongest WMYA teams compete with the best from GVSA (Grand Rapids area) and CASL (Lansing area).

PSC Dedicates Six-Field Practice Complex on April 30. The Portage Soccer Club is developing its own Practice Facility where teams will be able to practice at a time convenient for the team's families instead of having to pick an earlier time in order to beat the crowd at local parks and schools. More details are posted at <http://www.portagesoccer.com/index/PracticeComplexPSC.pdf>

PSC Names Director of Technical Development. Reinforcing the importance of player development, PSC has hired Blake Glass (former WMU varsity coach) as its first Director of Technical Development.

PSC Alumnus Jacob Peterson, a standout at Indiana University and top pick of the Colorado Rapids is also now a member of the U23 Men's National Team (www.ussoccer.com/teams/youth/u-23mnt/index.jsp.html)

PSC Alumna Lindsay Tarpley, now a veteran on the US Women's National Team is offering a camp in Portage June 26-28 (girls only). For more information, and to register, go to www.lindsaytarpley.com.

PSC Alumnus BJ Snow was named assistant coach of the UCLA women's soccer team. For more information, go to http://uclabruins.cstv.com/sports/w-soccer/mtt/snow_bj00.html

PSC Alumnus Eric Alexander, after being named Michigan's Mr. Soccer following a stellar career at Portage Central HS, had a strong freshman season at Indiana University, and was a unanimous selection to the All Big Ten Freshman Team. More details at <http://bigten.cstv.com/sports/m-soccer/spec-rel/110206aba.html>

PSC Announces "A" Team Coaches for 2007-2008 Seasons-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Background</u> (note that USSF D certification is more advanced than E)
Girls U9	Silvia Salemka	12 yrs Head Coach PSC, 3 yrs PC JVB coach, played 19 yrs, USSF D license
Girls U10	Silvia Salemka	12 yrs Head Coach PSC, 3 yrs PC JVB coach, played 19 yrs, USSF D
Girls U11	Allen Hamilton	1 yr PSC Head Coach, played 5 yrs, USSF E
Girls U12	VanderSloot / McGruder	5 yrs PSC Head Coach, played 25 yrs (incl 2 yrs college, 4 yrs HS) , USSF E
Girls U13	Nate Salemka	2 yrs PSC Coach, played PSC and TKO and PCHS, USSF E
Girls U14	David Rice	17 yrs Head Coach PSC, USSF D certification
Girls U15	Silvia Salemka	12 yrs Head Coach PSC, 3 yrs PC JVB coach, played 19 yrs, USSF D
Girls U16	Carl Grubb	14 yrs Head Coach PSC, USSF D certification
Girls U18/19	David Rice	17 yrs Head Coach PSC, USSF D certification
Boys U9	Mark Murry	5 yrs coaching PSC and AYSO, 20+ yrs playing incl college, USSF E license
Boys U10	Mark Murry	5 yrs coaching PSC and AYSO, 20+ yrs playing incl college, USSF E
Boys U11	Vu Le	6 yrs Head Coach PSC, 3 yrs college playing, USSF D certification
Boys U12	Michael J. White	12 yrs youth coach, played club & HS soccer in England, played 15+ yrs adult
Boys U13	David Groves	2 yr Head Coach PSC, played PSC, TKO, ODP, and PC High School, USSF E
Boys U14	Mark Verburg	1 yr Head Coach PSC, assistant for many years, USSF E
Boys U15	Charles Fritz	1 yr Coach PSC, played 4 yrs high school
Boys U16	Andrew Rice	2 yr Head Coach PSC, played PSC and 4 yrs PCHS, USSF E
Boys U18	David Rice	17 yrs Head Coach PSC, USSF D certification
Boys U19	John McKenzie	6 yrs Head Coach PSC, PC JV coach, played 4 yrs high school, USSF E

Note— see web site for B team coaches already appointed.