



# *Boys Soccer*

## ***Parent & Player Handbook - 2025***

*Welcome everyone to the 2025 Season of Olentangy Orange Boys Soccer.*

*Whether this is your first season or your fourth, in the following pages you will find everything you need to know about the months leading up to the 2025 fall season that officially begins on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*A few of things to note:*

- 1. All of the important dates are on a page unto themselves; yet, a few of those dates will be mentioned repeatedly.*
- 2. Many of you ask: "When is the best time to take a vacation?" All of our summer activities are Voluntary, albeit highly recommended.*
- 3. Raffle Ticket Turn in will be on May 13th. You may turn them in earlier.*

*Lastly, our summer program is set up to prepare, as best as we can, your son for the rigors and competitiveness of high school soccer. This is not club. We do not pick by age group. We put everyone in a pool & come out with three teams of 16-22 field players (Including goalkeepers) for the program. That said, we want our summer preparation to be physically & mentally strenuous. Toughness is not common to everyone. But toughness is invaluable in any sport, vocation, pursuit, or walk of life.*

*Therefore, if your son complains that it is too tough...you might want to listen to him. This may not be for him. That may sting but I say it because we, as a program, still have goals that have eluded us. I am not afraid to admit that fact and look at myself first. I need to be tougher as well.*

*And just like everything that we have ever done in this program, we can all be tougher together. As players, parents, and coaches...let's all redefine what it takes to break us.*



Antonio Díaz

Head Coach

*Coach Díaz brings an abundance of knowledge & experience to the Pioneers Boys Soccer Program. An alum of Bishop Watterson High School, he was a constant in that program that reached the District Finals in 3 of his 4 years. Tony captained his club team(s) during that time, Worthington United & Blast FC, & helped lead them to several appearances in local, state, & regional tournaments. He is also a former NAIA/NCAA Division II college player when he played at Ohio Dominican University as a student athlete for the Men's Soccer Program for 4 years. He was an important part of the first ever ODU Men's team to reach the NAIA Tournament in the fall of 2007 that made it all the way to the Quarterfinals. Only able to actively play for 2 of his 4 years of college due to a severe knee injury, he was retained on the staff & gained valuable coaching experience at a relatively young age before graduating in the Spring of 2010.*

*Tony spent the next 5 years after college coaching with The Crew in their Youth Development Program & obtained his licensing through the OSYSA while learning a wide variety of techniques & methods working with coaches from all over the Midwest. He then transitioned to the high school game when he became a part of the Boys program at New Albany High School where he spent the next 5 years (4 as the JVA Coach, 1 as Secondary Varsity Assistant) where he helped win a District Title in 2016 as well as obtain District Runner-Up honors in 2018 & 2019. During the pandemic, he transitioned to Westerville South High School where he spent the last 4 years as the Primary Varsity Assistant for the Boys Program, most recently helping them to a District Final appearance in 2024. Tony is entering his 1<sup>st</sup> season as Head Coach at Olentangy Orange.*

*Tony resides in Dublin with his wife Roxanne, sons Easton & Hayden, & daughter Emersyn. He also works full-time as a corporate chef for Columbus-based Company Bath & Body Works since 2016.*



# Our Core Values

*“Brothers aren’t simply close, they are knit together.”*

Over the past 5 years, the Players, the Parents, and the Coaches of OOBS have built a culture of which we are proud. It is not perfect. And just like every person who is apart of that culture; it is a work in progress. However, we acknowledge the critical influence that a strong, healthy culture can have on a sports team/program. It is very important to us.

These new OOBS Core Values are taken directly from past years’ Senior Leadership Seminars. They are the four distinguishing characteristics that Senior Members of our program believe to be the most important to OUR strong, healthy culture.



**Passionate  
Responsible  
Communicative  
Tough**

*Brothers* 

# Passionate

Take pride and show excitement in everything we  
do.

## Players:

- Be Early. It shows you care.
- Be excited to be here.
- Understand that energy is contagious. Make sure you spread positive energy.
- Attend as many OOBS games as possible to support your Brothers.
- Attend as many of our voluntary workouts, kickabouts, and functions as possible
- On a bad day for you, your Brothers still need your passion.
- On games days we will dress nicely and wear Our Program Tie to school.
- Always present yourself as a steward of your team, family, and Olentangy Orange High School.

## Coaches:

- We will not ridicule or demean our players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. We will remember that the development of the person and player are the same thing.
- We will always present ourselves as stewards of our team, program, & Olentangy Orange High School.

## Parents:

- If your player, yourself, or another parent is unhappy or confused about something in the program, encourage them to talk to their coach; reassuring them that the coaches are approachable and there to help.
- Always present yourself as a steward of the team, your family, the program, & Olentangy Orange High School.



# Responsible

It's not about what you FEEL like doing. It's about what you are TRUSTED to do.

## Players:

- Train hard & play hard, EVERYDAY, so you earn the trust of your teammates.
- Do your best to understand & improve on the tactics, game plans, or suggestions from Coaches.
- If you are confused or unsure of tactics or plans, you will ask your coach(es).
- Help your teammates if you see they are not prepared, not passionate, or not engaged by positively bringing it to their attention & the attention of your coach.
- Attending as many of our voluntary workouts, kickabouts, & functions as possible.

## Coaches:

- We will create training & conditioning sessions, as well as game plans that are useful & developmentally appropriate.
- We will make sure that the equipment & facilities are safe and match the players' ages & abilities.
- We will obtain proper training & continue to upgrade our coaching skills.
- We will be reasonable when scheduling games & practices remembering that young players have other interests & obligations.
- We will be early or on time or everyone will know why we were not.

## Parents:

- Commit to get your player to practices, games, and functions early or on time. If you cannot be early or on time you will notify a coach.
- Commit to not coach your player or any other player from the sidelines, just support them positively from the sidelines



# Communicative

**We choose to be part of the CURE; not part of the disease.**

## Players:

- Speak Positively or Constructively. But always end with a positive.
- Do not waste words on mistakes, use your words to help with solutions.
- Before you say something in anger, stop and count backward from three and then think again if it needs saying.
- Not everyone knows you are joking.
- OOBS Brothers come in all shapes, sizes, and colors; make sure each one knows and feels like you have their back with your words and actions.
- At OOBS we believe: "A good scrap is a good scrap". Sometimes things get heated in practice. Always shake your Brother's hand after a good scrap.

## Coaches:

- We will not ridicule or demean our players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. We will remember that development of the person and player are the same thing.
- We will always be accessible to both players and parents to meet or chat regarding performance, expectations, or development.
- We will conduct ourselves and communicate in a manner that we expect from our players and parents.
- We will do our best to send out timely updates and communications regarding the program or our teams.
- We will have Coach/Player/Parent meetings after the conclusion of the season to track progress and establish goals for matriculation through the program.

## Parents:

- Commit to create a positive environment for your player and other players during the season.
- Things will get hard. Things will not go your/our way. Help us up; Don't keep us down.
- Feel free to ask any coach for feedback or any questions. Just please wait until after practice or after the game.



- Commit to respect the officials; opposing players, coaches, and parents.

# Tough

**You have to be able to overcome HARD.**

## Players:

- Physically, mentally, and emotionally. What does it take to break you? If you let the little things get to you...you aren't going to be good at handling big things.
- "We do not rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training." -Archilochus Simply put, if you train at 50 percent, you will perform in games at 50 percent.
- Fail to prepare, prepare to fail. Training will be hard. Training will piss you off. The sooner you embrace this certainty, the easier games will be. You're welcome.

## Coaches:

- We will stay focused and composed in the heat of the game. Focus, thinking, and keeping our emotions in check are indicative of the composure that we wish to see in our players.

## Parents:

- Support your player and the effort of your player by encouraging him to keep working hard instead of making him believe he is a victim of unfairness, selfishness, or deviousness.





# Important Dates, Times, and Information

- **March 11<sup>th</sup>** – Parent/Player Informational Meeting, 5-7pm, OOHS Commons
- **May 16<sup>th</sup>** - Raffle ticket Fundraiser Turn-in
- **June 2<sup>nd</sup>** - **Captains' Practices/Open Fields Begin** - 7-9pm M,T,TH,F (For all HS players; These will be run by Seniors but there will be a member of the coaching staff present.)
- **June 25<sup>th</sup> - June 27<sup>th</sup>** - OOBS Youth Camp 6pm-8pm Each Night (June 28<sup>th</sup> Tentatively Scheduled If Another Day Needs to be Canceled Due to Inclement Weather) @ Pioneer Stadium – Grass Fields May Also Be Used Depending on Number of Registered Youth Players \*\*All Prospective Players Are Strongly Advised to Attend to Help Manage the Youth Players Across All Age Groups\*\*
- **July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 6<sup>th</sup>** - **OFF for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday – NO Summer Activities**
- **July 7<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Sessions Begin, M,T,TH,F - 7pm-9pm @ Stadium/Grass Fields. Come prepared to lift, play, or condition. Be ready for anything. ALWAYS Bring Cleats, Shin Guards, Running Shoes, Water Gallons to EVERY SESSION!
- **July 21<sup>st</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>** – OOBS Team Camp – 7pm-9pm @ Stadium/Grass Fields
- **July 25<sup>th</sup> & July 26<sup>th</sup>** – Big Walnut Summer Showcase (Pre-Season Competitive Tournament) – 2 Teams (Varsity Games on Turf Stadiums – JV Games on Grass Fields) - Times Posted 6/27/25
- **August 1<sup>st</sup>** - Tryouts Begin - \*\*All physical forms & paperwork MUST be turned in before you can participate! This Includes documents on Final Forms – Athletic Trainers Will Be On-Site & Can Turn Away Any Participants If These Documents Are Not On File with Athletic Department\*\*
- **August 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Tryouts: 7-9pm & 8-10am (Teams Will Be Announced – Pending Academic Eligibility)
- **August 10<sup>th</sup>** - Meet the Teams Gathering, Time- 1-3pm – Location - Pioneer Stadium

**Antonio (Tony) Díaz, Head Coach**

**diaza2gtl@gmail.com**

Twitter: @OOHSMensSoccer





# Summer Calendar at a Glance

JUNE	1	2 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	3 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	4	5 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	6 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	7
8	9 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	10 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	11	12 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	13 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	14	
15	16 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	17 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	18	19 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	20 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	21	
22	23 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	24 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	25 Youth Camp 6-8pm	26 Youth Camp 6-8pm	27 Youth Camp 6-8pm	28 Youth Camp (Inclement Weather Day – 6-8pm If Necessary)	
29	30 Open Fields – Captain's Practice- 7-9PM	JULY	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Holiday	5

**Summer Sessions: Will Include Playing (Small Sided/Full Field, Technical/Tactical Training), Lifting, Conditioning**

6	7 Summer Sessions– 7-9PM	8 Summer Sessions– 7-9PM	9 Summer Beach Training @ Alum Creek - 830-1030AM	10 Summer Sessions– 7-9PM	11 Summer Sessions– 7-9PM	12
13	14 Summer Sessions 7-9pm	15 Summer Sessions 7-9pm	16 Summer Beach Training @ Alum Creek - 830-1030AM	17 Summer Sessions 7-9pm	18 Summer Sessions 7-9pm	19
20	21 Team Camp 7-9pm	22 Team Camp 7-9pm	23 Summer Beach Training @ Alum Creek - 830-1030AM	24 Team Camp 7-9pm	25 BIG WALNUT SUMMER SHOWCASE (2 Teams-TBA)	26 BIG WALNUT SUMMER SHOWCASE (2 Teams (TBA)

27	28	29	30	31	<b>AUGUST 1</b> Tryouts – Day 1 – 7-9pm (Stadium/Grass)	2 Tryouts – Day 2 (Teams Announced) - 8-10amGrass)
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## ORANGE BOYS SOCCER - VARSITY/JVA - 2025

8/5/2025	@ DUBLIN SCIOTO*	6PM/715PM	*Pre-Season Scrimmage
8/7/2025	BIG WALNUT*	5:30PM/7PM	*Pre-Season Scrimmage
8/12/2025	DELAWARE HAYES*	5:30PM/7PM	*Pre-Season Scrimmage
8/15/2025	@ BISHOP WATTERSON	530PM/7PM	Friday Night Lights
8/21/2025	DUBLIN JEROME	5:30PM/715PM	
8/26/2025	GAHANNA LINCOLN	5:30 PM/7PM	OCC Crossover
9/2/2025	@ OLENTANGY BERLIN	5:30PM/715PM	OCC Crossover
9/4/2025	@ PICKERINGTON NORTH	5:30PM/715PM	OCC
9/9/2025	@ HILLIARD DAVIDSON	5:30PM/715PM	OCC
9/11/2025	FRANKLIN HEIGHTS	5:30PM/7PM	
9/13/2025	@ SAINT EDWARD (CLEVELAND)	11AM/1PM	
9/16/2025	DUBLIN COFFMAN	5:30 PM/7PM	OCC
9/23/2025	@ UPPER ARLINGTON	5:30PM/715PM	OCC
9/25/2025	WESTERVILLE CENTRAL	5:30 PM/7PM	
9/29/2025	WHITEHALL-YEARLING	5:30PM/7PM	
9/30/2025	HILLIARD BRADLEY	5:30 PM/7PM	OCC - Senior Night
10/2/2025	OLENTANGY	530PM/7PM	
10/4/2025	CENTENNIAL	1PM/3PM	

10/7/2025	@ OLENTANGY LIBERTY	5:15 PM/715PM	OCC
10/9/2025	@ CANAL WINCHESTER	5:30PM/715PM	

## ORANGE BOYS SOCCER - JVB - 2025

8/18/2025	SAINT CHARLES	5:30PM	
8/20/2025	@ DUBLIN JEROME	5:30PM	
8/27/2025	@ OLENTANGY	5:30PM	
—	—	—	—
9/3/2025	WORTHINGTON KILBOURNE	5:30PM	
9/8/2025	@ HILLIARD DAVIDSON	5:30PM	OCC
9/10/2025	@ SAINT CHARLES	7PM	
9/13/2025	@ WESTERVILLE CENTRAL	10AM	
9/15/2025	@ DUBLIN COFFMAN	5:30PM	OCC
9/17/2025	HILLIARD BRADLEY	5:30 PM	OCC
9/22/2025	@ UPPER ARLINGTON	5:30PM	OCC
9/24/2025	@ OLENTANGY BERLIN	5:30PM	OCC Crossover
9/29/2025	OLENTANGY BERLIN	5:30PM	OCC Crossover
—	—	—	—
10/1/2025	@ OLENTANGY	5:30PM	
10/6/2025	@ OLENTANGY LIBERTY	5:30PM	OCC
10/8/2025	DUBLIN COFFMAN	5:30PM	OCC

10/11/2025	WESTERVILLE CENTRAL	10AM	

**“Unless you continually work, evolve, & innovate, you’ll learn a quick & painful lesson from someone who has.” - Cael Sanderson**

# SEES

**Speed.** Without the ball we want to move & act as fast as we can to either try to win the ball back or to prevent the ball from getting into dangerous areas. With the ball we want to move it quickly or move ourselves into dangerous positions to exploit space, the other team’s lack of speed, & the other team’s defensive deficiencies. To play like this we need to prepare to sprint at a moment’s notice as fast & as far as we can for as long as it takes.

**Energy.** Energy sustains speed, prolongs execution, & most importantly: it is contagious. All of our conditionings, summer sessions & practices are constructed around the idea of strengthening players physical, mental, & emotional capabilities. There are obstacles during every game that attempt to steal energy from our players & make them lose focus, composure, & effect execution. Therefore, players will be thrown into moments of uncomfortability & hardship during training to test their ability to retain their energy.

**Execution.** Soccer has three components: Skill, Conditioning, & Tactics. Teams that play at a high level are able to execute all three components throughout the entire match displayed by coordinated connectivity & positioning. Players are expected to hold the execution of our team’s plan paramount to any individual endeavors. Skill & conditioning are wasted without dedication to execution of the tactics of the team. Players who are unclear about any tactical situation need to ask questions!!!

**Selflessness.** To ensure we are playing at the highest level of Speed, Energy, & Execution, we roll our players. That is, we *hope* to roll our players. Meaning, if each player SEES their preparation in training; during games, each player will be put into a rotation with the other players in their position. That means players will have to share time. If players do not SEES their preparation in training, they will give their time to the other players in their rotation. Not all teams use their depth. We do. We see depth as the best way to be relentless. Therefore, players are expected to take pride in improving each other & supporting each other

# Leadership Opportunities

## **OOBS Leadership Council:**

Shortly after teams are set, the OOBs Leadership Council will be formed. The Leadership Council will consist of the team captains from each team & two additional members from each class elected by their peers.

The Leadership Council will meet each week to discuss & evaluate each team's dedication to & facilitation of the OOBs Core Values:

### ***Passionate, Responsible, Communicative & Tough***

Each meeting will be attended by a member(s) of the coaching staff in order to listen & mentor Council Members through discussions, decisions, & any action plans. The Leadership Council is not some sort of disciplinary board. Rather, it is meant to be a sounding board where each team's representatives can give updates, propose questions, or receive feedback regarding how their respective teams are functioning throughout the season.

### ***Attitude, Approach, Intensity & Toughness***



# OOBS Fund Raising RAFFLE TICKETS

**What:** Each player is asked to sell 25 Raffle Tickets at \$10 a piece =\$250.00.

- At every home game, we draw one Winner at Halftime.
- Winners go back in the pot. So 1 ticket has 8 chances to win.
- Write the buyers information on the small end of the raffle ticket and detach.
- When you turn in your \$250, turn in your small ends from the ticket. Winners do not have to be in attendance!

**When:** Tickets will be handed out at the Spring Meeting

- If you cannot make the meeting, please contact Erica Ryan for other pickup arrangements. orangesoccerboosters@gmail.com.

**Who:** You may sell your tickets to whomever but please do not sell them to any students of Olentangy Schools.

**Why:**

This is our ***BIGGEST*** fundraiser that we currently do. We chose this fundraiser because we believe it to have a few qualities that make it quite useful for everyone involved:

1. You can do it on your own time. Trying to set a date for everyone to get together in the off season is difficult. You will have from March to May to sell these tickets in your own time, however you want.
2. We do this prior to the season. I understand that people will say, "Well I don't even know if my kid made the team yet." I totally understand that. Here's the problem:
  - a. We have to buy all equipment & uniforms prior to the season. If we waited to buy either of those until after teams were made, then after we gave you time to sell your tickets, we would not get our stuff until November.
  - b. We don't have to mess with fundraising during the season so we can focus on training, games, and team building because the season is short.
  - c. YOU do not have to pay a cent. Some people buy them for themselves. Some do not because they sell them to other people. That is YOUR CHOICE but we feel we give you plenty of time to sell the tickets either way.
  - d. We also use the money to purchase equipment during the summer to better equip/outfit the players & coaches
3. The Raffle Ticket OOBS Fundraiser gets a larger take than I have ever seen from a fundraiser. We get nearly 95% of the money back to the program.
4. You can do it in your own time.

**\*\*YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO STEP FOOT ON THE FIELD ON AUGUST 1 UNLESS YOU:**

\_\_\_\_\_ HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL & ALL PHYSICAL PAPERWORK ON FINAL FORMS

\_\_\_\_\_ ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE Tryout Schedule:

					<b>Fri. Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> Day 1</b>  (Playing & Fitness Testing) 7pm-9pm	<b>Sat. Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> Day 2</b>  (3 Teams Announced - Fitness Testing If Necessary) 8-10am
	<b><u>Fitness Testing:</u></b> Will Include: 1 & 2 Mile Runs, Push-Up Test, Sit-Up Test, Pull-Up Test	<b><u>1 Mile Metrics:</u></b> All Freshman – 7:30 or less Soph-Seniors/ Ret. Varsity – 6:30 or less	<b><u>2 Mile Metrics:</u></b> All Freshman – 14:30 or less Soph-Seniors/ Ret. Varsity – 13:30 or less	<b><u>Push-Ups:</u></b> All Freshman – Minimum of 30 in 1 Min Soph-Seniors/ Ret. Varsity – Minimum of 40 in 1 Min	<b><u>Sit-Ups: All</u></b> Freshman – Minimum of 40 in 1 Min Soph-Seniors/ Ret. Varsity – Minimum of 50 in 1 Min	<b><u>Pull-Ups: All</u></b> Freshman – Minimum of 5 in 1 Min Soph-Seniors/ Ret. Varsity – 10 in 1 Min



# OOBS Tryout Policies and Procedures

\*Tryouts are the beginning of mandatory soccer activities. Everyone that is planning on trying out for the team **MUST** be present on the tryout date(s)

\*Boys soccer at Olentangy Orange is **NOT** a no-cut sport. This means we are allowed to reduce the amount of players that make the program through the process of cutting players from the program. **\*\*Seniors CANNOT make JVA – Juniors CANNOT make JVB\*\***

\*It is possible that we may have as many as two sets of cuts depending on the volume of players that are trying out for the program.

\*All players will be evaluated on 4 things:

1. Soccer IQ & Decision Making
2. Skill Level
3. Fitness/Toughness
4. Coachability & Dependability

\*Tryout procedure will be as follows:

- Players will all receive a number (Based on their last name, alphabetically) at the beginning of the tryout process. Every player will endure similar types of physical fitness testing (Based on class status, number of years in the program, or returning status) while playing in effort to make a team within the program.
- At the conclusion of tryouts, the players will be gathered in one large group, then each player will have their number read aloud coinciding with the team on which they will be placed. Those players who do not hear their number called, unfortunately won't have a spot in the program for this current season. The players will then be dismissed for the remainder of the day. Those who have been placed in the program will know the next date they will be expected to report for their respective team trainings\*
- Coaches will **NOT** remain at practice if players or parents wish to speak in person regarding the outcome of the tryout once teams have been announced. There will be **NO** immediate discussions on the matter & the decisions will **NOT** change
- There is a minimum of **72 hours** that will pass before a coach may be contacted by a parent or player to discuss any decision that was made regarding that specific player **ONLY**. You may set up a time via email to meet at another date/time. If one of these meetings is set-up, there will always be a discussion of the aspects of the player on what they need to improve on with the coach(es). There will **NOT** be any discussions about other players or why they made a specific team or why they were not placed on a certain team



"Champions do not become champions on the field. They become recognized on the field. They become champions because of their daily routine & commitment to excellence. Players do not decide their future; they decide their habits & their habits decide their future!" -Kevin Eastman

***Remember: If it doesn't challenge you, it will not change you.***

## The Pioneer Creed

"I'm ALL IN"

"I Give My ALL for Orange"

"I Play Hard for my Brothers"

"As They Play Hard for Me"

"We're 11 Playing As ONE"

"I BELIEVE That We Will Win"

"Better Yet, I Know It!"

"I'm PROUD to be a Pioneer"

"Brothers on 3 – 1,2,3 Brothers!"

