

Tab 1

Youth Soccer League Information

Pre-Season Information:

- [Youth Soccer League Rules](#)
- [Field Locations](#)
- League Dates
 - 5yo-K:
 - Pre-season Practice ONLY: Sep 1, 2026 (Girls) & Sep 3, 2026 (Boys)
 - Practice/Scrimmage: Sep 8, 2026 - Oct 13, 2026 & Sep 10, 2026 - Oct 15, 2026
 - 1st/2nd & 3rd/4th grade:
 - Practices: Week of Aug 31, 2026 (all schedules will be on Team Sideline).
 - Games: Saturdays, Sep 12, 2026 - Oct 17, 2026
 - 5th/6th grade:
 - Practices: Week of Aug 31, 2026 (all schedules will be on Team Sideline).
 - Games: Saturdays, Sep 12, 2026 - Oct 24, 2026 (pending schedule from Lakeshore League)
- Equipment:
 - Provided by Zeeland Rec: Team uniform, team socks, soccer balls, cones/practice gear
 - Other Equipment (not provided): Shin guards (required), cleats or tennis shoes
 - [DICK's Sporting Goods Shop Weekend - 20% Off](#)
 - Cleats for Kids Event: Aug 24, 2026
- Team Placements:
 - Finalized and communicated the first week of August.
 - No evaluations practices will take place. All participants will be placed and receive balanced playing time. Regardless of skill level or experience.

League Communication:

- Zeeland Rec → Coaches → Participants
 - League Updates / Info; League Schedules / Modifications; League Wide Questions / Concerns
 - [Team Sideline](#) - Team Placement + Schedules
 - Weekly Reminders / Updates
- Weather Decisions:
 - Weekdays: Decisions by no later than 5:00pm

- Saturdays: Decisions by no later than 7:30am
- Communication: Team Sideline + website + social media + weather line
 - If no weather decision is announced, all events are on as scheduled
 - ZPS Policies: If ZPS cancels school due to inclement weather all K-8th grade events district wide are cancelled
- Reporting Concerns/Questions
 - Team Assigned Coach
 - Mande Matzke: Youth Sports Coordinator | 616-748-3228 | mmatzke@zps.org
 - Robyn DeYoung: Programming Secretary | 616-748-3230 | rdeyoung@zps.org

5YO-K:

- *Practices:* One night per week, combining both practice and gameplay into a single evening session.
 - Girls - Tuesday Nights
 - Boys - Thursday Nights
- 6:00pm-6:30pm Practice (shared field)
- 6:30pm-7:00pm Scrimmage play vs opposing team
- All practices and games will be held at [Zeeland Rec Soccer Field Locations](#)

1st-4th grade:

- **Practices:** One Per Week, Aug - Oct - Schedules sent late August
- **Games:** Saturdays, Sept-Oct - Schedules communicated in late August
- Practice and games will be held at [Zeeland Rec Soccer Field Locations](#)
- Teams will be assigned using pre-season ratings and "home" school they attend, and will be designated with varying colors and team names.

5th-6th grade:

- **Practices:** One-Two Per Week, Aug - Oct - Schedules sent late August
- **Games:** Saturdays, Sep - Oct - Schedules communicated in late August
- Teams participate in the Lakeshore League and travel to compete against other local communities for games.
- Practices will be held at [Zeeland Rec Soccer Field Locations](#)
- Teams will be assigned using pre-season ratings and "home" school they attend

Description	5yo-Kinder	1st-2nd grade	3rd-4th grade	5th-6th grade
# of players on field	4 v 4	5 v 5	7 v 7	9 v 9
Game Format	(30) min practice, (30) min scrimmage (4x) 7 min Q's	(4x) 10min Q's, Running Clock	(4x) 12min Q's, Running Clock	(4x) 12min Q's, Running Clock
Half Time	1-2 min break between each Q	4 min	4 min	4 min
Goalie	NO	NO	YES	YES
Team Size (Ideal)	6-8	10	12	12-14
Primary Field				
Adams Elementary F1, F2, F3, F4	Girls: Tues / Boys: Thurs			
Quincy Elementary F1, F2, F3		Boys		
Zeeland Christian F1, F2, F3		Girls		
Roosevelt Elementary F1 & F2			Boys	
Roosevelt Elementary F3 & F4			Girls	
ZE Grass Competition Field				Boys
ZW Grass Soccer Field				Girls
Equipment/Field Info.				
Field Size	50 yd x 20 yd	50 yd x 20 yd	55 yd x 35 yd	80 yd x 50 yd
Ball Size	3	3	4	4
Goal Size	4' x 6'	4' x 6'	6.5' x 18.5'	7' x 21'
Referee(s)/Staff	0	1	2	3
Game Times (Range)	6:00pm practice, 6:30 scrimmage	8:45am, 10am, 11:15am	9am, 10:15am, 11:30am	9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 12:45pm

Core Values for Youth Sports Programs

- Build Character: Encourage teamwork, good sportsmanship, and resilience.
 - Teach players how to win and lose with grace, respect opponents and officials, and handle adversity by learning from mistakes, fostering a growth mindset.
- Have Fun: Promote an atmosphere where enjoyment is a key priority.
 - Use positive reinforcement and celebrate both small and large successes.
 - Prioritize the process and effort over results.
- Develop Skills: Focus on both sport-specific skills and competitiveness that contribute to success in future athletics.

Coach Expectations

- Be a Role Model: Treat all officials, participants, and spectators with respect.
 - Use positive language and model sportsmanship in both victory and defeat.
- Equal Playing Time: Provide all participants with equal opportunities for playing time in games, ensuring inclusion, focusing on development rather than the scoreboard.
- Multiple Positions: Ensure every child gets a chance to play and learn multiple positions and roles on the team.
- Winning Should Not Determine Decision-Making: Prioritize player growth and enjoyment over winning when making decisions.

Parent Expectations

- Be Flexible: Coaches, officials, and players are all human. Be flexible when mistakes are made in practices, games, etc.
- Be Respectful: Never acceptable to yell, curse, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression (coaches, opponents, refs, etc.)
- Enjoy the Game: Youth sports are supposed to be fun! Learn the game your child is playing and cheer them on!
- Addressing Concerns/Communication:
 - Wait 24 hours
 - Player and/or parent/guardian addresses coach (phone or in-person strongly recommended)
 - If not resolved after conversation with coach, contact Youth Sports Coordinator (phone or in-person strongly recommended)
 - If not resolved after conversation with Youth Sports Coordinator, contact Recreation Director (phone or in-person strongly recommended)