

You may have read an article in a July issue of the Citizen about Becker Youth Soccer's plans to join MYSA. The questions and answers listed below are designed to address some of the questions you may have as a soccer parent. We are in the process of applying to MYSA for membership; so our plans to offer a competitive program offering are contingent upon our acceptance into this organization.

## **Question and Answers**

### **Q. What is MYSA?**

A. The Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) mission is to promote the game of soccer for all youth in Minnesota. They promote the importance of education, self-esteem, diversity and teamwork in a safe, fun environment, allowing players to develop to their fullest potential in soccer and in life. The organization was founded in 1969 as the Minnesota Junior Soccer League and incorporated in 1987 as the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. It boasts membership of approximately 80,000 players (ages 6 to 19), 12,000 coaches and administrators, and 3,000 referees. (visit: [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org) for more information)

### **Q. Why does the Becker Youth Soccer Association want to join MYSA?**

A. In addition to providing valuable guidance and resources to enhance a community's soccer program, the MYSA is instrumental in establishing and coordinating competitive soccer play in Minnesota. The Becker Youth Soccer Association currently offers an in-house (Becker vs. Becker) program only. The Board has determined that adding a competitive program offering, in addition to our existing in-house program, will enhance our overall program. For those players planning to play school soccer, participating on a competitive soccer league will help raise their level of play.

### **Q. What nearby communities currently belong to MYSA?**

A. Pretty much all of them: Big Lake, Monticello, Princeton, Elk River/Zimmerman/Rogers, St. Michael, Buffalo, and St. Cloud.

### **Q. Does MYSA membership mean Becker will only offer competitive travel leagues in the future?**

A. No, with MYSA membership, communities can offer Recreation Programs (sometimes referred to as in-house programs) and Competitive Programs (sometimes referred to as Travel programs.) Our goal is to continue to offer both programs, allowing soccer players to participate in one or both of these offerings. Players choosing to continue participating in the Recreation program won't see significant changes from today's in-house offering. Players wishing to participate in a Competitive League will compete against other MYSA communities via MYSA scheduled games. These games will follow MYSA rules and will be refereed by MYSA certified refs. Competitive coaches and players may also choose to participate in weekend soccer tournaments (for an additional fee).

### **Q. For what ages is the competitive program offered?**

A. Competitive programs are offered for ages U9 – U19. U9 and U10 are considered developmental competitive leagues. Becker Youth Soccer will provide team support for those age groups that have enough player interest to fill a team roster. This means the BYSA will expand the ages it serves from today's U6 thru U12 to include U6 through U17 when we begin to offer competitive play.

**Q. What are the birthdates associated with each MYSA “U-age” for Summer 2010?**

A. See the matrix below, ages in **RED** are eligible to participate in competitive-play.

<b>U6</b>	8-1-03 to 7-31-04
<b>U7</b>	8-1-02 to 7-31-03
<b>U8</b>	8-1-01 to 7-31-02
<b>U9</b>	8-1-00 to 7-31-01
<b>U10</b>	8-1-99 to 7-31-00
<b>U11</b>	8-1-98 to 7-31-99
<b>U12</b>	8-1-97 to 7-31-98
<b>U13</b>	8-1-96 to 7-31-97
<b>U14</b>	8-1-95 to 7-31-96
<b>U15</b>	8-1-94 to 7-31-95
<b>U16</b>	8-1-93 to 7-31-94
<b>U17</b>	8-1-92 to 7-31-93

**Q. If MYSA membership is still tentative, why is the Board communicating this now?**

A. We want the Becker soccer community to be aware of the future direction of the program sooner rather than later. Also, registration for the MYSA Competitive Program is much earlier than our current in house program. Final registration dates are in January. In order to give parents and players time to consider competitive soccer and to plan for it, we want to share the information as it becomes available to us.

**Q. Will it cost more to play Competitive soccer?**

A. Yes. Its common for travel programs to cost more than recreation programs. The additional cost will cover the costs associated with registering teams with the MYSA, playing more games, compensating the two or three MYSA certified referees that work each game. Also, there may be a charge for uniforms. The Board has been and will continue to look for ways to keep the program costs as low as possible.

We hope this has been helpful in addressing your questions. Again, this is all contingent upon the Becker Youth Soccer Association’s acceptance into the MYSA. The comprehensive application package is currently being completed by the BYSA Board. In anticipation of acceptance, a tentative parent information meeting will be scheduled for mid-November to provide much more details.

Please send additional questions to [beckeryouthsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:beckeryouthsoccer@gmail.com) and we’ll be sure to respond and post the recurring questions in this document.

Play Hard and Have Fun!

The Becker Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors