

EVAA In-House Soccer Fall 2008 Survey Results

Introduction

The Eastview Athletic Association's In-House Soccer program is a development soccer program that introduces kids to the beautiful game of soccer. The goals of the program are to provide skill development in an environment that is fun and where children feel comfortable. By providing the proper environment we hope to foster every child's love for the game and their continued involvement in the sport, whether just for the exercise, for the friends they will make, or the competition.

The In-House Soccer program is 100% volunteer run and could not exist without the dedicated work of the volunteers that coach, coordinate, and plan the program. We are very thankful to have such a dedicated group of people that volunteer their time to create positive experiences for our children. We continually work to fill the need for volunteers and I encourage you to look for opportunities to help.

The intent of the survey is to identify the expectations of the community members that participate in the program and to identify where we can work to improve the experiences for the children and families we serve. The time you took to complete the survey is very much appreciated. Of the 425 children that participated this Fall (some families had multiple children participating) we had a response rate of approximately 30%, which, as surveys go, is outstanding. I believe this shows a great dedication to the program from the participating families.

The data gathered from the survey and included here shows the good along with the bad. Each question that was part of the survey is listed and is followed by a chart that shows the results. Comments have also been included where they were received to help comprehend some of the responses.

Overall, I think the program is providing the things that the community is looking for. That's not to say that there is not room for improvement, but I am very pleased with the service our volunteers are providing.

Thanks,

Ken Blomquist

EVAA In-House Soccer Program Director

Survey Questions, Results, and Comments

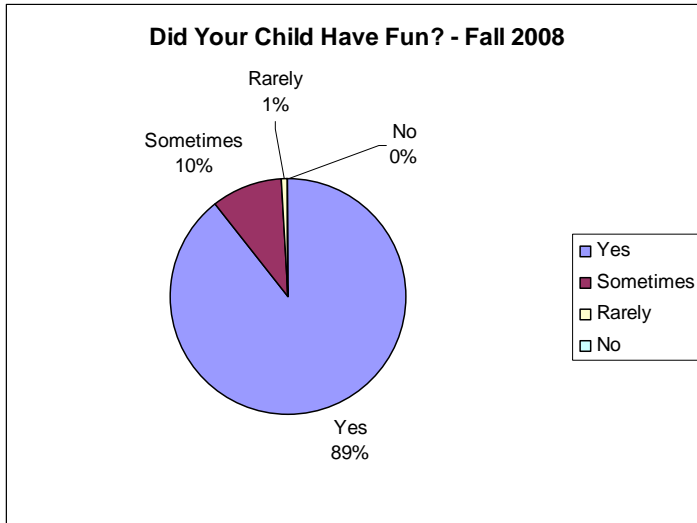
What is the most important thing you want your child to take away from the EVAA In-House Soccer Program?



What is the least important thing you want your child to take away from the EVAA In-House Soccer Program?



Did your child have fun during the season?



Comments about fun:

Kindergarten

She likes more instruction and wanted to learn more so she can keep up with her older brother.

Girls 1-2

Might be uninterested.

Boys 3-4

The coach was a horrible coach!

My son did not enjoy the overzealous parents coaching from the sidelines.

Boys 5-7

Because of how few boys signed up, many games his team had one or no subs. There were times that he was physically exhausted.

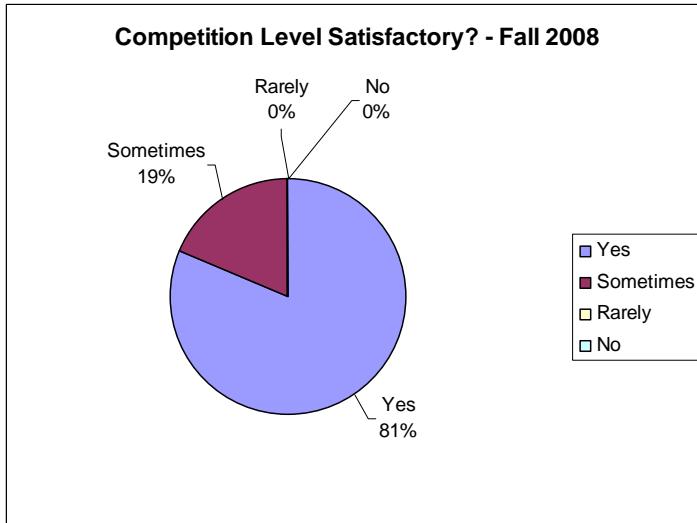
Had some issues with poor sportsmanship.

Girls 5-7

One child was very competitive and swearing at the other players and making them feel bad and cry, several girls did not even want to play.

Big range of skills from 5th to 7th graders and playing against boys created some frustration.

Was the level of competition satisfactory for your child's age group?



Comments about competition:

Kindergarten

I answered yes, but I should comment that we saw a couple of teams that were way too intense (in my opinion) for Kindergarten.

Seemed older kids participated, dominated.

Kindergarteners surprisingly vary in size.

Boys 1-2

Too much of a split between 1st and 2nd graders. Kindergartens would be better off with the 1st graders emotionally, physically, and skill wise. 2nd graders are passing, aggressive, bigger, and more focused. 1st graders seemed to be taken over by 2nd graders.

There were a couple of teams that were allowed to be rough on the playing field. Our coach really kept that in check, but some did not.

Girls 1-2

Sometimes we played against girls that appeared much taller & 2 yrs older and had much more experience - luck of the draw? I liked that our coach switched players only at the quarter breaks or if there was an injury - Josh was very organized! However, it was very disruptive when other coaches were switching girls mid-quarter - those coaches were much more high pressure with their language toward their girls.

Boys 3-4

The team didn't win any games so it was very frustrating for all of the kids.

Overall program was disorganized and coaches were ill prepared to lead the children.

One team did not have enough skilled players so it is always tough when you have to hold your players back a bit so you do not run up the score.

Girls 3-4

We had 90% 3rd graders and seemed to get beat pretty bad by other teams with a lot of 4th graders.

It seemed that with the mix of ages not all teams were even as far as skill level and competition.

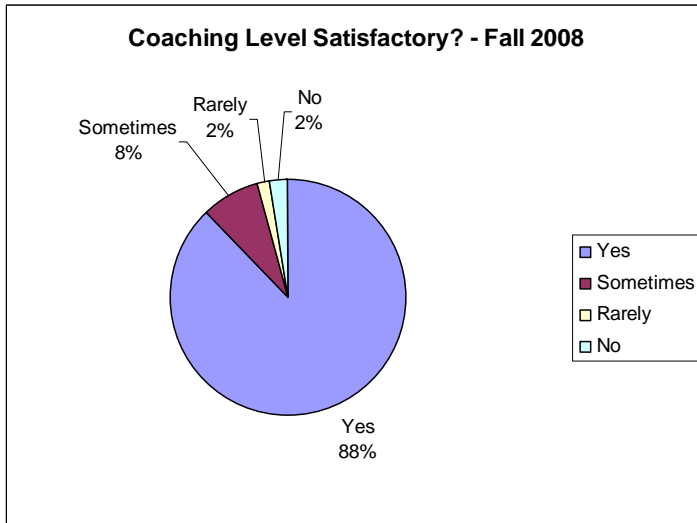
Boys 5-7

The teams were so uneven as far as numbers and age and experience.

Girls 5-7

Playing against the boys was too much for the girls, one child on our team was too competitive and she was making issues for the other kids.

Were you satisfied with the coaching your child received?



Comments:

Kindergarten

Could have made it more fun for kids. One coach was too serious at times. Not much provided in the way of skill development.

Little direction or valuable direction.

Could have worked more on skill development and guide the kids a little more.

Boys 1-2

Head Coach not around.

Girls 1-2

Sometimes he was a bit too serious and controlling.

The coach did not seem to know a lot about soccer. He did not teach many fundamentals such as how/where to place each position, how to defend, or the rules. We as parents seemed to learn much more instead from the opposing coaches in how they were instructing their players during the games.

Next to no instruction.

Our coaches were great with the kids, and we really appreciated their time, I just wish they would use the correct terminology with the kids like defense/offense instead of front/back, just so they can really understand the game.

Boys 3-4

The coach was horrible! He didn't teach them anything!!! I hope that my son never gets him as a coach again. I understand that it is a volunteer position, but he was horrible. The kids didn't learn anything and that showed when they played the games. When they had a practice they didn't learn anything new and they sat around a lot during the practice. It was a very frustrating soccer season!!!!

Coach stressed growth and fun, not winning. Great job!

Seems like the coaches get roped into this and the program suffers.

Boys 5-7

Jeff did a great job of staying positive and encouraging the team. Thanks Jeff!

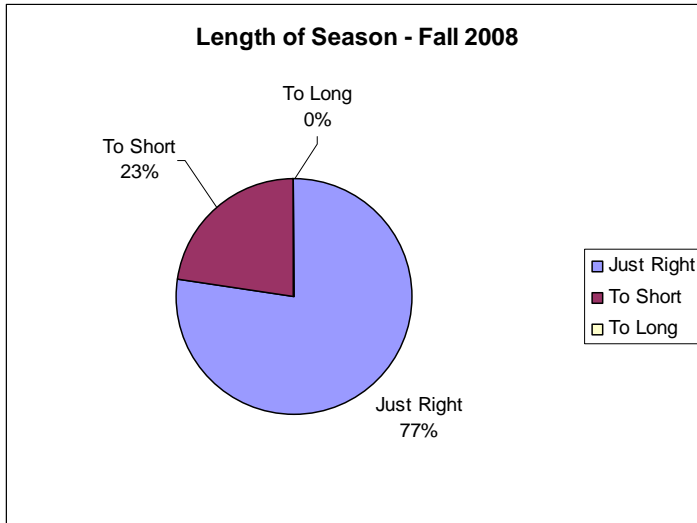
Girls 5-7

Mike was a very good coach!

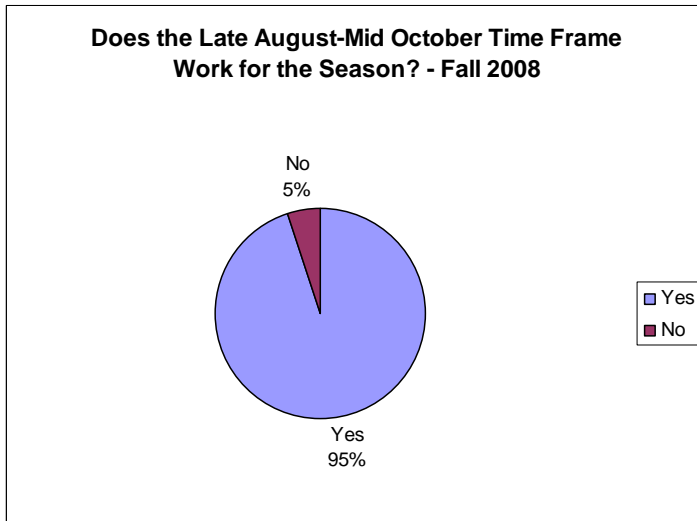
More time could have been spent on game situations versus drills.

Best coach she has had!

Was the season an appropriate length?



Was the time frame of the season (end of August to Middle of October) convenient?



Comments:

Kindergarten

Middle of August to end of September would also work well.

Boys 1-2

- Start a week sooner.
- It overlaps RAAA's soccer, so beginning of Sep to mid or end of Oct would be best.
- Start season earlier in August so it ends by the end of September.
- I probably would not run into MEA week the last games fell at the beginning of MEA week.

Girls 1-2

Allow for make-up games.

Maybe a week or so longer.

If there are rained out games I would prefer there be make-up games - we lost out on 2 games due to rain. Also, we missed the last game due to vacation plans during MEA week. But, extending the season to the end of October would be better in case a few games are rained out.

Boys 3-4

Six weeks at 2 times per week or longer at 1 time per week.

Girls 3-4

Would be nice to start a little earlier and maybe get some additional practice sessions in.

While having fun is our primary objective, so is skill development. I feel it would be beneficial for the kids to have more practice sessions at the beginning of the season (start earlier in August) rather than toward the end of the season.

Boys 5-7

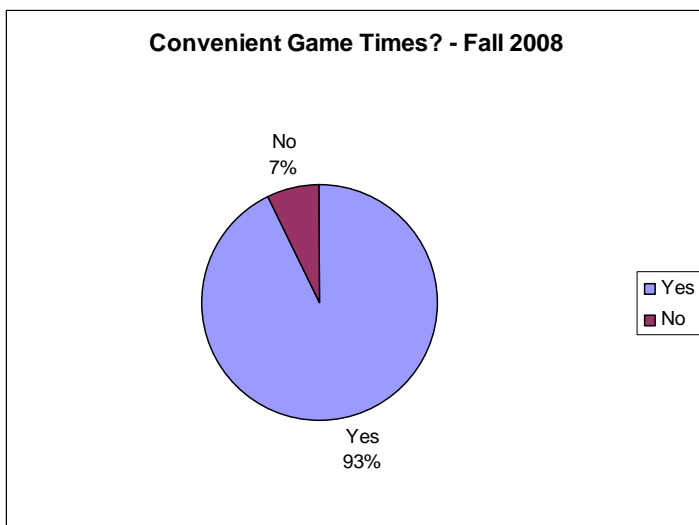
Start earlier so it could be done by the end of Sept.

Could be little longer, but it does begin to impact school sports.

Girls 5-7

Go another 2 weeks.

Are the game times of 6 pm and 7 pm convenient?



Comments:

Kindergarten

11 am for Kindergarten is too late. They are ending to close to lunch. 10 am would be better.
The 6:00 pm start is tough - even starting at 6:15 would be helpful, 6:30 even better.
Need to move up game times as you get later into season as it gets darker.
On week nights, a 6:30 pm start time would be a little more manageable.
Except it starts to get dark before 7 as the season progresses.
5:30 pm would be a better start time.
Earlier on Saturdays and 5:30 would work due to darkness.
Thought the Sat. games could have started as early as 8:30 or 9am.
11am sat is too late.
9am and 10 am would be easier.

Boys 1-2

Allow 15 minutes, before next group (girl's soccer), takes the field on Saturday. On many occasions, it was too rushed and crowded. Did not allow time to talk to parents or kids before next group arrived.
Earlier games on weekends would be better (i.e., 9 am) so whole morning is not lost.
Liked having all the games at one site.

Girls 1-2

Earlier on Saturdays.

600 is okay, 20 is 10, 11 is too late, 900 is better.

I liked it that there was a little warm up/practice before each game. All the coaches should have the same system for rotating the players - mid quarter rotations were quite disruptive for our girls to be standing and waiting and it extended our games beyond noon with those coaches.

Boys 3-4

Conflicts with EVAA football games.

6:15 would be a more convenient start time on weekdays.

Girls 3-4

The girls seem to get the bad time and the boys take priority. I think changing every other year would be less discriminating against girls sport events.

Boys 5-7

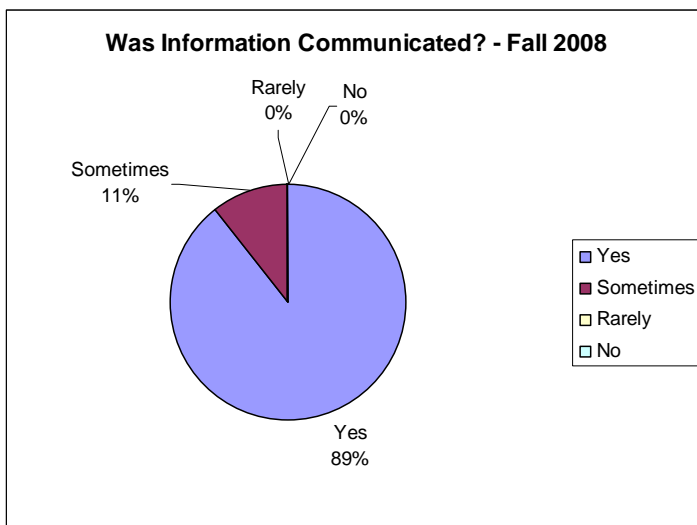
Every Sat our sons both had a game at 10. Could that be rotated so it wasn't a conflict each week?

Girls 5-7

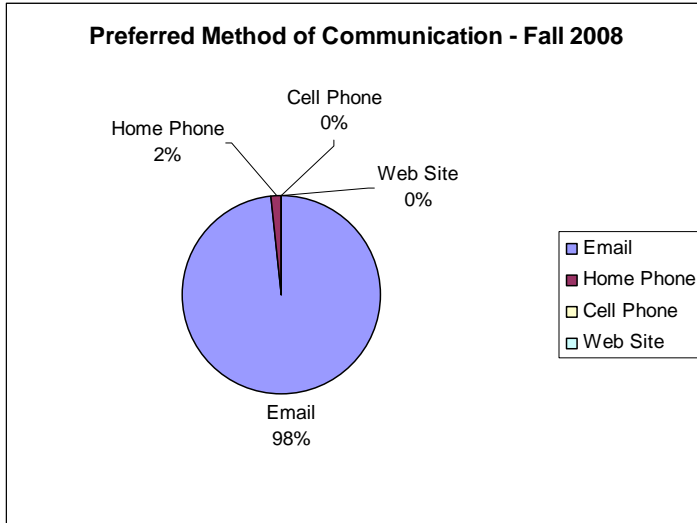
9:00 is a good start time too.

It is hard to get out of work and home and to a 6p game on time. Would love 630p.

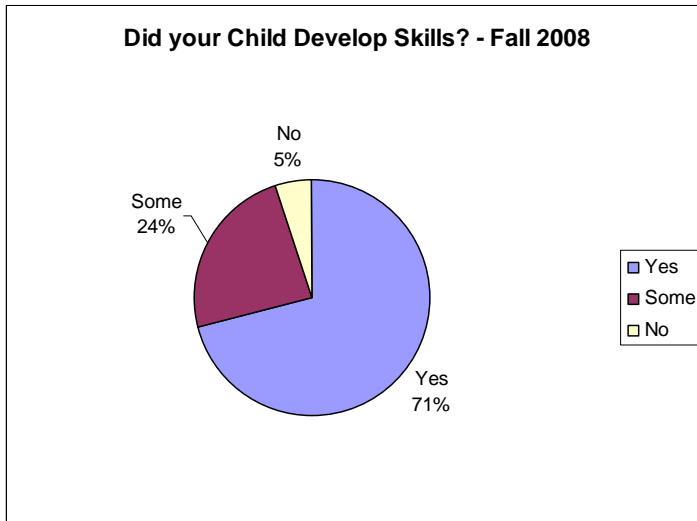
Did the coach, Age Group Coordinator, Web site, and/or Program Director supply you with all of the information you needed for the season?



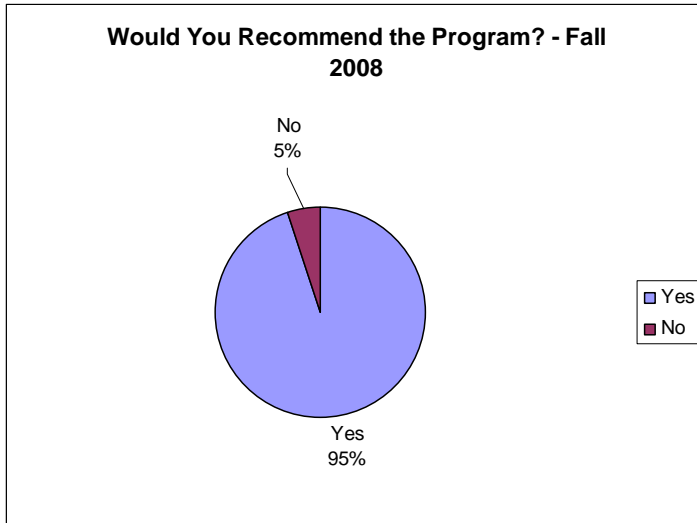
Which method do you prefer to receive communication from EVAA In-House Soccer?



Do you feel your child developed their skills over the season?



Would you recommend the EVAA In-House Soccer Program to friends and neighbors?



Comments:

Kindergarten

Yes/no. I heard that Eagan's program is the same price but with a nicer shirt, water bottle etc. I might check into that.

Girls 1-2

There was no development.

Boys 3-4

I would as long as they didn't have the same coach again.

Disorganized and not a good place to really develop solid soccer skills

Boys 5-7

This was a frustrating season.

Additional Comments:

Kindergarten

Our daughter had a great experience!

This was a great experience for my son. He looked forward to playing and probably had as much fun warming up before games and at the first couple practices as he had at the games. I'd recommend it to anybody.

Overall, very organized, strong communication, and a good season. Thank you for making our first season an enjoyable one!

<p>The only thing I would suggest is to have more practices so the kids can learn more skills before starting games.</p>
<p>Overall the program was great. Only thing I would suggest is placing field numbers at/on the fields. Seems each week field 1 became field 2 and visa-versa depending on the park. No consistency.</p>
<p>Coaches Ron Reimann and Roy Schroeder were just wonderful with the kids, patiently teaching both great skills and good sportsmanship. My twins learned so much over this soccer season thanks to them and they can't wait until they can sign up again.</p>
<p>George Singer (coach) was an excellent coach!!! He was incredibly patient and always had a smile for the kids! He taught them the basic skills and made sure there was a lot of passing/teamwork.</p>
<p>The coaching was great. The atmosphere was fun and non-competitive.</p>
<p>Curious why they don't use goalies in K level? My son took summer soccer at the Y and they had goalies. More kids get to play at a time and they liked to be the goalie.</p>
<p>I think there were too many practices as there were rarely all 7 kids at each practice. Also, kids at this age really just wanted to play and their attention span for a whole hour of practice wasn't there. I would suggest making a scrimmage out of the 2nd half of the practice weeks something that is encouraged. Thanks.</p>
<p>Though my son is just in Kindergarten, I do wish they would explain more about the basics of soccer...such as there is a goalie. The coach explained that at this age, they want all the kids to run and not just stand around the goal. Our team figured out how to play defense so there were very few goals against us. However, we scored a lot and while my son was ecstatic to score 6+ goals per game (he scored 12 in one), I don't want him to think it's really that easy. A goalie would be helpful since that is a key position. And while there is no official score kept, these kids still keep score at this young age.</p>
<p>My son had a great time! He is already counting the days to the spring season. Dexter Ellingson was a great coach! He always had a positive/encouraging comment for each child and rotated the kids so everyone had an opportunity to play all positions. Thank you!</p>
<p>Our coach was incredible. He did a really great job and my son loved the whole program. Thanks for a great season!</p>
<p>We had a couple of kids in our group that were really out of control. They did not listen to the coach and really disrupted play. Those kids got other kids involved in this activity and it tended to get a lot worse as the season progressed. I think the coach did as good of job with this as he could. The parents needed to rein their kids in on this team as it was painful to watch and disrupted the play for all the other kids including the kids on the opposite teams. (examples: climbing on nets, kicking the ball out of bounds every time they had a chance, leaving the field of play for no apparent reason, not listening to instruction, kicking the ball as the coach is trying to set up goal kicks)</p>
<p>The coaches did a great job! My son loved playing soccer this year! He learned a lot from this season.</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to have our son in his first competitive sport without the pressure of winning and emphasis on performance. He had a wonderful time and met new friends. It was a wonderful experience for our family! We'll definitely be going through EVAA again!</p>
<p>I was so impressed with our wonderful coaches. My son loved playing soccer! Thank you!</p>

It was nice to have only six players on a team, b/c the kids got playing time. However, when there were kids missing, it was hard for the kids to have to run most if not all of the game. Think it might be better to go back to 8 players on a team

Great experience, no goalies seemed appropriate for kindergarten - more scoring for kids.

It seems there were more games than practices. While I understand the kids do learn during the games, I wish there would have been several more practices before all of the games. The break between the first practice and Labor Day Weekend could have been the reason that there weren't more practices. It seemed there were only two or three practices before the games started. Perhaps 1 or 2 more practices could have been beneficial in giving the kids an opportunity to better learn passing and dribbling before they were playing against other teams.

Our daughter had a great introduction to soccer. The times for the games worked out very well for our family. We look forward to signing up again next year.

Boys 1-2

I would like to add a few more practice sessions to the schedule.

Great program. Very organized with just the right amount of skill development. Excellent! Keep up the good work. :)

Ken, number one, I think you did an excellent job. Any comments are just for making things better. 1) At training clinics, teach coaches HOW to sub players during the game. Teach coaches method to rotate players where it is fair, and can be done during the course of the game. We were told in training NOT TO stop the game, but we were not taught a system to be used instead. 2) Allow 15 minute change over time, before next group arrives on Saturday. When Girls soccer arrived, it did not allow time to talk to parents, talk to kids after the game. My wife and I feel like we never got to know the other parents. 3) For me personally, a struggle was that I attended the clinics, but the co-coach was not able to. I thought many of the ideas from the clinic were good ideas, but the co-coach was not aware of any of it. Maybe you could send a summary email of the training, to give coaches a better chance of being on the same page. Otherwise, it was a great experience. I would easily recommend this program to other parents/youth. THANK YOU KEN!

The only comment I have is that the Coach or somebody should make sure the parents are aware when other parents will be out. There were two - three dates that the kids did not have snacks. We should coordinate so that that doesn't happen.

Great idea about subs email...make them on the fly during throw-ins so as to not delay game. 3 practices to start and 1 3/4ths in. The last quarter should be played with whatever time you have remaining in the hour, regardless if it is longer then 10 minutes. By the time the game starts, it is ok for the kids to run longer than 4 10 minute quarters if time permits. Great job by the Program Director!

Wish they could do a better job of cutting the grass (not just around the lines), filling in the holes, and somehow keeping the geese droppings off the field - that was disgusting! Be great if they got socks to go with their uniforms. More emphasis for parents to supply a ball.

Please share results.

I would like to see practices only in the first few weeks of the program and during that time provide coaches with ideas for drills. Then once they start with games they wouldn't be interrupted with practices. Once they get in a game mode it's hard to go back to practice. Also, it would be fun to have tournament play for these kids at the end of their season.

My one thought is that the boys might have benefited from more skill building activities--maybe even talking with them about the overall concept of what the purpose of the different positions are so that they could play the positions more and not just all run after the ball. I also appreciated the coach's patience with our son during his meltdowns.

I disagree with the association's protocol of having parents supply a snack at half time and another snack with drink afterwards. The kids are not working hard enough to have to eat at half time, nor do they have enough time to eat much at half time. There is way too many calories provided for the little amount of energy expended. I am o.k. with one snack at the end but why do the parents have to provide a drink, usually a sugary drink afterward? I would like to see a healthy approach. I realize the association recommended fresh fruit at half time. I only saw that happen once, otherwise it was a wide variety of snack foods.

The coach for our son's team was fantastic! He did such a great job of encouraging the boys as he taught them new skills. He was kind and always had a smile on his face. We also appreciated how he encouraged teamwork and always modeled good sportsmanship. This was Kenton's FIRST experience on a sports team. He grew so much and most of the credit should go to his coach! Thank you, Coach Stojmenovic!

Girls 1-2

It would be nice if team jerseys/shirts were available at the first practice of each season. We, as parents, pay and register for the season two months in advance which should be plenty of time to get the shirts ordered. The seasons are short as it is and the kids would like to wear their shirts for as many games and practices as possible!

Great program! Thanks to all involved for giving their time and talents!

The level of skill required of her was less than she already knew. She became confused sometimes because things that she had already been taught were not required of her teammates. She felt like she was being penalized for doing what she already knew how to do.

I enjoyed the season. However, it was evident that there were one or two teams that dominated the other teams. I know they try to evenly match people up, as well as honor requests, but when you have one team of mostly 1st graders and one mostly second graders, it is evident who is going to dominate. And when one team is obliterating every team they play, something needs to be done. It is not fun for the other team's players, coaches, not parents to have to experience something like that at this level and age.

Bill Laak has been a great coach. My daughter loves him. He is positive, fun and fair. He does a great job of rotating the girls on the field.

Bill Laak was an excellent coach for the girls--thanks!

I appreciated all the time and positive coaching from Josh. He was an excellent coach! the phone calls from Josh when the games were rained out

Most of the parents I talked to really do not like having to bring 2 snacks. One for mid-game and one for the end of the game. We think our kids are over-snacked already and one snack at the end of the game, or no snack, is fine with most parents. Otherwise this is a GREAT program, and we really appreciate you having your schedule posted on-line so quickly, it really helps the parents!!

Boys 3-4

<p>I just would like you to know that the coach that my son had was a horrible coach. My son will play soccer again, but I don't want him to have that coach again! My son learned nothing that he didn't already know. He was teaching the stuff that the other teams learned. The other teams where a lot better than our team. It was really frustrating for my son and me! My son new more about soccer than the other kids so it was really hard for him. The teams were not equally assigned!! Maybe you should look at the child's skill level before putting them on a team like they do in other sports to make the teams more fare.</p>
<p>My son really enjoyed the modified season last spring. There were not enough boys to make all the teams so the kids just rotated each week and had fun playing soccer. We would love to see this kind of non-competitive soccer program become the rule rather than the exception.</p>
<p>We are not impressed with the EVAA In-house program for Soccer. The coaches do the best they can but they are usually wrangled into the role and are not prepared to do what it takes to really develop the boys as soccer players. We will be looking for a more solid soccer program for our son next year.</p>
<p>I think the concept of handing out trophies is a great idea for the kids, but I think they are at an age where trophies shouldn't be given out just for participation. To me, a trophy should be given out for team placement of 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd -- depending on how many teams compete. My son has so many trophies that I don't think that they really mean anything to him. Also, I would recommend eliminating the treat list. Parents should be responsible for their own children when it comes to nutrition and drinks, etc. For some families, it's another added cost. Just a thought . . .</p>
<p>It was great to have the referees for 3rd grade. The younger referees shouldn't hesitate to blow their whistles loud enough so the players can hear! Our coaches were fantastic! They did a great job teaching the kids additional skills, giving positive feedback and encouraging team work. Thanks to Francine and Rick for all their time and effort!</p>
<p>Great job Ken!</p>

Girls 3-4

<p>We had a great season, but it seemed to be over too quickly. We did not get a lot of opportunities to practice between games. It would be useful to have practice and scrimmage games where coaches are on the fields with refs.</p>
<p>I think it seems the girls get put on the back burner when it comes to times for soccer. The 11 am start on Saturdays can become be interruptive of family or Saturday plans as being done by 11 would seem to be more fair to all. How about letting the girls start at 10 next season and the boys at 11. Spread the times around to make it fair to everyone and not look like boy's sports take precedence over the girls? Thanks.</p>
<p>The coach for the pink team (Greg) was one of the best I have seen with kids. His focus was about fun and having fun. When we played for the championship the opposing coach became a rules lawyer and only played key people in positions to help the team win. Our coach rotated everyone through every position - win or lose and kept focus that these were kids having fun. The class he showed and the emphasis on fun made this an awesome season, enough to strongly recommend it to others.</p>
<p>Our girls 3rd/4th team Red Infernos had a great time this season. Our coaches were Jeff Lobl and Brent. The two of them are an absolutely huge asset to your program. They were excellent coaches, knowledgeable about the sport and they provided very supportive and positive influences for the team. They gave these girls gifts that they will carry on into their lifetimes. If you gave coach of the year awards it should belong to these two men. Thanks for a great season!</p>

Boys 5-7

First and foremost the teams should be even. There should be the same number of players on ALL the teams. Most every game, our son's team had one or no subs. Most of the other teams were able to sub 3-5 "fresh legs" throughout the whole game. There should also be an even distribution of age and experience. It looked as though one team was quite "loaded" with all the good players. One Sat, his team was required to play a make- up game at 9:00 and turn around and play the regular scheduled game at 10:00. There were no subs that day for his team. That was almost physically abusive to those boys. The make-up game should have been on a different night or they should have just played the second half because they had already played the first half before the game was rained out.

Thank you, this was our first experience with EVAA and we were very happy with it.

Girls 5-7

Ken, thanks for all your hard work in making the EVAA Soccer program successful. I know you put in a lot of hours volunteering.

Mike Traub did an excellent job coaching

Thanks for an exciting season!

I thought Mike did an awesome job coaching the girls. He was very proactive and established himself as a good role model. Thank you for a great season!

I want to start with saying we had an excellent coach and he really taught and worked with the girls. He was so good with my child. The parents of our team were some of the nicest I've met. And I really like the EVAA program. I have to many commitments with Dakota Rev this coming spring/summer season to be of help with any other programs or EVAA would be a choice. Now for the not so good stuff - I think it's wrong for parents of the opposing team to stand around and talk about players and make comments to their kids about players on the opposing team. My daughter has played soccer for 8 years and a good player. She's had clinics, good exposure, played on school A team, etc. She knows how to use her upper body appropriately and soccer is a rough sport. I realize some of the girls in fall are not as skilled, but when you have a player that is - don't criticize them. The referee was right there most all the time and if she had done something wrong they would call it. There were parents at two different games that criticized my daughter through most of the game and she wasn't really doing anything wrong.

Coach Stan rocked. My daughter had fun most of the time.

Our coaches were so great with the girls, pushing them to develop and still always being supportive and kind. Lydia had not done this for many years and thoroughly enjoyed her season. Thank you soooooo much!

Our coach was great, the competition great and it was a really fun season. My son plays 1-2 group (red team) but this survey allowed for only one team response. All my answers go for the 1-2 group too. Just great. Thanks for all you do.

Thanks for a great season!

Thanks for a great fall soccer season!

Grades 5-7 Special Section:

This Fall we tried a new approach to solve an issue with low numbers of boys signing up for soccer. Here are some of the comments made by parents of children in the 5-7 level when asked "If your child participated in the grades 5-7 combined games, can you please give some thoughts about how it went and what you might want to see changed given the same circumstance?"

I don't think boys should be playing against girls. To rough, not what I paid for.
Fine. I thought the games were fun.
I did not like playing against the boys teams - while they were close skill-level wise, I thought the boys were much more competitive and made comments on the field that were not appropriate.
I feel if there are not enough boys' teams for them to play and they combine the games again, the teams should be co-ed. The boys need to be divided equally among all teams. That gives all teams a more fair advantage. And it teaches the kids that they can play together, even at this level.
I think that it went well to begin with. It would be better to make the teams co-ed as at the end it got cut throat.
I think the girls really enjoyed playing the boys!
I thought it was good to have the girls play against the boys, but most of the girls didn't like it (different/more aggressive style).
I thought it went great!
I thought it worked very well.
I thought the girls played even more aggressive when we played the boy's teams. I'm not sure if a co-ed format would work better? Some boy's might not want to be on a team made up of mostly girls?
I was a little worried about my daughter competing against boys, but the season turned out ok. In the future, I'd like to see the teams mixed up with boys and girls on each if this situation ever happens again. Thank you.
If the boys and girls can play against each other, then they can also play with each other. Make the teams coed so that it is more fair. Boys do not have any physical advantages on the girls at this age. This is a great age to try coed teams.
Increased competitive level of the girls. They enjoyed it!
It was fine but the boy's team was too small. They had no substitutes... too small.
It went great!
It went well.
Mix teams to allow more fairness in numbers.
Overall I think it went fine, although there is a huge size and skill difference between 5th and 7th graders.

The girls seemed to get more competitive when they played the boys teams. The boys were swearing and my daughter did not like that and thought something should be done about that.