

EVAA In-House Soccer Spring 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 350 children that participated this Spring (some families had multiple children participating) we had a response rate of a little over 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.

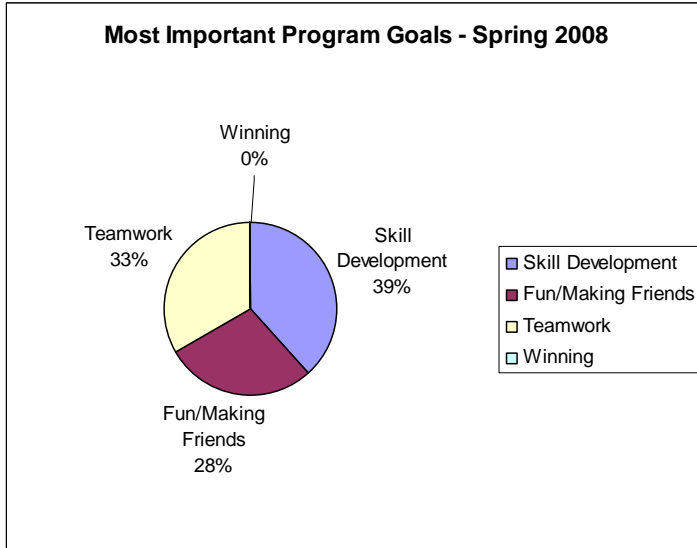
Thanks,

Ken Blomquist

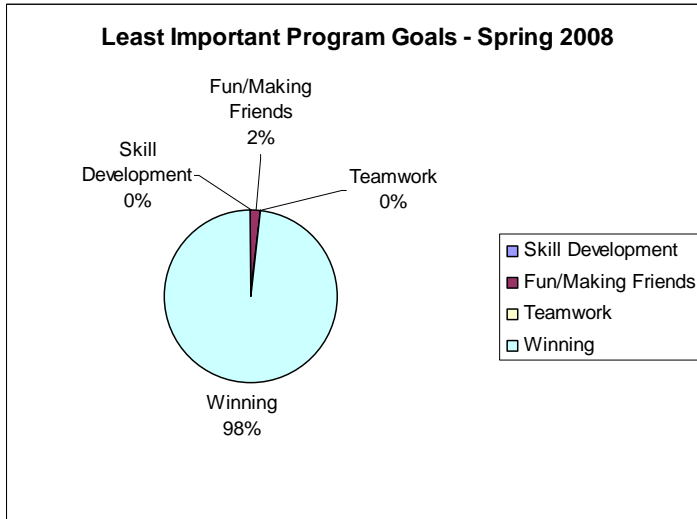
EVAA In-House Soccer Program Director

Survey Questions, Results, and Comments

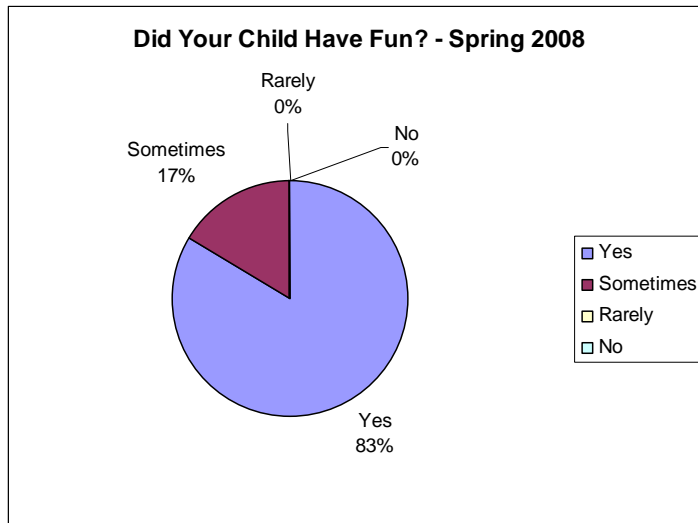
What is the most important thing you want your child to take away from the EVAA In-House Soccer Program?



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:

Kindergarten

Some of the players hogged the ball-- not willing to play as a team

She wanted the team to score more than once..... in the last game.

I thought she would of have said yes but she said she wishes she could have played better. She looked like she enjoyed soccer but I guess she wants to have better skills. So she does want to play more!

Boys 1-2

Teams were not balanced making it frustrating for the kids

My son observed his coach being yelled at by another coach

Girls 1-2

Coach was a yeller - and he was very hard on his child in particular

Girls 3-4

Other teams had girls who spoke harshly with putdowns to their opponents in almost every game.

My daughter is not the best player on the team and it hard when other girls on the team would exclude her because of this.

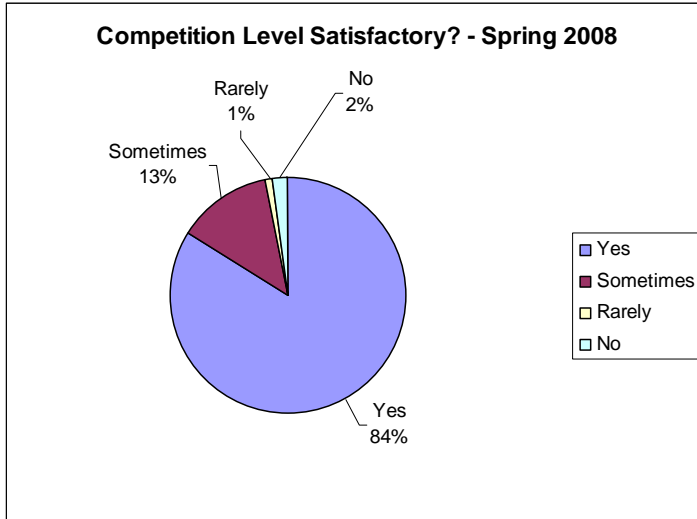
Boys 5-7

It was his best season ever!

Girls 5-7

Sometimes the coach was about winning and taking a player out of the game when they were maybe not doing there best and replacing them with another player who he felt was maybe better (daughter) and not explaining to the player who he took out what they maybe could have done a little better.
I have discovered over the past 5 years a varied need for girls playing soccer. We moved from another community. EVAA has had great coaches...at least the coaches we had direct contact with. Weather in Minnesota is just too unpredictable in April. The girls in middle school who have band during the year keep running into conflicts with their concerts and game night.. Once the season ended in early June...quite frankly they need summer activities that give them exercise and things to do. Last year our team was too lean to begin with...this did not allow for concerts, vacations and illness. Of course it certainly does not help when players never show up. This year was better. There were 2 \"extra\" players. This allowed us to work with reasonable breaks during the game and occasional absences.
Wish the season started later and lasted through June
She would like to learn a little more. She thinks that the coaches should try to teach you things you may not know so you can improve your skills and become a better soccer player.
Not enough contact with the ball
She made a lot of new friends

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



Comments:

Boys 1-2

Teams were not balanced
The teams were clearly not equally established
One team was too competitive and coaches were demeaning to the other coaches and kids
We had a lot of players that never played soccer. I felt my son was not challenged with his team.

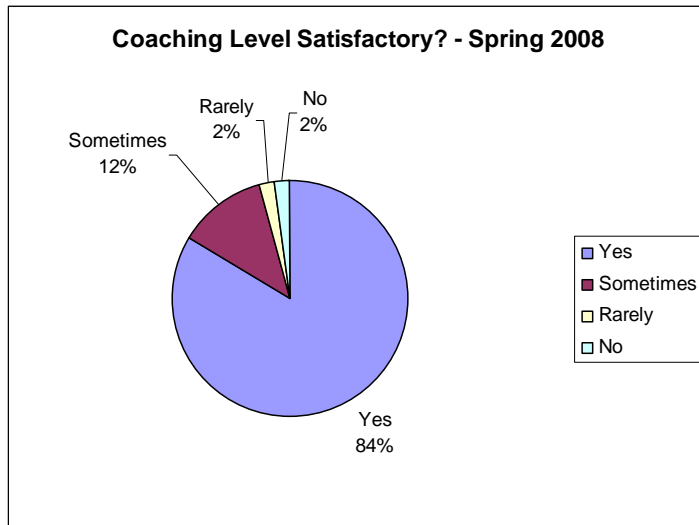
Boys 3-4

More beginners than expected

Girls 5-7

Sometimes parents were a bit riled up
 Just the fact that 7th graders are getting more serious than some of 5th graders, but fine overall.
 There were some bigger kids that would dominate the field at times
 It's hard for a 7th grader, to be on the same level as a 5th grader. Even though it may seem like no big difference, it can be.

Were you satisfied with the coaching your child received?



Comments:

Kindergarten

Inexperienced, but loving
 Other teams always asked to scrimmage on practice nights, so the children really did not get time to practice basic skills. I can understand a 5-10 minute scrimmage, but not most of the hour of "practice."

Boys 1-2

Coaches for the Red team were perhaps the best we've had to-date

Girls 1-2

The coach yelled at other children when they were not on the ball.
 The coach was great with the kids and technique, however very unorganized when it came to game day. Instead of having a line up, she would have the girls play rock, paper scissors to see who stayed in or who sat out.
 I think the coach was a little hard at times...

Boys 3-4

I am expecting that there are more skill drill and development. But, the whole season just practically playing games

The coach was great, but the team was too big

Girls 3-4

It seemed like there should have been more emphasis on strategy and playing positions.

Boys 5-7

The coach was the best we ever had!

Girls 5-7

It seemed like he played favorites, which was kind of disappointing.

He did show favoritism

WONDERFUL COACH

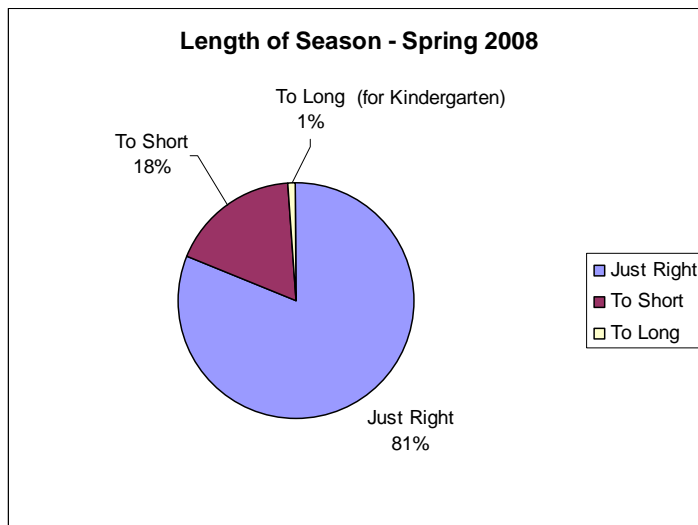
He did show favoritism

Great coach. Fair, encouraging and knowledgeable.

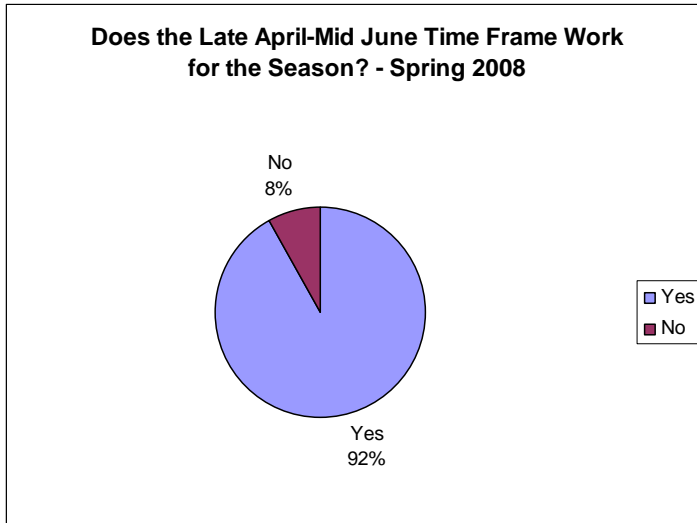
Not enough on skills, too much "everything is good" no correcting of skills

The coach only substituted players during the games, but didn't work on drills or skill development.

Was the season an appropriate length?



Was the time frame of the season (end of April to Middle of June) convenient?



Comments:

Kindergarten

It is so hard to say how to extend it but, maybe 1 week earlier in April and 1 week longer in June?
Early May to end June
The season was probably a week too long for the kindergarten kids.
The first couple of weeks were a little cold . . . could be the year, though.
Seemed to have a lot of kids missing due to conflicts with baseball
It was tough having games T-Th. It would have been nice if the days were spread out a bit more.
May thru July

Girls 1-2

I think you could add 2 weeks at the end to take you to the end of June but before July 4th
I would like to see the season go another 2 weeks/4 games

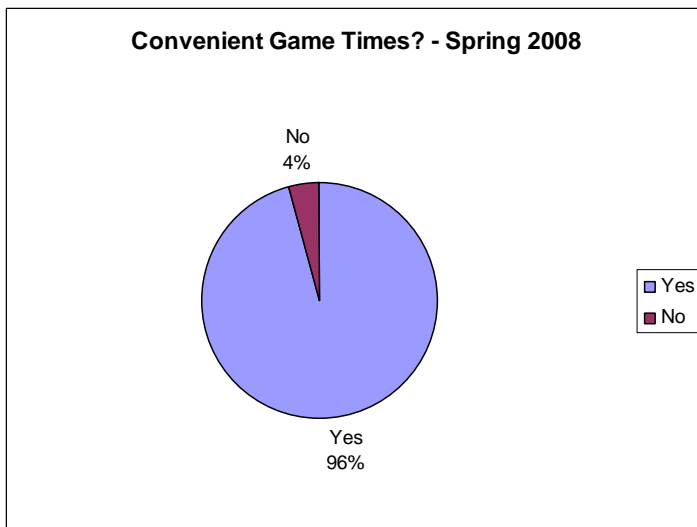
Girls 3-4

Maybe lengthen 1 or 2 weeks
Start a little later. Runs into the end of other events/programs/picnics
Mid-May-July might work better for the weather
If it went a little longer it would be okay.

Girls 5-7

Knowing July 4th always is a benchmark for the summer I suppose a longer practice schedule if the season starts in April. And having a few more games through June
Just more time to play. I know scheduling and costs get tough.
More practices! They do not have enough opportunity to work on any skills. In house basketball they practice once during the week and then a game once a week.
Maybe make it a little longer?
Need more practice time. They just start working together as a team when the session ends.

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



Comments:

Kindergarten

5 would be nice, but I do not work
615 seems to work a little better for us... slightly less harried at dinner.
The 6pm games worked best for the K's. 7 pm was a bit late.
Would it be possible to start at 6:30 -- late enough to eat dinner first but not so late as to interfere with my child's sleep schedule

Boys 1-2

6pm preferred when school still in session
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Girls 1-2

5:00 or 5:30 would also work
It would be nice if all the games could be at the same time like they are in the fall since we don't use all the fields and have the space.

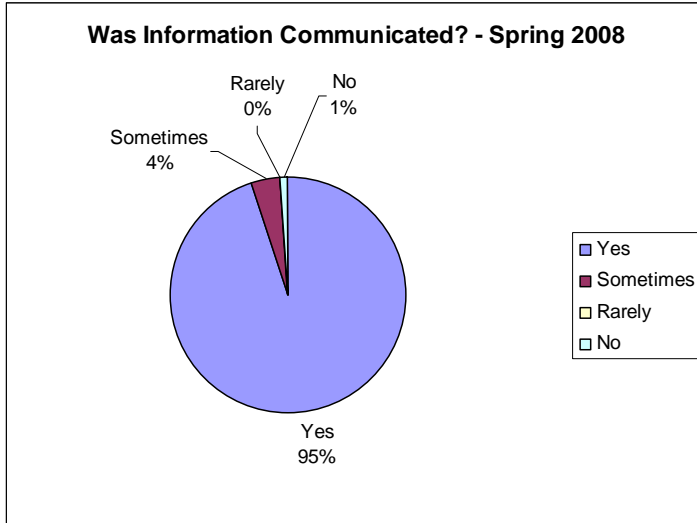
Girls 3-4

6:30 games would make it WAY easier to get home from work, feed the kids, then make it to the game
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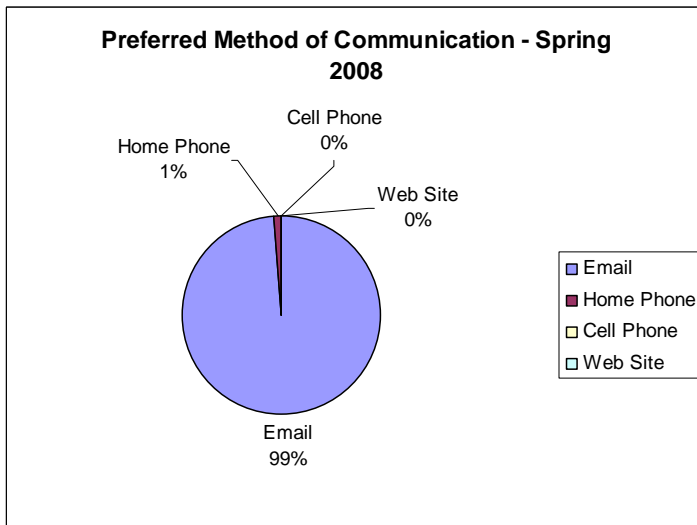
Girls 5-7

6pm was a little tough to make once in a while for those parents who do work til 5:30pm
 6:30 and 7:30 would be better once it is light enough

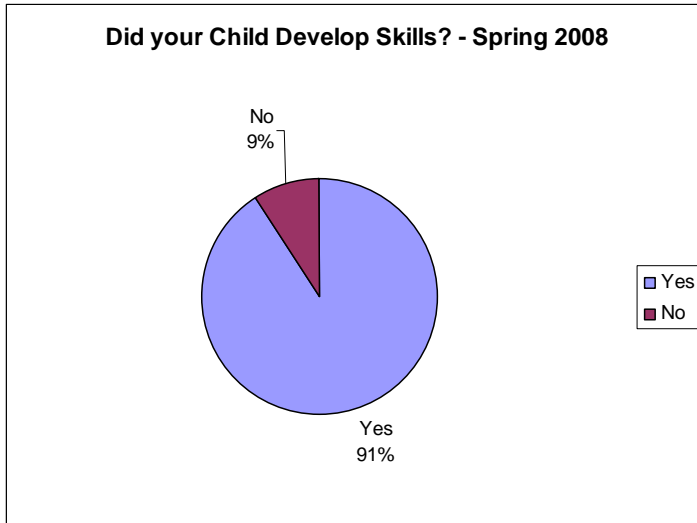
Did the coach, Age Group Coordinator, Web site, and/or Program Director supply you with all of the information you needed for the season?



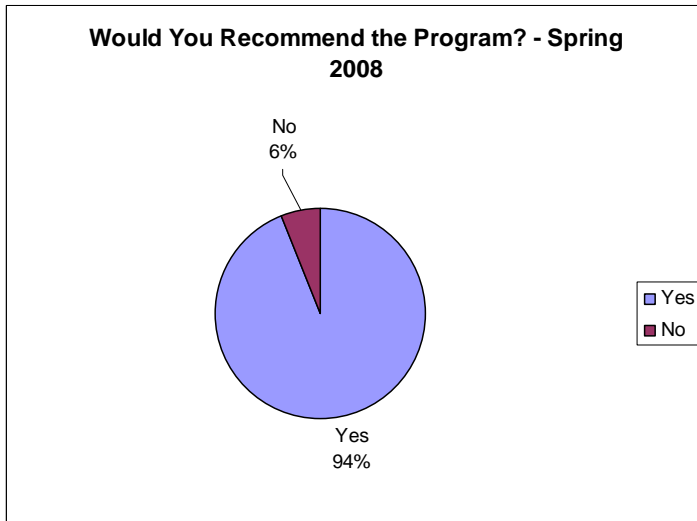
Which method do you prefer to receive communication from EVAA In-House Soccer?



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:

Boys 1-2

I think it is more about winning than teaching a child how to play and enjoy soccer.
In other years I would have recommended the program but not after this past year

Boys 3-4

If the purpose is for having fun, getting friends, yes. But for skill development, no.

Girls 3-4

I HATE not being able to pick which days we want to play. I have no idea when we will be playing, and more often than not, it interferes with other activities to which we've previously committed.

Girls 5-7

I'd have to say maybe, but it would just depend on their child's ability. If their child has talent in soccer, then no. But if they are just beginning, then probably.

Additional Comments:

Kindergarten

Thanks for a fun season!

We didn't win a game but the kids all had fun and learned to work together. Our coach was very supportive and fun to work with. Overall great experience for our daughter.

This was a great program! Very well run, well coached - perfect for my 5 year old. Thank you for asking!!

I could no have been more pleased with our soccer coach. She worked well with the children and got them to play and listen and have fun at the same time!!

Corie Tarara, was also her coach in the fall and she was absolutely wonderful. I told her that she is a big reason why Lauren loves soccer so much. She did a terrific job.

For the Spring soccer teams should have at least 9 kids per team as there are a lot of conflicts with older sibling's baseball, etc. (versus in the Fall) and our team rarely had more than one or two subs, which was very hard for the kids to not get tired (and thus not have as much fun).

My son's coach was very positive and patient.

Boys 1-2

This was a very disappointing season of EVAA soccer. Never before in over 10 years of coaching soccer have I had such a miserable experience. Some of the other coaches were down right nasty and rude. I have never run into a group of people that didn't know the meaning of sportsmanship. The teams were so imbalanced that the kids on our team got to the point that they didn't want to play. We had several kids on our team that had never played before and for those who had played it was a long and frustrating season for the. Needless to say we will not be back in the fall.

It was a tough first part of the season with the rainy days and/or cold weather. I think as the season went on it was nice having the coaches on the field encouraging and showing the players the different positions. Winning is always important but learning the skills was more important. Thank you.

For the second season in a row (2 good first grade players) have been placed on teams with only 2 second graders. By far the least of any other team. We lost every game this season & only won 1 last season. I have coached these two since they started playing and this latest team put me over the top. We had a couple that had never played before (unlike the other teams) and many behavioral issues. I ask this season that we are placed on a team with far more second graders than first graders or I we will have to decide if we can continue in this league. A few other parents that I have coached for have stated the same since it is very discouraging for our boys. Please sincerely consider this feedback. Thank you.

Some coaches were very disrespectful to our coaches and were too hard on the kids. I thought the in-house league was for the development of the children and what I saw was highly competitive and the coaches were loud and demeaning to not only the players but also to the coaches. I am not sure my son will be playing again next year as we were looking for a recreational league and not a professional league.

One thing I noticed is there were differences in coaching styles at this age (1st-2nd Grade). Some were drill oriented and competitive while others were more having fun, learn to love sport, while still building skills approach. I was a coach - granted a new coach so I don't have a lot of experience - but I thought the coach's clinic was awesome. I took the latter approach based on things I had learned from the clinic. At times it was a little discouraging when other teams continued to win and show stronger skill sets. But at the end of the season, almost every one of the kids (and parents) on the team commented home much they enjoyed the season. So I must have done something right. In any case, I think it might be helpful to have a coach's meeting at the beginning of the season and/or a suggested list of activities for practices as a guideline for coaches.

Our coach was fantastic! Our coach did a great job of encouraging good skill, and good sportsmanship. Our coach was great, and so were some of the others. However there was one coach on another team who was a little too serious (yelling at the kids constantly throughout each game, yelling names, positions and insults throughout each play to the point of intimidation, to those on his team and the other team. He was constantly on the field and sometimes in the way of the opposing team). Overall the season was a lot of fun! Thank you!

Girls 1-2

It was our first time in soccer. My daughter can't wait to start the fall season.

Bill Laak did a super job with the girls--he was so positive and encouraging. They all learned many things and had a successful season. We appreciate Bill's volunteer effort very much!

We have been involved in 4 seasons and by far this was the most organized, thought out and communicated season which we totally appreciate!! Thanks for taking this on and making communication with the parents a priority...it did not go unnoticed!

Boys 3-4

It was unfortunate that there weren't more coaches and more players so that the boys could be on "real" teams that would have enabled better individual coaching. Our son enjoyed this league, and I would recommend it, but only to those who just want to play for fun - probably not for those wanting a more serious, competitive environment.

Girls 3-4

The kids need to complete a similar form to the adults stating how they will treat each other etc. Even though I consider this a parenting issue, I would recommend something like this at the start of every season that the parents/coaches could sit in on with the kids. The refs need to be on board with this too.

I know that most people would say that "winning" is not important in these games. However, I believe that we also need to teach our kids how to be "winners." So all of the aspects of play are important; skills, friends, teamwork, winning and sportsmanship.

My daughter had a very good spring soccer season this year. She had a lot of fun and I credit the coaches with that entirely. Her coaches were Jerry Hanson and Roy Schroeder. She said the coaches were so nice and she had so much more fun this year than she did last fall. Last fall her coaches were NOT good nor were they fair with play time.

I feel like the league is well run and provides an excellent chance for the kids to get some exercise, have some fun, meet some new friends and develop a few soccer skills. It's the perfect way to expose kids to the game.

Mark Hall is a wonderful coach. He and his wife did an awesome job. They treated all of the kids equally and gave them equal playtime and opportunity.

Boys 5-7

Thanks to the coaches and coordinator for all they do. This sport is important to my son and you make it possible. We appreciate it. Thanks also for the extra effort to bring in teams for scrimmages and for keeping this league sportsmanlike (both players and parents). Our experience with EVAA in-house soccer has been so positive!

Great job by all. Very appreciative of all coaches and EVAA. My son had a good time and enjoyed the kids and the season and learned.

It was a great season.

Paul Chellsen was the best and most positive coach we ever had. In our many years of soccer, it was the most positive year. He truly built up every boy, and they had fun. The coach made the experience. My son is just starting middle school next fall and that can be a scary time. Paul built him up and he met boys that currently go to his school or will be joining him in the fall, and that was a big bonus. Thanks!

Great season, I had as much fun as I have had in coaching. I would like to see how we can expand the in-house at this age to include a few more teams from somewhere. Thanks for all of your efforts to make everything work so smooth!

Girls 5-7

Thanks to all the volunteers--the teams were all very equal in skills this year, which made for many competitive and entertaining games. Great job!

The only suggestion I have is education on hand balls. My daughter got called on 2 of them this season. One resulted in a goal for the other team. BOTH of them she said would have been acceptable in her JV league (MAC league). My other daughter who played varsity in the same league said that the one she saw would have been fine. Both were arms in front of chest to protect not knock down or control. There seems to be differences in how they are called across leagues (there shouldn't be, but there appears to be). Education at the beginning of the season and understanding on how the refs will call it in this league would help with consistency and avoid some confusion with the kids. Otherwise, we had a great season! Really enjoyed Roger as a coach!

We liked the way our coaches used weekly e-mail updates to the parents to keep in touch about the schedule.

It was a great season!

We have been in this program for two years and all of our games are at the same field. Ridgecliff is a very difficult walk and we have elderly family and handicapped family that would have like to come to a game and that is not possible at that field. It would be nice to see them be able to play at some of the better fields. My daughter is not aggressive and therefore her participation level is not equal to some of the other girls. I would like to see a program to help with that type of player to keep her interested. She has friends that are at that same level that have expressed that same type of concern. Thank you for the volunteering time for everyone involved.

We were very happy with the program. This was our first time and my girls want to be enrolled during fall as well.

Thank you! This was a wonderful idea.

My daughter thinks her coach is the greatest coach in the world!! We do too. He is very patient with these tweens and teens AND teaches them great skills!! We tried traveling last Fall and came back to in-house for the great coaching, organized program and convenience :)

I think this is a well run program. It is affordable and it keeps students active. It is nice to see them all out and having fun. I think we need to do something to reward the refs - they are young and they work hard - and they get treated like they are adults by the adults. They sometimes are in a no-win situation and that is difficult to learn at that age.

The only thing I didn't like about the season schedule is that it runs one week past the date when school is out. We missed the playoffs due to a family vacation. We had a great season. Our daughter had lots of fun and met new friends.

I recommend more practice time to develop skills. The girls on the team just begin their bond together just as it all starts to end. Not extend the months but maybe add a few extra days together or 1hr practice days to 1.5 or 2hrs together.