



*Parent Letter for Pre and Junior Academy*

Parents,

Thank you for participating in this spring's Jackson Little Kickers' Instructional Program and the Jr Academy Soccer Program. The rosters and schedules are posted on line at [www.jacksonselect.org](http://www.jacksonselect.org) . Please read the information in this letter so you are prepared and know what to expect from the program. If you have siblings that were accidentally separated, please let me know and we will correct that.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Our main objective is to have fun, free from injuries. The program runs more like a clinic. The games are fun, not competitive. We will not keep track of scores or team records. We ask you and the players to celebrate goals, but in a sportsmanlike manner. Horseplay will not be tolerated, especially hanging on the goals/ nets. Please assist the coaches and require your child act in an appropriate manner. For the Little Kickers Program, the coaches will run through a footskills session during the first half of the session. The second half will be a coach-officiated game. For the game, your team will be divided in half and will play against another team. You may have to move to a different field for the game. Please be prepared for this, especially if you are carting little ones around (or patrons that may have difficulty moving). The Jr Academy will start with practice-only sessions and games will pick up after a week or so. All sessions will last for about an hour.

**COACHES:** Once again, the Boys' and Girls' varsity soccer players from Jackson will be volunteering their services to coach the little kickers' teams. Most of these boys and girls are also playing themselves, and there may be some weekends they will not be available to coach. Therefore, the coaches working with your team may change from time to time. However, it is our goal to have as much continuity for coaching as possible. Jr Academy program will use a combination of our top high school level coaches and current Jackson Select coaches.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Several parents indicated they would like to help coach and we welcome more parental involvement. To make it easier, I am requesting that you feel free to help the high school players coach. You will NOT be stepping on anyone's toes. All I ask is that you allow the high school players to lead the session. It is as much for them to work on their leadership, working with adults, and coaching their team. Each

week, the lead coaches are given an itinerary of objectives for the footskills session. Any help you can provide to keep the children behaved and increase exposure to the skills being worked on is our goal for the volunteer program. If you feel your assigned coach is struggling, please let myself, or the director in charge know and we will work to resolve the issue.

**LOCATION:** Little Kickers will be playing all the games at the **Stuhldreher Soccer Fields** located at the corner of Hills and Dales and Stuhldreher. If you need directions, please check the [www.jacksonselect.org](http://www.jacksonselect.org) little kickers page. Jr Academy will be using North Park for Wednesday night training and Strausser Elementary fields for Saturday AM games. Check the official schedule for exact dates, times, and places!

**RAIN DATE POLICY:** In case of inclement weather, you may check the website ([www.jacksonselect.org](http://www.jacksonselect.org)) to see if the session is called off. We will also use our twitter page to update the webpage and anyone who is following @polarbearsoccer.

**WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS:** Be sure your child is properly equipped. This includes clothes conducive to running and being active. *Shin Guards are necessary for their protection.* Soccer Cleats will reduce the risk of injury, especially on wet days. We also ask each player bring their own ball. We will use a **size 4** soccer ball for all games. Mark your name on the ball with a permanent marker to avoid losing it. Please bring water or sports drink for water breaks for your child. Finally, make sure your child is not wearing earrings, jewelry, or hair clips. Elastic ponytail bands are fine.

**WHAT THE PARENTS NEED:** A chair (optional), sunscreen (maybe), camera, and/or video camera. Relax and enjoy your child and the game. We will take care of everything! If you wish to volunteer, please read the above volunteer request. Please be careful in the parking lots with all the young children that will be there. Please stay and watch your child for the duration of the session. The coaches are not to take the players for bathroom breaks. They will notify you to take your child if he/she needs to go.

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Our experienced Little Kickers, should move on to the Jr Academy in the next session. (girls: Jackson Fury) Our experienced Jr Academy players may consider joining Jackson Select next session. Jackson Select is top local travel program for soccer in Jackson and the surrounding area. They are also the feeder Program to our very successful high school soccer program.

Thank you again for your participation. If there is anything I can do to make things run better, please do not hesitate to let me know!

- Coach Michael Biros  
Director: Jackson Select Soccer Club  
Head Coach: Jackson Boys' Varsity