

## FAQs

### What is PDSA?

The PDSA is the Prescott and District Soccer Association which is a volunteer organization run by an Executive comprised of parents. It is responsible for the administration of the community's soccer program for children aged three to eighteen.

The Association meets on a regular basis to administer and organize the association. The Executive members are elected on a bi-annual basis at an Annual General Meeting held in January of each year. Volunteers are always welcome.

### What does it cost for my child to play soccer?

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Spring/Summer 2020</b>
All players	\$70

### Age Groups for 2020

**U5 (2017, 2016, 2015)**

**U7 (2014, 2013)**

**U9 (2012, 2011)**

**U11 (2010, 2009)**

**U14 (2008, 2007, 2006)**

**U18 (2005, 2004, 2003, 2002)**

### Where are games held and when

All games are held at the South Grenville District High School. Teams play Monday to Thursday depending the age group of the player.

### Is parking available

There is a large amount of parking available at South Grenville District High School. Under the Ontario Fire Code there is a responsibility for the High School to maintain a fire route for the building. Everyone is asked to help with this by not parking in the areas designated as NO PARKING. At the back of the school and in the bus load zones, there are some areas marked on the pavement as NO Parking which is there to allow room for a Fire Truck to maneuver around the building necessary. Provincial Offence Act Tickets and or Towing may occur for violators on school property.

Drivers are also asked to be careful and aware of their speed when driving in the parking lot.

### **Are bathrooms facilities available**

Unfortunately PDSA is unable to supply toilet facilities at the South Grenville District High School due to their requirement that portable toilets would have to be removed at the end of each day. Nor is the High School accessible.

### **Does the registration fee cover uniforms?**

The registration fee includes a team jersey, soccer shorts and long soccer socks which must be worn over shin guards. The player's family is responsible for shin guards which must be worn by every player. Cleats are strongly recommended but not required.

### **Are games cancelled due to the weather?**

PDSA has a weather policy which can be found under the Policy Section of the website. All games where weather may be an issue are assessed at the South Grenville District High School fields prior to each game. Players are urged to come to the field to obtain the official decision based on the weather. Games are not rescheduled but are incorporated into the schedule during the year.

### **Why no earrings or other jewelry?**

The PDSA policy on this subject states: "Articles that may constitute a danger to the wearer or any other player must be removed, i.e. jewelry, watches, barrettes, chains, belts, head coverings with any visor or protrusions, etc." Earrings may not be taped.

**Exception:** For the Under 5 Division earrings may be worn, but for the safety of all players; parents are urged to remove their child's earrings.

### **What does our registration fee cover?**

- The registration fee is set each year and is designed to cover the following program costs:
- Cost for referees for each match
- Team equipment balls, discs etc
- Team jersey, shorts and socks
- Insurance coverage
- Training for referees
- Basic Administrative costs of the PDSA organization
- Trophies and medallions given by the PDSA
- Free pizza, hot dogs and drinks at the Year End Playoff Day
- Field equipment (goals, nets, corner flags, etc.)
- Field maintenance
- Field usage charges by South Grenville District High School

### **What is the PDSA soccer program?**

PDSA runs a co-ed, fifteen week soccer program from mid May to mid August each year.

U5 players play once a week on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m.

U7 players play twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m.

U9 players play twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

U11 players play twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.

U14 players play twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.

U18 players play twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Theoretically, PDSA tries to make all the teams even in terms of talent. However, we have no way of predicting the ever-changing soccer talents of children.

### **How are coaches selected?**

The PDSA depends upon parents to volunteer as coaches. Unfortunately, volunteer coaches are often in short supply. If you think you might be interested, we encourage you fill out a Coach's Registration form at registration or contact a member of the executive. Please don't be reluctant to volunteer, even if you're not athletic and know nothing about soccer. Many of our most successful coaches never played soccer and are learning the sport along with their children!

Of course, because most of our volunteer coaches are not professional educators or soccer players, occasionally some parents feel their children are not receiving the best soccer instruction. If you find yourself in this situation, we suggest you pick up a book on soccer and volunteer your services. We can always use assistant coaches, and you will quickly discover the joy of watching the children improve their skills under your guidance.

### **Who decides on which team my child will play?**

The PDSA strives to create teams that are balanced as compared to the other teams. It is the responsibility of the Executive working along with coaches and others to use appropriate means to accomplish this.

### **Is it possible my child will not be assigned to a team?**

Yes. While the PDSA would like to place everyone who wants to play, there are occasions when this isn't possible. If a player attempts to register after April 30<sup>th</sup>, they will be placed on a waiting list and placed on an appropriate team if spaces are available.

Registration preference is given to those whose registration applications are submitted by the published deadline date. Late registrations with the applicable late fee will be considered on a space availability basis.

### **What are a coach's responsibilities?**

Coaches should develop skilled players, promote fun, fair play, and good soccer. Winning is secondary.

Coaches should promote good sportsmanship and must set an example for the players. Coaches should show respect for referees and opponents. Coaches should never publicly question a referee's call of chastise or belittle a referee.

Coaches are ultimately responsible for parental conduct during games. Coaches should inform parents of the need for appropriate and respectful behavior on the sidelines, and should speak directly with any parent who fails to act accordingly. A coach should contact a member of the PDSA Executive if they feel uncomfortable dealing with a parent directly.

At the younger ages coaches should expose all players to the various offensive and defensive positions. Position assignments should be rotated, giving players equal time at different positions. As players get older and more experienced, they may show preference for specific positions and develop particular skills. Coaches should balance these considerations with the goal of enhancing an overall team effort. Through all ages, coaches are encouraged, wherever possible to expose all players to as much diversity of the game as appropriate.

Coaches should always remember that they are dealing with children and that the game is for the kids!

### **How are evaluations and assignments conducted?**

Parents and players should understand that:

- Each coach is asked during each season to complete an objective evaluation for each player on the team.
- Team assignments are made with the best interests of players and teams in mind.
- Player assessment will be conducted as fairly as possible.
- Every effort will be made to see that teams are not exclusionary over time and that team assignments reflect an evaluation of each player's current skills and commitment.
- A player's individual success and development results in large part from how the player interacts with the team to which he/she is assigned.

As a parent, you should be supportive of your child and her/his enthusiasm for the sport of soccer regardless of the team assignment. PDSA encourages you to discuss any concerns about team placement with the appropriate convener for your child.

### **What are the PDSA evaluation and placement guidelines?**

For all divisions, a coach's child is placed on the coach's team.

For all divisions, siblings in the same division are placed on the same team if requested.

U5 – U18

- Returning evaluated players are distributed evenly amongst teams based on the evaluation
- New players are evenly distributed at random based on year of birth and gender
- It is recognized that rating children is difficult, but the goal is to avoid having an excess of players who can dominate and score at will or players who won't cooperate or participate on one team.

This policy is designed to achieve the following goals and objectives:

- **Balanced Teams** – while many players have played on a balanced team, many more have not. PDSA tries its best to avoid any emphasis on winning or losing, teams that constantly struggle to get a goal or two are not having the same experience as the others.
- **Exposure to a Variety of Coaches** – PDSA feels that players will benefit from working with different coaches who may have different strengths and skills.
- **A Community-Wide Social Experience** – PDSA favours a cooperative community wide approach. Children will meet peers from other schools and communities. By avoiding grouping children into tight neighborhood/school groups, PDSA feels the disruption of mixing teams the following year will be minimized. There is clearly a large social component to playing soccer and if parents can convey to their children this great opportunity for making new friends while learning the game and having fun, it is a win-win situation for everyone.

PDSA firmly believes that by following these procedures all teams will be formed in a consistent and fair manner and that all players will have a greater opportunity for growth and development.

### **When will I know when my child has been placed on a team?**

Team selection takes place end of April/beginning of May. A Coaches' meeting is held early May and coaches receive their team roster. They will then call all the players on their roster, identifying themselves, the name of the team and the date of the first night soccer. It is important for parents to write down the name and telephone number of the coach and the name of the team in order to avoid confusion at the field on the first night of soccer.

### **How much will my child play?**

PDSA's primary focus is on player development. It is the policy of PDSA that coaches distribute game playing time equally among all players on a team.

It is understood that roster size and opportunity for substitution may not allow for equal distribution at every game. However, over the course of the season, all players should be allotted equal game playing time.