

Welcome to NEWTON GIRLS SOCCER 2002-2003 First Grade Program

Newton Girls Soccer (NGS) offers intramural and travel soccer programs for girls from grades 1-12. The program is open to all girls residing in Newton or attending any school in Newton, and our participants range from first time players to varsity high school players. The program begins in the fall season of the child's first grade year (as defined by the Newton Public Schools), note that there is no program offered for girls in kindergarten. The league offers sessions in both the fall and spring seasons. Newton Youth Soccer (NYS) is the boys program similar, but autonomous from, Newton Girls Soccer. Although Newton Youth Soccer is open to both boys and girls, the vast majority of girls play with their friends in NGS. Over 1500 Newton girls play with NGS each season. This is the largest all-girls soccer program in the northeast United States and the only all- girls program in Massachusetts. Newton Girls Soccer, Inc. is a non-profit organization funded entirely by our registration fees. The league is governed by a volunteer board of directors, which is elected annually in December. The board of directors is comprised of a president, treasurer, and secretary plus approximately 50 parents who are members of the board.

In conjunction with the operation of youth soccer activities, NGS provides extensive coach, referee, parent and player training opportunities. These include clinics, licensing courses, training with professional players, and parent seminars. Because the league depends on volunteers to run its programs, parents with little or no soccer experience are provided with the opportunity to become trained coaches and volunteers. No parent should feel unable to participate in a coaching position due to inexperience in soccer. The first grade year is a great time to start to become involved!

In addition to offering youth soccer programs, Newton Girls Soccer, in partnership with the City of Newton and Newton Youth Soccer, have been instrumental in the restoration of the playing fields in Newton. At present, the leagues have restored and irrigated approximately 100 acres of playing fields. These include the Brown/Oak Hill, Newton South High School, Weeks, Cold Springs Park, Warren, Nahanton Park, Lincoln Field and Cabot Park. The leagues have invested approximately \$750,000 in playing field restoration matched in part by the city. This program is on going.

Please visit the NGS website www.newtongirlssoccer.org for a complete Guide to the 2002-2003 Season and more information.

In both the fall and spring of the Grade 1 year, NGS offers a specialized, 10-week instructional program conducted by a professional coaching organization with the assistance and involvement of interested parents. Emphasis is placed on having fun and learning basic soccer skills. Each session consists of 3 segments separated by 2 breaks: a warm-up fun and games period, a skills instructional activity, and an informal scrimmage. All sessions are 1½ hours on Saturday mornings and there are no weekday practices. Scrimmage scores are not kept. The program is non-competitive with the intent of introducing both the girls and parents to the game of soccer. More than 200 Newton first grade girls from all over the city participate in the first grade soccer program. The group is organized into 18 to 24 teams each with several parent co-coaches. Knowledge of the game of soccer is not necessary to co-coach in the first grade. Training and coach licensing courses are offered several times a year and are a great way to learn how to coach soccer. Completion of the entry level "G" license course is strongly recommended for all coaches beginning in 2nd Grade. The league especially encourages women to become involved in coaching. The first grade coordinators arrange the teams so that each girl will have at least one (but usually more) teammate(s) from the same school district. Requests for assignment to a team with one close friend will be accommodated when possible.

In Grades 2 through 8 NGS offers an intramural soccer program. This is recreational program organized by school grade and consisting of games against other teams of Newton girls. Players are placed on teams according to grade and school district. Beginning at the second grade level, teams practice once per week and have games on Saturdays. The emphasis of the program is on teaching basic soccer skills, principles of team play and sportsmanship, and (most importantly) having fun.

NGS also offers a more competitive travel program for grade 4 through high school in which Newton teams play teams from other towns in the BAYS (Boston Area Youth Soccer) league. This program involves travel to neighboring towns, and teams typically practice twice per week and attend tournaments on Columbus Day and Memorial Day weekends. Teams are arranged according to player skill as identified by coach evaluations and tryouts. Applications for the NGS travel program are separate from the intramural application, and are always available on the NGS website.

REGISTRATION FEES: \$65.00 for the first girl, \$50.00 for the second, and \$40.00 for each additional girl from the same family. In determining the total family fee, consider all girls playing NGS (BAYS travel and intramural). **No girl is denied an opportunity to participate in Newton Girls Soccer due to financial need. Requests for fee waivers are automatically granted and may be submitted by checking the appropriate box on the application form.** Assistance is also available for team fees, uniforms and

equipment, and camp scholarships. For more information, contact either the chairman of our Scholarship Committee (Kitty Vidra – vidra@rcn.com) or the NGS president (Ted Tye – tye@natdev.com).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The registration deadline is July 15, 2002. After July 15, 2002 a late registration fee of \$15.00 will apply. Player registrations received after July 15th will be put on a waiting list and players will be assigned to teams on a space available only basis. No assurances can be given that registrations received after July 15, 2002 will be accepted. NO refunds can be made after July 31, 2002.

COACHES NEEDED: The success of this program depends upon parents' willingness to coach or assistant coach. Please indicate your willingness on the registration form (below) and by completing the IM Program Coaching Application on the NGS website. **NO PREVIOUS SOCCER COACHING EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.** Clinics and training are provided for all coaches and assistants. It is strongly recommended for 2nd Grade and above that coaches take a 4-hour "G" license introductory coaching course, which is offered in the fall.

GAME SCHEDULES: Games will be played on Saturdays. The fall season runs from September 14 to mid-November. The schedule for the exact dates, times and places for the games will be distributed to the players by their coaches before the start of the season.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS: Age Group Coordinators organize teams based on each player's grade and school district. Requests for specific times to avoid other activity conflicts should be noted on the form. Requests by parents for specific placement of their daughter with a friend should be indicated in the space provided on the form. Each player may identify ONE friend to be on the same team and their respective forms must match requested friends. Requests identifying more than one friend **can not** be accommodated. The matching forms must be mailed in together. Players will receive their team assignments approximately 1 week before the start of the season. Please do not call unless you have not received an assignment by September 1.

EQUIPMENT: First graders will receive a ball and jersey in their first season with NGS. Non-metal cleats (recommended) or sneakers are the only footwear allowed. Shin guards are mandatory. The league holds a cleat exchange day prior to each season. Pre-owned cleats are free. Watch the web site or the date and time.

PLAYER SAFETY: No jewelry of any kind may be worn during play--no bracelets, necklaces, earrings or rings. Players may not wear beads, barrettes or other hard/sharp items. Newly pierced ears may not be taped. Players may not participate with casts or splints of any kind. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

HOW TO REGISTER: Complete (BOTH SIDES!), sign the Release (required) and detach the form below, include a check payable to "NGS" (or a request for fee reduction or waiver) and return the completed packet by mail no later than July 15, 2002 to:

Newton Girls Soccer, PO Box 620275, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462-0275

For more information visit our website at www.newtongirlssoccer.org or email the Intramural Committee Co-Chairs: David Marcus (marcusnew@attbi.com) or Cliff Utstein (cliffu@attbi.com). You can also call NGS at (617) 965-8594. First Grade coordinators: Cindy Braver (cindy-braver@yahoo.com) and Peter Yaffe (pyaffe@attbi.com). First grade phone: (617) 965-6508.

