

Hello parents,

My name is [Coach Name] and I will be coaching your son's U13 soccer team this spring. Please save this email for reference. **I'd like to briefly meet with all parents during the first 10 minutes of practice next week.** I've attached a letter about myself, my coaching philosophy, and some goals for the season for those interested. Below is a summary of important dates and information.

Your player will need the following:

- a. Shin Guards: **MANDATORY**
- b. Shoes: Anything other than baseball cleats. No metal cleats.
- c. Shorts: Any color. The shorts do not need to match their uniform.

Socks and jerseys will be provided prior to our first game. Players are encouraged to bring a **size 5** soccer ball and water bottle to practice and games. I will always have a few if one is forgotten.

Per Auburn Soccer Association: Jewelry is not allowed on players during games or practices. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and sports bands. If a player is planning to get their ears pierced, please have them wait till the end of the season.

Practices will be **every Thursday at 6:00pm on field 4B** beginning next week on February 28th. The only exception will be **no practice during spring break** and as always there are chances for rain outs. When you registered for soccer you were signed up for field status text alerts through Auburn's Parks & Rec Department. You will know the minute I do if fields are ever closed due to weather. Email hmanning@auburnalabama.org for more details if you are not already subscribed from past seasons.

Schedules should be released over the next week or two. **Our first game will be Monday March 18** immediately following spring break.

Please talk with your player and set some realistic goals for the season: Score a goal, try a new position, get an assist, learn to punt, improve foot skills, steal a pass...HAVE FUN!

Please let me know if there is anything I should know about your child and also confirm receipt of this email so I know I have the correct contact information for you. I look forward to meeting you next week.

Thanks,

Coach

[Detailed Letter Attachment]

Hello Soccer Parents,

A little background on me, my coaching philosophy, and season goals for those interested. This will be my seventh season coaching recreational soccer. It is my way of spending quality time with my own son while also serving the community. As a coach, my focus is on player development. At this age, the game should be all about developing fundamentals and a love for the game. If your player needs a more competitive environment, consider joining [Auburn Thunder](#). Every child brings varying levels of skill and effort to the field and I have volunteered to help your son improve upon their game knowledge and abilities. Your player will get great exercise, develop new skills, make new friends, learn to overcome adversity, and hopefully gain confidence in themselves no matter what the scoreboard says. Please judge the season based on your player's personal development and not on wins and losses. Remember this is recreational soccer and [we are here to learn and have fun!](#)

My goals are to help your player improve their skills, their understanding of the game, and learn how to work as a team. All teams participate in the season ending tournament regardless of regular season record. The season is usually 8 games plus the tournament. I will do my best to provide equal playing time and equal opportunity at various positions early in the season. This may put your child out of their comfort zone by playing a new position (they all might get a turn at goalie!) and you may see some "not so beautiful" soccer early on. Please be patient and keep ALL players encouraged and engaged. I've got to get every player meaningful touches on the ball for the *team* to be its best by tournament time. They must also learn how to stay in position on the field, how to defend, how to control possession, and not just "boot it" to no one for the sake of kicking the ball. I will try to send a weekly postgame email with a few thoughts on what we did well and where we can improve if you talk soccer with your player at home. Premier League matches are usually on NBCSN Saturday & Sunday from 6am-noon. MLS is usually on ESPN Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. You and your player can learn a lot just by watching professionals and the only commercials are during halftime!

My expectations for your player:

- Be at every practice and every game. Life happens. Please send an email if they cannot make it.
- Great Effort & Attitude. Show up eager to learn and try your best. The rest will take care of itself.
- Learn from their mistakes. Every child will make them this season. Can they learn to turn frustration into motivation?

Some of our players have been playing for several seasons, while others may be first timers. It is on all of us as coaches, teammates, and parents to be supporters of EVERY player on the team and encourage their development. Please read the [laws of the game](#), linked here, with your player. Many soccer players and parents never have! I'd also ask each of you to read the codes of conduct the [Parent Handbook](#). Parent resources provided by ASA are [available here free of charge](#). Remember that the referees are learning too. If we don't have refs, we don't have games... so please let me address the referees. If you have questions for professional referees, [join this FB Group](#). Encouragement and respect for players, coaches, referees... and opposing team parents will ensure the continued success and growth of the Auburn Soccer Association. Rude or obnoxious sideline behavior may drive other players, referees, or possibly your own player away from the game and will not be tolerated. [Please don't be a cheeseburger!](#)

***Snacks...** I think U13 is an appropriate age to transition away from post-game snacks. If anyone feels otherwise let me know, but for now let's plan for each player to bring their own post game pick me up if

needed. Everyone that needs a snack will get what they prefer and no appetites get spoiled for those eating dinner after games.

***Participation trophies...** should only be awarded to parents for getting kids to the field on time consistently. We will try to win the tournament to earn a medal or try again next season if we don't, but please... no participation trophies.

***Season Party...**let's plan to have one between the final regular season game and start of the tournament.

***Around game 6...** I hope to begin settling players into positions I feel give the *team* the best chance for success.

I look forward to meeting you and learning more about your player. If there are things I should know about your child (medical condition, motivation, preferred position, left/right footed, etc.) or you have any questions or concerns, please email me. I welcome any feedback, suggestions, and discussion on tactics I may be overlooking during games, but please send those directly to me and not as group emails. I hope we have a fun and championship season!

-Coach – email@email.com – 334-xxx-xxxx cell