



BAY OAKS SOCCER CLUB

Welcome!

The Bay Oaks Soccer Club welcomes you to tryouts for the upcoming 2008-2009 season. Whether you are a prospective player or a parent, we ask you to please read this letter to learn what Bay Oaks will mean to your family. Also, be sure to read the letter that **each coach has prepared** for his or her respective team. Finally, if you have questions, please ask someone at the registration desk, or visit our Web site at **www.bayoaks.net**.

What is Class I soccer?

Class I soccer is the highest competitive level of youth soccer in our state. That means that teams train more, play more games, and travel more than teams from the class III division or the recreation level soccer. We strive to get the best coaches and trainers to work with our teams so they can get the best skill development possible. The Class I program means for most of our players a pretty much year round schedule. Tryouts in the spring, training in spring and summer, tournaments in the late summer, fall season, and then preparation for the State Cup tournament which takes place from Feb.- May. It takes a lot to compete at this level. Lots of time, lots of effort on the players part, volunteer hours from the parents, and yes it even takes more money. (More on that below)

What are the core values of Bay Oaks?

Bay Oaks is committed to providing a positive, respectful, and challenging learning environment for the young players who have decided to commit to the sport of soccer at a competitive level. Our primary focus is on the continued growth and development of our players and our teams. We strive to instill in our players a dedication to excellence and to teamwork. We believe high-level soccer helps players learn discipline and commitment, develop physical fitness, build self-esteem, evolve lasting relationships, and learn life lessons that transcend winning on the field. We are community based, and the diverse interests of our community members guide our decisions. We honor the game of soccer, and we show respect for rules, opponents, officials, and teammates. We believe soccer should be great fun, and we strive to provide an enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, and families. We know that we can achieve these goals only through the combined efforts of our coaches, parents, and players.

What's happening on the field?

Andy Bonchonsky, our director of coaching, is returning for his tenth year with the club as Director of Coaching. We are delighted that Andy will continue to be supported by Assistant Directors Peter Hayton, Glenn Van Straatum, and Mark Grody. Andy, Peter, Glenn and Mark provide support to the coaches and players on all of our teams. They are a familiar sight on the practice fields and on the sideline on game days. We continue to look for ways to provide the highest level of coaching to our players while keeping the program affordable for our diverse community. There have been some great additions to our coaching roster this year and many of our existing staff are coming back this year as well to round out a great roster of coaches for our teams. Please check out the bios of our coaching staff on our website. This program is really growing and you will see it on the field.

We will continue to register our teams with both US Club Soccer and California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA). Participating in both organizations gives our coaches the ability to play their teams in the prestigious Nor Cal Premier league in the Spring as well as the competitive Golden State Soccer league in the Fall.

What's new off the field?

The Bay Oaks Board and volunteer community are stronger than ever. We have sealed our non-profit status so we can do community fundraising to support our players, brought on new board members to continue the great work done in prior years to strengthen the program, and we will be implementing an online registration system this year to help make that process smoother for all. Defining our response to the rapidly changing world of youth sports will be a key challenge for us this year. And while we ponder the future, the day-to-day challenges of finding fields in the crowded East Bay and keeping the volunteers coming are not going away.

Communications will continue to be a major focus of the club. Expect to hear more from us each month about what is going on in the club. We will again conduct parent meetings in the spring for all Bay Oaks parents. We **strongly encourage** your attendance at one of these meetings. We will also continue to expand the use of our Web site. We are planning to hold another college night to inform players and families of the opportunities and preparation needed to play at the next level.

What does it cost to play Bay Oaks soccer?

Player costs fall into three categories: **team expenses, registration fees, and uniform cost.**

Team expenses are driven largely by the team's choice of tournaments to attend and related travel costs. Your coach will be able to give you a rough estimate of the team budget at the tryouts. More details will be provided at the first team meeting. Most teams undertake some form of fund-raising for their expenses.

The 2008 club registration fees are \$450 for Under-10 players and \$695 for Under-11 and older players. Registration fees pay for club coaching expenses, player registration and insurance costs, fields, referees, and administration.

No uniform changes this year. This is the second year of the new kit we began using last year. Returning players will only need to replace uniform components that have worn out or that they have outgrown. New players will be required to purchase a uniform kit (two jerseys, one shorts, two socks) which will cost about \$120. **Soccer Post** will sell extra uniform items at our discounted price throughout the year. All Bay Oaks players will also receive a 10 percent discount off Soccer Post retail prices for all other items in the store.

The Bay Oaks Soccer Club offers a **financial aid program** to families that may have difficulty meeting these costs. Our ability to give financial aid is, of course, limited by our budget. While our goal is to provide some level of aid to all eligible families, we cannot guarantee that aid will be available to all requesting families in every year.

What do we expect from parents?

Parents are key to the success of every soccer player and of our club as a whole. It is important for parents to understand what Bay Oaks expects from them before making the commitment to the program. As Bay Oaks is a volunteer organization, you will be asked to participate in some capacity for your team, and you will also be asked to contribute at least 10 hours of your time in some capacity for the club. Major volunteer efforts each year are the two tournaments hosted by the club, the Bay Oaks Labor Day Classic for Under-11 through Under-13 teams and the Bay Oaks Spring Classic for Under-14 through Under-19 teams. Other specific areas where we need help are: event coordination (for club meetings like Parents' Night, College Night, Volunteer Recognition Night), field coordination, referee coordination, Web site management, registrar support, and club fund-raising. Additional wonderful opportunities exist for any volunteer who would like to exceed minimum requirements!

We think Bay Oaks soccer is a very special experience. Thank you for coming to tryouts!

