



## Development Program U8-U9

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the Jr Gaels Soccer Development program for U8-U9?**

Our Development Program is a continuation of our U2-U8 Recreational Program. At this age, some players will move into the recreational stream which is one game a week. Other players will want to be more challenged and have a deeper interest in the game of soccer. The Development Stream is for players who are happy with extra training and commitment to the sport and seem keen to improve. These players should be able to follow instruction and go to soccer without a lot of encouragement. No scores or standings are kept and we will follow the [Ontario Soccer Grassroots Recommended Standards](#).

Training will be once a week in April and then twice a week from May to August. Games are once a week from late May to August.

Our goal is to guide as many youth soccer players as possible towards playing the beautiful game at the ideal level by the U13 age group!

#### **What ages can register for summer 2021?**

U8 – 2013 born

U9 – 2012 born

#### **Who oversees the U8-U9 Development program?**

All development programming is overseen by our Development Head Coach, Ryan Gardner (National C Licence) with support by our Club Technical Director and Queen's Head Coach, Christian Hoefler (National A Licence). Paid technical coaches with a multitude of experience in the Competitive, Regional and Varsity levels of play will also offer support when needed.

#### **Who are the coaches and how are they selected?**

Our Development Head Coach will work to identify parents and community members who want to volunteer as coaches. Coaches will rotate weekly through different teams. During games, coaches will act as Game Leaders in lieu of referees. We will provide training to our volunteers, so that our players are getting the best soccer experience possible. Coaches are required to submit a criminal record check and go through Ontario Soccer coaching courses as required.

#### **How are teams formed?**

U8-U9 players will have one large pool of players. Players will *not* be assigned to formal teams – instead players will be assigned to teams weekly, a couple of days prior to game nights. Teams will change from week to week and all players who register will play in the development stream for these age groups, for games and practices.

**When do we need to register?**

In February 2021, registration will open for players who would like to commit to the summer Development program. A non-refundable commitment fee will be paid at that time to confirm your child's desire to play in the development stream for Summer 2021. An early commitment allows us to have an idea of how many players are interested in the development program so that we can secure coaches ahead of time and be best prepared for the season.

The remaining fees will be paid in two equal installments (please see below).

**Where and when are games played?**

Games will be Sunday night at Jim Beattie Park. All teams will play at the same time (time to be determined). No scores or standings will be kept.

**Where and when are practices?**

Practices will be on Monday and Thursday evenings at [Jim Beattie Park](#).

**What format will games be?**

Games will be 5v5 including the goalie. Fields will be slightly smaller than the 7v7 size (1/3 of a full field). Games will be 2 x 20 minute halves and have a Game Leader in lieu of a paid referee.

**Will games be against other soccer clubs?**

Weekly games will be only be versus other Jr Gaels teams. From time to time we will set up games against other local clubs. We may form some teams to enter into our annual Gaels Cup Tournament as well.

**When will training begin?**

We will start indoor training for U8/U9 Development in early April, once a week. Players will move to outdoor training twice a week in May and continue until the end of August.

**What are the fees for 2021?**

All players will pay a \$200 commitment fee before March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. This fee includes a training kit (top, shorts & socks) that is mandatory at all practices. The remaining registration fees will be payable in the following installments:

U8 & U9	Payment 1 due March 15 <sup>th</sup> 2021:	\$200 (Non refundable commitment fee)
	Payment 2 due April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021:	\$100
	Payment 3 due May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021:	\$100
	Payment 4 due June 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021:	\$100
	Payment 5 due July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021:	\$50

**\*New players** will need to purchase a full game day kit by March 20<sup>th</sup> so that it is delivered by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost for the game day kit will be around \$130 for youth and \$150 for adult sizes. Ordering will be done through the T. Litzen website and delivered from Toronto.

**What do the registration fees cover?**

Registration fees cover indoor practices, outdoor practices until the end of August, game day expenses (field lining, equipment, field rental), Development Head Coach, technical coach support when needed, OSA player registration fees, coaching and referee courses, as well as general operating expenses (staff/office/equipment/indoor field), Gaels Cup tournament, equipment and more.

**What if Covid shuts down soccer? Will we get refunds?**

If we have to suspend soccer due to Covid, we will attempt to provide programming at a later date or if possible alter the format to continue playing. If we have to cancel programming due to Covid, we will give pro-rated refunds. As a reminder, the commitment fee is non-refundable.

**Are there any additional costs associated with being in the development program?**

If you are a new player you will need to purchase a gameday kit that will include game day jerseys. Returning players will have the option to buy new items as needed.

Players may also purchase optional Jr Gaels gear such as jackets or backpacks. A possible additional expense may be if we enter a team in a festival, players would share the cost of the registration fee.

**Are there any other important dates to know about?**

All development parents will need to attend a mandatory meeting before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 that will include team coaches, our Development Head Coach and our General Manager. We will review expectations, go over the schedule for the year and have coaches and parents sign the Club Code of Conduct.

**Gaels Cup 2021**

It is expected that our development players will take part in our annual Gaels Cup Soccer Tournaments & Festivals. Girls are the weekend of July 10/11 and boys are the weekend of July 24/25.

**Is there financial support available?**

There are several local community organizations that we can direct you to for financial support. Please contact us for information at [info@clippersoccer.com](mailto:info@clippersoccer.com) (General Club questions accepted as well). We can also arrange individual payment plans.

For Administrative questions, please contact Jason at [info@clippersoccer.com](mailto:info@clippersoccer.com)

For Technical & Tactical questions, please contact our Development Head Coach Ryan Gardner at [development@clippersoccer.com](mailto:development@clippersoccer.com)