



August 24, 2016

Dear 4-H Family:

The **Fall 2016 Benzie Area 4-H Youth Soccer** program is about to begin!

We are having a slightly bumpy time in getting this **21st year** started! Our dear director, Dennis Pace, and treasurer, Barb Wentzloff, have retired from the program. We are **THANKFUL** to them for **DECADES** of service!!! Also, the Benzie MSUE office secretary, Deborah Longo, is on an indefinite medical leave and we wish her well. We **WILL** get through this, but we need **EVERYONE** to work very hard at submitting enrollments **ON TIME** this year.

This program is for players going **into Kindergarten through 8th grade**. This year's season runs on **Saturdays, from September 10th through October 29th**.

Welcome to our new director, Jeff Louwsma! Thank you for stepping up to the plate, Jeff. We will do **ALL** we can to support you as you learn the ropes!

ENROLLMENT FORM:

- Enclosed or attached to this mailing.
- You may make additional copies of this form.
- Additional forms will also be available on the table outside the Benzie Extension office (courthouse hallway). We will also be mailing copies to Benzie schools.
- **PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES AND ALL SPACES.**

FEES:

- \$10 4-H enrollment fee and \$20 soccer program fee. Total Due: \$30. Cash or check only.
- Make checks payable to "Benzie 4-H Leaders Council."
- If you are unable to pay the fee, you must complete the "Fee Waiver" section of the form.

FEE AND FORM SUBMISSION:

- Mail to: MSU Extension-Benzie County, 448 Court Place, Beulah, MI 49617.
- Or drop box to: The 24/7 drop box outside the Extension office entrance (lower level of Benzie courthouse, the box is dark green with a large "S" on the front).

DUE DATES AND LATE FEES:

- **Thursday, September 8, 12 NOON is absolute last day we can accept enrollment forms from anyone.** If we don't have them by then, there isn't enough time to add player information to the coaches' roster.
- A **LATE FEE of \$10** will only apply to **RETURNING MEMBERS** and **ONLY** for those enrollments received **AFTER FRIDAY, SEPT. 2.**
- **THERE IS NO LATE FEE FOR A BRAND NEW PLAYER.**

This fee includes accident insurance coverage and a team T-shirt. This fee does not include shin guards which are required for safety reasons. **You will be able to purchase shin guards at the first practice session.**

Starting date and time for this soccer season is **Saturday, September 10th** at the fields at Memorial Park in Benzonia (behind the Watson Chrysler-Jeep car dealer) or at Almira Township Park near Lake Ann. Practices will be on these fields on Saturdays. Game times and locations are yet to be determined.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Shin guards: **MUST** be worn by **ALL** players, except Kindergarten. Hard, plastic shin guards must be completely covered by knee socks. "All-in-one" shin guards with cloth covering the plastic do not require a sock covering.

Balls: Players are encouraged to bring their own ball to practice. Please write your name on it. Many practice drills are more fun if all players can participate at once, and we do not own enough balls to provide one for every player. Grades Kindergarten, 1, and 2 use a size 3 ball; grades 3 and 4 use a size 4 ball; grades 5 and up use a size 5 ball.

Volunteers Wanted: Each year, over 250 youth play 4-H soccer. We need **additional people** to help out during the fall season. There is too much to keep track of for just a few people. We need the following:

→ **Coaches.** You do not need to be experienced to do this. We will show you how, help you get started, and pair you up with another adult to share the tasks. It's a very rewarding experience to play this part and to see the progress in the kids at all levels.

NOTE: **All volunteer soccer coaches must complete the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process before beginning their coaching duties. To request a Volunteer Enrollment Packet be mailed to you to start this process, call Debra Laws, MSU Extension, at her Manistee office at 231-889-4277, or e-mail her at laws@msu.edu.**

→ **Equipment Managers.** We could really use someone from each team who can take care and keep track of equipment (balls, shirts, shorts, socks, cones, nets, etc.) before and after the season to make sure it's all collected and in decent shape.

→ **Referees.** We can always use people who are able to referee during games. It adds to the game, and coaches can concentrate on their teams instead of refereeing as well. Experience is not necessary, but some knowledge of the game and the rules is helpful. Training is offered from time to time. Older high school age youth can also be referees.

For more information, call or e-mail:

- **Jeff Louwsma at 231-651-9421 or jeff@4hbenziesoccer.org**
- **Debra Laws, MSU Extension, at 231-889-4277 or laws@msu.edu**

The Benzie Area 4-H Youth Soccer website is: www.4hbenziesoccer.org

This website is maintained by the director. We ask for your patience as they get the site updated.

Attention!

We NEED parents to volunteer as coaches. No experience is necessary - we can teach you the basics in a short time. Last year, we were very close to turning children away due to lack of coaches. Fortunately, some parents stepped forward at the last minute and all the children got to play. Please don't wait until the last minute this year! Our children need ALL of us to make this program successful!

- To volunteer as a Coach or Assistant Coach, please contact
- **Jeff Louwsma at 231-651-9421 or jeff@4hbenziesoccer.org**
- **Debra Laws, MSU Extension, at 231-889-4277 or laws@msu.edu**

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Coach's Clinic: ~~Wednesday, September 9th, 7 pm, at Memorial Park~~

To be announced

Practice Schedule for ~~Saturday, September 12th, and Saturday, September 19th, 2015~~ To be announced

Benzonia: Memorial Park, behind Watson Chrysler-Jeep Car Dealer

- Kindergarten: 10AM - 11:15AM
- Grades 1 & 2: 9AM - 10:30AM
- Grades 3 & 4: 11AM - 12:30PM
- Grades 5 thru 8: 10AM – 12 Noon

Lake Ann: Almira Township Park, next to Mistwood Golf Course

- Kindergarten: 9AM - 10:15AM
- Grades 1 & 2: 9AM - 10:30AM
- Grades 3 & 4: 10:30AM – 12 Noon
- Grades 5 thru 8: 11AM – 1PM

Games begin ~~Saturday, September 26th, 2015.~~ Times and fields will vary.

To be announced.

Please check-out our website! www.4hbenziesoccer.org