

To the Parents of Current AYSO U9 Boys Players:

We wanted to make you aware of an exciting new soccer opportunity that will be available to your son for the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 playing year.

Our region has very recently been granted permission from the AYSO National Office to pilot a program called EXTRA. This new program will be in addition to the standard AYSO program which has been in place in our region for over 30 years. EXTRA is designed to provide a more challenging level of play for those players who possess the appropriate interest, skills and abilities and to enhance each player's experience and individual growth through the game of soccer while retaining the spirit and organization of AYSO.

The EXTRA program will be run quite differently compared to the standard program. Here are some of the highlights:

- We will have only two or three EXTRA teams next year for U10 (traditional 4th grade) boys; the final number of teams will be determined by the number of qualified players; if the program is successful we will most likely roll it out across more divisions in future years.
- Each team will consist of approximately 10 players (games are 7v7).
- The selection of these players will be done via a tryout conducted by independent evaluators. The evaluations will be done by Ed Hawkins, a professional trainer from the Zen Soccer Academy, and UK Soccer, the organization that provides our professional trainers.
- Any player who does not make an EXTRA roster is guaranteed a position on a team in the standard program in AYSO Region 210.
- Starting in the fall, the EXTRA teams will each have three 90-minute practice sessions per week, all led by Ed Hawkins.
- Each team will also have a highly qualified volunteer parent as its coach.
- The teams will play their Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 games as a part of NISL (Northern Illinois Soccer League). This is the same organization in which many of the boys' travel/club teams participate.

Because of the increased costs (e.g., professional training and participation in NISL), the player fee for EXTRA is higher than the standard program. For the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 playing year the EXTRA player fee will be \$900.

If your son is interested in being considered for EXTRA, please do the following:

- Send an email to me to indicate your interest in attending one of the tryout dates
- Plan to attend tryouts on either Thursday, June 2 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm or Saturday, June 4 from 11 am to 1 pm ; attendance at one of these tryout dates is required. Each tryout will take place at Westmont Yard, located 233 W. 63rd Street in Westmont, Illinois.
- We will have a parent information meeting during each of the tryout sessions.
- These are open tryouts – feel free to invite any friends who you think might be interested in this new program.

Do not worry if your son is not yet registered for AYSO for the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 playing year. Due to the late timing of rolling out this new program, there will be no additional late fees for registration. We will take care of all player registrations once the players have been selected and the teams have been formed.

Please note that this email was not intended to cover all information regarding EXTRA. I know that you will have questions about the program and I encourage you to email me for additional information. We are pleased to offer this exciting opportunity to your son and hope that you will consider it when evaluating playing opportunities for next year. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Gould

AYSO Region 210 – EXTRA Program Coordinator

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