



Scorpions Soccer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About Us. The Scorpions Soccer Club consists of a group of traveling competitive teams that belong to the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA).

History. The Scorpions Soccer Club was formed in 1982. The founding players wanted a more intense soccer experience than was available in Ridgecrest alone, and they wanted to continue to play soccer because they loved the game. For the first few years the club had only boys' teams, but around 1989 a girl's team was added to the program. Over the years our teams have been registered in both AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) and CYSA (California Youth Soccer Association). AYSO play is recreational while CYSA is competitive or select. In some areas, CYSA also has a recreational division, but in our area CYSA teams are all competitive.

Team Makeup. Scorpion teams are separated according to age and can range from Under 10 to Under 19, depending on the results from tryouts. To determine team placement, the cutoff date for the player's age group is August 1st. For example, if your child doesn't turn 12 until on or after August 1, he/she will participate on the U12 team. The U12 teams are generally comprised of 8-12 year olds. Only 18 players are allowed per team.

Tryouts. Tryouts are held each spring. All players of ages 8-19 are welcome to participate. Shortly after tryouts, coaches will notify all of the players that have made a team. Depending on the number of



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children that participate in each age group, a coach may have to let go of well qualified players in order to form a competitive team.

Registration. The registration process begins as soon as the teams are formed and a player is selected and accepts his/her position on a team. There is team registration and player registration. Team registration involves registering the teams with either BGSL (Bakersfield Girls Soccer League for the girl's teams) or GESL (Golden Empire Soccer League for the boy's teams).

The Season. The soccer season runs from August 1 of the current year to July 31 of the following year and begins in the spring with tryouts and the forming of teams. League play will begin in late August or early September. As part of the team's preparation, some coaches participate in tournaments in July and August. League play usually begins early September and continues through October, but can extend to December for younger players. U16 and U18 league play ends earlier allowing those players to prepare for the high school soccer season.

Games are usually on Saturdays in Bakersfield at the Kern Soccer Fields off of 178 just east of Bakersfield. It's an easy drive to the fields and parents/players often carpool. The Club has worked very hard to bring some of the games to Ridgecrest, but a majority of the games are held in Bakersfield with a few in Tehachapi.

In the winter and spring, many of the teams participate in tournaments. Coaches determine which tournaments are appropriate for their teams. These tournaments, which typically are held on weekends, take place in various locations throughout Southern



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California. Although league play is completed at this point, the season is not considered over until tournament play is completed.

Practice for conditioning and preparation for league play is ongoing all summer. Each coach will determine the team's practice schedule.

Foreign Travel. Foreign travel has been a part of the Scorpion program from time to time. In the late 80's, one of our teams traveled to Germany. Another went to Australia in the early 90's. Earlier this decade, our U19 boys made a trip to Mexico to visit Ridgecrest's sister city Tepatitlan and played in several friendly games. The kids enjoyed their experience with a different culture. Occasionally individual players have joined special traveling teams for the opportunity to play abroad.



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MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

Member Dues. The cost of membership per season is currently \$250 per player. The first payment of \$100 is due when you register your child (usually by June 15th). The second payment of \$100 is due by August 1st with the remaining \$50 due by October 1st. If this payment schedule is not possible, arrangements can be made for a payment schedule with payment coupons. Minimum payment of the registration fee (\$50) is due upon registration with commitment of payment arrangements with the Club treasurer. If payments have not been made in full or arrangements for a payment plan made by October 15th, that player will not be allowed to participate until payment or arrangements are made.

Sponsorships. Sponsorships may be available upon completion of an application and review and approval by the Scorpions Board of Directors. Club fundraisers are able to offer sponsorships to those who would otherwise be unable to participate. It is the Club's commitment that no player will be turned away due to the inability to pay. The Club does require that each player pay the \$50 needed for payment of the player registration fees. This can be made in payments arranged with either the treasurer or the team manager. To request sponsorship, please ask your team manager for the sponsorship form. Fill it out and turn it in to your manager. The forms are available in both English and Spanish.

Discount Option. The Club is constantly in need of volunteers in order to operate within its budget and to be able to offer a competitive soccer league in Ridgecrest. To encourage parent participation we have



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developed a discount option. We request that one parent from each team serve on the board. A discount of \$50 will be offered to parents who volunteer for the positions listed below. The responsibilities of each position will be clearly outlined in a signed contract. A person serving in one of these positions must be a member in good standing.

Board Members. There are 7 board member positions, including: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Team Liaison, Fields and Publicity.

Volunteer Positions. Team Managers, Team Parents, Referee Coordinator, Fund-raising Chairperson, and Equipment/Field Manager and coach.

Other Costs: Tournaments. The Club provides entry fee money (ranging in \$300 - \$450 per tournament) for each team to play in at least two tournaments per season. Some teams raise additional money (through team fund-raisers) that allows them to participate in more tournaments. It is each family's responsibility, at all tournaments, to pay for all lodging, meals and transportation expenses incurred while participating in out of town tournaments.



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CLUB MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Attitude. Remember, attitude is everything! The success of the Club requires commitment and dedication from all of the players, parents and coaches. Positive attitudes and mutual respect are key elements in any successful organization. All members are reminded to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of all other players, parents, coaches and referees.

Academic Achievement. All players are expected to maintain passing grades in school. Personal responsibility leads to success at school and on the field.

Practice. Players are expected to attend all practices. If you are unable to attend, please notify your coach prior to your scheduled practice. Remember that Scorpion's coaches are not paid for their services and are dedicating their time to both you and the Club. Consideration shown by Club members is one way to demonstrate our appreciation for all their efforts. All players are required to wear shin-guards during practice and game play, NO exceptions.

Uniforms. Uniforms issued by the Club must be returned at the end of the season. The coach, team manager or team parent will notify players prior to collecting uniforms. The uniforms are property of the Club and are not to worn except for Club functions, games, tournaments, etc.



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Volunteers. Volunteers are needed to make the Club work. Ask your team manager or team parent what you can do to assist. Call the Club president to ask what you can do. Your help is always needed.

Fund-raisers. Club expenses far exceed the funds raised through membership dues. Fund-raisers are held during the year to supplement the operating expenses to the Club. Players and parents will be called upon to help organize and/or participate in these fund-raisers. The success of the Club's fund-raisers determines the cost of the membership dues required from year to year. Each team must assist/setup a team fund-raiser that will help to support the Club. There are several fund-raisers that have been profitable including The Community Dinner, Classic Pizza's Superbowl Sunday Pizza sales, Tamale sale and Spaghetti Dinners. If you have any ideas, talk with your team parent or bring your ideas to the monthly board meetings.



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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Team Level:

Team Manager. The team manager handles the paperwork for the coach. He/She is responsible for both team and player registrations. The manager interacts with the board as needed. Each team is different so this position's duties vary depending on the coach.

Team Parent. The team parent is primarily responsible for communication between the coach and the parents. Duties vary depending upon the coach.

Fund-raiser Organizer. The fund-raiser organizer is responsible for the team's Club fund-raiser. He/She works with the Club to determine the type of fund-raiser and its scheduling.

Club Board Level:

President. The president shall have the ultimate responsibility and authority to conduct the business of this organization within the framework of these By-Laws and Constitution. He/She shall act a Chairman at all Board of Directors and general membership meetings.

Vice President. The vice president shall assume the duties of the President in his absence. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.



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Secretary. The secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and promulgation of the minutes of all Board of Directors meetings to the Directors and Representatives. He/She also manages all of the club correspondence and shall have custody of the club seal.

Treasurer. The treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all financial transactions authorized by the Board of Directors. He/she shall provide a Treasurer's report at each regular and general membership meeting. He/She shall prepare and promulgate a Budget at least sixty (60) days prior to start of the league season. He/She shall deposit all funds in an accredited banking institution and make all disbursements by check. The Treasurer also prepares documentation for the annual taxes.

Field Manager. The field manager is responsible for interfacing with the City of Ridgecrest and Moral Welfare and Recreational Department on the Naval Air Weapons Station for the use of their fields. He/She coordinates contracts and facility requests with the appropriate organizations. He/She will be responsible for lining fields for home games.

Publicity. The publicity chairperson is responsible for collecting team reports and submitting them to the local media. He/She also prepares and delivers advertising for upcoming SSCI events and public acknowledgement of our sponsors and other donors. He/She also maintains the club scrapbooks.

League Liaison. The league liaison is the primary point of contact between the club and league officials. He/She represents the club at



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league meetings and will attend a minimum of 2 League meetings per season, including the first meeting of the year, which is mandatory. Liaison will also disseminate league information via email/phone calls to the Board of Directors, Coaches, Team Managers and Team Parents and elicits information from the club when needed by the league. He/She will meet with teams individually, if necessary and will communicate with external people to arrange services for the club (e.g. Risk Management). He/She also represents the club's interests whenever disputes between the club and the league arise.

Board Meetings. Board meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. The current meeting place is Texas Cattle Company. This is an open forum and all members are invited to attend. A monthly newsletter is provided to all members and their families. If you do not receive your newsletter, please contact one of the board members.

Non-Board Level:

Fund-raiser Coordinator. The fund-raiser coordinator is a year-long position to coordinate the Club fund-raisers. Each team is required to organize and carry out a fund-raiser for the Club. The chairperson's job is to help the teams come up with ideas, coordinate scheduling of events and see that each team completes their fund-raiser.

Newsletter Editor. The newsletter editor is responsible for the writing and distribution of the monthly newsletter. Materials for the newsletter are collected from the board and teams.



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Uniform/Equipment Manager. The uniform/equipment manager is a part time position with the bulk of work in the spring. Uniforms and equipment need to be inventoried and new items ordered as necessary. (Some items are ordered annually, others every two or three years). The U/E manager researches the best prices and maintains inventory records.

Referee Coordinator. The referee coordinator is a part-time position that involves the scheduling of referees for home games.

Current Volunteers. Click here to see a list of [current volunteers](#). If you would like to volunteer for one of the open positions, just contact us at our email address [Scorpions Soccer](#).