

## **Spring/Summer Sports Frequently Asked Questions**

**Spring Soccer:** (Soccer is our fall sports venue, but we run a spring program to help prepare the children for fall soccer.)

### **Schedule:**

Saturdays, March 6, 13, 20 and April 3 and 10

Five weeks of soccer camp filled with skills, drills and scrimmage games. Open to junior K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please come to the field at 9 a.m. to check in each Saturday.

**Time:** 1<sup>st</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders from 9-11 a.m.; junior K and senior K come from 9-10:30 a.m.

### **Where is the field?**

Cy's Field at Christ United Methodist Church is behind the church at 4488 Poplar Avenue.

### **What time can we arrive?**

The field will open at 8:30 a.m. for registration. Please stay with your child on the field until we all come together at 9 a.m. If the gate is locked, please wait outside the fenced area until staff arrives. Do not let your child climb the fence; this rule is for his or her safety and maintenance of the facility.

### **Will a coach call?**

No, since this is skills, drills and scrimmage games, no individual players are assigned to coaches. Players are grouped each week by age and skill. We will not contact you prior to the first Saturday. Please come to the field at 9 a.m. and sign in with staff.

### **Who are the instructors?**

CUMC Athletic staff, college and high school players and volunteers who have soccer backgrounds.

### **What if we have to miss a Saturday due to spring break?**

Because it is set up as a camp, if a child misses a Saturday, it will cause no problems since players are not assigned to individual teams. There were three different spring breaks scheduled this year, so we could not avoid scheduling on all of the Saturdays available or we would not get the spring training program in before baseball, softball and T-ball start up. If you miss a Saturday, just come the next—attend as many of the Saturdays as possible.

### **Will my child get a uniform?**

Yes, a reversible shirt to be worn each week for the scrimmage games. The jerseys run large. I suggest you order one size smaller for junior/senior K children, and once received, you may cut off some of the length. It is yours to keep.

### **What should my child wear?**

Dress warmly on cold days. Sweat pants and shirts are always comfortable and warm. The jersey is reversible and sleeveless so the children can wear the jersey over a sweat shirt.

### **What if it rains?**

We will move indoors, so if it is raining, please come to the gym and wear tennis shoes (indoor shoes—no cleats). If it does rain on Friday or Saturday morning, please call our phone message system, 683-6887, or go to the website for information, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>. These will be updated every Saturday it rains or Saturdays after a Friday rain. Remember, even a hard rain on Friday or Friday night can make the field too wet for the Saturday program to be held on the field.

### **Can I stay and watch?**

You most certainly can, but please stay off of the main field and keep siblings away from the clinic stations. If you do leave the facility, please be back to pick up your son or daughter at the end of each session. The last 30 minutes of each session will be game time—running scrimmage games—and you are welcome to come watch and cheer. No pets are allowed inside of the fence.

### **Can I help?**

Sure. Any parents who would like to help, please let us know what Saturdays you would like to participate.

### **What should my son or daughter bring to camp?**

A ball (size 3 for junior K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and a size four for 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders). Water bottles are not necessary since there are drinking fountains, and we will add a rotation to the drinking station during the sessions.

### **Does my child have to wear cleats?**

No, but remember if he or she does, that if we move indoors due to rain, cleats cannot be worn indoors.

### **Does my child have to wear shin guards?**

Yes, and they must be placed under the socks, not on top. This is for the safety of your child and the boys and girls he or she plays with.

**Saturday, April 10 we will have a short skills demonstration at 10:30 a.m. Each child will receive a certificate and medal. Bring your cameras for a photo op!**

### **T-ball/Softball and Baseball (junior K–high school)**

#### **Who coaches the CUMC teams?**

Coaches are volunteers who attend the Protect Our Kids (POK) program sponsored by CUMC. In addition, coaches must attend and be certified through the Shepherd Coaches program at CUMC. The athletic committee reviews the coaches' registrations and selects the coaches for each season. Our program mission is to transform and serve God through sports and fitness. The Bible is our game book—it is our foundation. We believe each child is equal and deserves to be treated equally on and off the field. A child's self-worth is not based on athleticism, but because Jesus Christ died for each and every one of them. We do believe that God calls us to be our very best and to do our very best, so our coaches try to help your child use his or her talents to God's glory.

#### **When will the coach call?**

After March 31—coaches will receive their rosters on Wednesday, March 31, and coaches will call each player on their team by Sunday, April 4.

#### **How are teams divided?**

MCRA rules state that all teams must be divided equally by age and ability. That means if we have two teams in the same age group, the teams will have equal number of 1<sup>st</sup> graders and equal number of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. The teams must also be divided by ability and player position.

#### **Can I request a friend?**

Our staff does all we can to ensure everyone placed on a team knows someone on that team. If you feel you need to request a carpool buddy or friend, this must be done on your registration form. You may stop by the Athletic desk and ask for your form so your request can be printed on the form. We cannot take requests over the phone or via e-mail. We also request that the child you request also requests your child on his or her form. In the past we have had parents object to special requests if they were not aware of it.

**Will you offer unified teams?**

Unified teams are created with players from our church and school and players from the community. If we have enough players interested in playing on a unified team, yes, we will unite with players from the community. Please mark unified team on your form.

**When will practice begin?**

The week of April 12. Coaches will schedule practice times at the coaches' meeting. Each team will have one practice during the week and one on Saturdays until the season begins. Exception to this is the junior and senior K teams—they will practice one time a week.

**Can I watch practice?**

Yes, please sit on the bleachers since there will be other teams on the field. No pets are allowed inside the fence, and siblings are asked to stay with the parents and not run onto the field. Please be sure the coach sees you when you pick up your child. Having an open field and adults watching practices, we want to ensure your child's safety to and from practice.

**What times are the practices scheduled?**

That is completely up to the coaches. Most weekday practice times are 5-6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-dark. The younger-aged teams get first priority for the early times. On Saturdays we schedule practices from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**When are the games played?**

Most teams play two games a week—Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday. We try to schedule all games on Monday/Thursday. T-ball games are sometimes scheduled on Saturdays; however, we try to schedule all games on weekdays and hold Saturdays open for rain out rescheduled games. Game times are usually 5:15 PM and 6:30 p.m. The games will start the week of May 17 and finish the week of June 28—each team playing 10 games. There will be no games scheduled Memorial Day weekend.

**When will the game schedules be posted?**

Schedules and field locations will be posted on the website's athletic page, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>, and will also be e-mailed to each participant on May 10.

**Where are games played?**

Games are played at CUMC and other area church fields. Sometimes there might be a game scheduled at a local Park Commission field. The 5th and 6th graders who play after the PAA season is over will play on Park Commission fields mid May-first of July.

**Will my child get a uniform?**

Each player will receive a jersey, socks and hat—shorts and baseball pants are the responsibility of the parent. We recommend gray baseball pants. I also recommend that each child have his or her name in the hat.

**Are cleats mandatory?**

No they are optional—athletic shoes are fine, especially for the junior and senior kindergartners and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

**Do we need our own gloves and bats?**

Gloves—yes and put your child's name on the glove. Bats—we do supply two bats per team.

**Are batting helmets required?**

Yes, and each team will receive four helmets. However, many parents purchase a helmet for their child.

**Junior and Senior K play T-ball, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders play coach pitch and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders play kid pitch.**

**My son is awesome. Can he move up a division?**

I am sorry, but due to liability issues, players must play in their respective age group.

**Can I help?**

Most coaches welcome parental help. Please offer your services to the coach at the first practice.

**What are the rain out plans?**

If it rains the night before or during the day, we will post the rain out on our website, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>. We will also update the phone message system, 683-6887. Rain out decisions will be posted by 2 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. Saturdays. Rain after 2 p.m. weekdays or 8:30 a.m. Saturdays will be left up to the field director. Please call if it begins to rain after 2 p.m. weekdays or 8:30 a.m. Saturdays if you are headed this way. Keep in mind: rain in Midtown does not mean rain at CUMC. We will update the message systems as often as possible throughout the afternoons and Saturdays.

**Can I use the field on Sundays?**

No, I am sorry, but we do not open the fields on Sundays. We encourage Sundays to be a day of worship and family time. We try to avoid scheduling practices and games on Sundays.

**The gate is locked. What can I do?**

Please come to the athletic desk and a staff person will come to the field and unlock the gate. For your child's safety, please do not allow your child to climb the fence. The field will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to games and practices.

**PAA Additional Information**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to play preseason ball on a PAA team and can stay and play in an extended league as outlined above.

PAA practices will begin the week of February 15. Games will begin approximately March 15, and the season will end May 10.

**What if it is cold and rainy?**

Occasionally we will move practice indoors to work on base running and situation plays. We do not have a lot of time to teach a lot of fundamentals, so we try to get in as much practice time as possible pre-season. Otherwise, the rain plan is the same as outlined above.

Games will be played after school and on Saturdays at the PAA church/school sites.

Teams will practice two to three days weekly until the season begins and then drop down to one or two days a week. Practices will be set up for one and a half to two hours per session.

**Who will coach these teams?**

As with all PAA teams, the athletic committee recommends that PAA teams are coached by non-parents. This helps the athletes prepare for middle school teams. However, in the event we do not recruit coaches, we do allow parents to coach or assist. The extended season teams, as outlined above, are coached by parents, and these teams play in the Memphis Park Commission. Coaches must attend the POK program and be Shepherd Coach certified.

**In the PAA league, boys play straight up baseball and the girls play modified softball—yes, with steals and throw downs!**

Uniforms will be issued to each player; the uniform will include a jersey, socks, hat and bag. Each player is responsible for buying gray baseball pants, a glove and shoes. Cleats are not required, but recommended. No metal cleats are allowed.

Each team will be issued bats, balls and helmets; however, you may purchase your own helmet if you prefer. The girls' helmets must have the wire mask on the front of the helmet.

**When will schedules be distributed?**

We hope we have the schedules e-mailed to each participant and on the website, <http://www.cumcmemphis.org/athletics>, by March 10. However, we are working with PAA schools and churches, so we cannot send it out until all of the Athletic Directors enter their games on the arbiter.

If you have any other questions please e-mail us at [recreation@cumcmemphis.org](mailto:recreation@cumcmemphis.org).

Thank you for participating in our sports ministry program.