

## *Pioneer Valley Travel Soccer League Informational Flyer*

**Introduction:** The PVJSL promotes fun, safe and exciting soccer play for children in grades 3-8. Players of all ability levels are invited to sign up and play the most popular sport in the world! Visit the league website at [www.pjvsl.com](http://www.pjvsl.com). The Recreation Department will also offer recreational leagues for those that are interested.

**Teams:** This League is for players entering grades 3-8 in the fall 2008. We will attempt to group kids together by grade level; however due to league rules, we need to stay within the birth-date requirements for each age level. The age levels are: U9 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), U10 (4<sup>th</sup> grade), U11 (5<sup>th</sup> grade), U12 (6<sup>th</sup>), U13 (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and U14 (8<sup>th</sup> grade). The age cutoff day is August 1, 2007 (you cannot reach your age division's age prior to this day). This rule assures that all players in a specific division will be within one calendar year of each other. The teams will then be placed in a division which is based on the team's skill level and this should ensure that teams are competing against teams of equal skill level and ability.

**If there are too many kids signed up for a specific team for U11 – U14, tryouts may be required. League rules prohibit rosters larger than 18 players. We may ask kids to play up a division to avoid a tryout whenever possible. If tryouts are required, they will be held in late June or early August. The dates will be announced in early June after the tryouts are completed. For U9 and U10, registrations will be first come, first served. We will accommodate any amount of teams; however we will not have cuts for this age group. If there are multiple teams in one age group, the Recreation Department in conjunction with the coaching staff will determine how to split the teams up.**

**Travel:** Away games will be played within the Pioneer Valley. The furthest you may have to travel would be to towns like Agawam, Monson, Ware, Gateway and Greenfield. Directions to all fields can be found on the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League website: [www.pvjsl.com](http://www.pvjsl.com) (click on the field info link).

**Coaching/Instruction:** Pioneer Valley requires all teams to have at least one coach who has completed an introductory coaching course (this course will be held at a local site by Mass Youth Soccer Association). Practice will begin in early/mid August giving players an opportunity to practice without the burden of schoolwork. We are always looking to develop new head and assistant coaches; if you are interested please contact the Recreation Department. League rules permit only two coaches on the sideline for any game; however more are encouraged in practices.

**Registration:** *Sign-ups will begin May 12 and end June 6 at the South Hadley Recreation Department. Registration requires a small photograph (for player ID card) and a fee of \$65 for all new players and \$45 for any returning player that has their uniform from the previous season and wants to use it again this year.*

**All new PVJSL players and eight graders will be required to sign their id card either at this time or at a later date.** Participants can also provide an address sized sticker with the players signature and printed name on the back. Any returning sixth or eight grade player does not need

a new player pass. Each participant will be required to read and sign the “zero tolerance” form prior to the season. Players signing up after June 6 will not be guaranteed placement. Any player that doesn’t get the proper paperwork filled out will not be eligible to play until they have completed it and the league has approved it.

**Tournaments:** At the end of the season **PVJSL** host a playoff tournament at Gateway Regional High School for the top (4) teams in each division (grades 5-8). Teams will be eligible to enter additional tournaments upon the coach’s discretion. Fees to enter tournaments will be the responsibility of each team.