

**Coaches Monthly Planner  
For a WAYSA Fall Season  
[www.waysa-soccer.org](http://www.waysa-soccer.org)**

July

- Broaden your knowledge/sharpen your skills: attend a MYSA 'F' or 'G' class, take books out of the library. [If you are coaching U14, take a 'E' class].
- Notify the players you are their coach, identify who the assistant coach is, and when you plan to hold your weekly practices in August, September, and October. Make sure you have a practice field and timeslot.
- Notify the players who their teammates are---parents can arrange car pools
- Provide required signed forms: MYSA, WAYSA, and club specific – for Code of Conduct. Provide back to your town/club coordinator
- Plan your team drills: what is the focus for August, early Sept, late Sept, early Oct, and late Oct. Consider a building block approach to develop the basics to the advanced; to increase endurance; to increase team communication and coordination
- Assemble a first aid kit, coaching materials, a practice equipment checklist, and a game day equipment checklist
- Get together with your assistant coach to plan the season. Identify any times when you will not be available.

August

- Buy/obtain a size '4' game ball (for U10 or U12) or size '5' (for U14 and above), make sure it is 'seamed'. Obtain extra practice balls – 1 per player is ideal. Find out which players can bring a ball to practice.
- Make sure your team players all have their proper uniform attire: shirt, shorts, socks, shin pads, and shoes. Make sure they are aware of the jewelry and hat rules.
- Make sure you have a goalie shirt. Once your goalies are identified, consider goalie gloves and pants.
- Obtain/buy field cones from your club or local sporting store
- Start practices – the earlier in the month, the more likely you will get a rhythm of play in place and team communications before the season start. Waiting until the end of August is certain to end-up with several players on vacation.
- Notify the players what equipment they need to have for practice and game days. Practice days would be practice ball, water, towel and proper attire. On game day, leave the game ball at home and have the team uniform on.
- Receive season schedule from town/club coordinator or visit the league website. Make copies for all players
- Optional, depending on the age group, -- U10/U12 kids love oranges at half-time – select a parent to coordinate oranges or other quick/nutritional snack for each game
- Make your team rosters for the season. Keep them with your game day items.
- Identify any players with health problems, e.g. asthma, and talk with the parents about tell-tale signs to watch out for.
- Have a talk with all the parents and players in the early going, so they know who you are, what you are going to do, and enlist their help to make the season successful.

September

- Season starts after Labor Day – 10 games over 8 weekends, plus 4 tournament games
- Bring roster to every game. Give ref a copy. At end of game, sign the ref payment card if you are the home team coach
- Consider taking your team into a Columbus Weekend tournament. See the Baystater magazine for a complete listing in MA. Holden has a tournament every year.
- Bring referee forms to every game, for the month of September
- Continue to practice week nights in preparation for games on weekends
- Game days, make sure players are staying hydrated, players are playing at least 50% of a game
- Plan mid-season and end of season fun: pizza night, ice cream, tournament tailgate cookout, scrimmage game with other club/town team who is playing in another division

October

- Receive tournament schedule. U10/U12 is at the beginning of the September. U14-U18G is 5 days before the playoffs start.
- U10/U12 – there 4 games in tournament over 2 days. Make sure you have tournament patches.
- U14-U18G – there is at least 1 playoff game. Depending on your win/loss, winners continue to advance. Depending on the number of teams in the playoff division, you may play up to 4 games over 2 weekends.
- Make plans for indoor soccer if you so desire, e.g. YMCA, Indoor Sports, Habitat

November

- Season ends; have that end of season get together with the team. Especially if your town/club does not have a sports night.
- Return all loaned equipment to your club/town.
- Rate your team players, if your town/club requests assessments.