



# HEARTS Soccer Information

## What does HEARTS sports offer?

We offer Christ-centered sports programs for Christian home-school students. We are members of the Lake Effect Conference (LEC) as well as the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association (OCSAA). HEARTS sports teams are one way we challenge and encourage homeschool students to honor God in all things, and to grow in their walk with Jesus through athletics. HEARTS soccer program has a long history of successful competition and league championships, including an eight-time ACSI or OCSAA state championship, and a seven time NACA national championship. As an ACSI member school, HEARTS athletes are eligible for the ACSI Distinguished Student award.

## When does the season start and end?

- Official practices begin in August and end in October
- There are optional conditioning opportunities for team members and alumni over the summer
- The first scrimmage is typically in August and the varsity season ends with the National Association of Christian Athletics (NACA) in Dayton, TN, tournament at the end of October
- There is a season kick-off meeting at the start of the season and a fall banquet in November, which includes all fall sports.

## Where are the practices and games?

Practices and home games are held in North Ridgeville at Beckett Gas Company field. Away games are in the greater Cleveland area.

## How much will this cost?

For HEARTS members, costs typically run \$150 per student to participate, and \$45-\$70 for a uniform. For varsity team members on the tournament team, there are additional fees for the out-of-town tournaments. Typical fees are \$350, but this will vary depending on the number and location of the tournaments. As always, we attempt to keep costs down and raise needed funds in other ways through parent-initiated fundraising activities. You must be a HEARTS member to participate in our sports programs. Membership options include a basic membership (\$250), which covers all sports, ACSI, social and testing for a school year, or full membership which includes Friday classes and access to all HEARTS programs.

## What teams are available and how many participate?

The available teams depend on the number of interested families and vary from season to season. We typically have a high school boys varsity team and a middle school boys team. Both teams have allowed participation by a few brave-hearted girls. Some years there is enough interest for a JV team as well.

Your child will participate in all practices, but there is no guarantee he or she will play in the games. Eleven team members play at a time in a game.

## How can I help?

Each family is expected to help by signing up for ministry assistant positions (MAP). There will be a sign-up at the start of the season and everyone is required to help. Parents take turns working admission and concessions at each home game. Additional responsibilities include coordinating fundraisers, coordinating Hearts lunches and bake sales, coordinating senior night, taking team photos, keeping statistics, ordering team uniforms, lining the field, team manager, and tournament coordinator. As you can see, there is something for everyone.

Additionally, there will be fundraising and/or booster activities throughout the year. One typical fundraising event is Friday lunches and bake sales during HEARTS classes. Each family provides baked goods for the bake sale and the team members work the sale. At least one adult will oversee the event and handle the money. Most lunches are purchased, but sometimes the team will provide the lunch, with each family contributing. Team moms and team members help serve the lunch. Another annual event is an alumni game and dinner. Other past fundraisers include working at Cedar Point, car washes, etc. Parents are encouraged to develop fundraising efforts for HEARTS programming. The coordinator will determine additional fundraising activities, with team families helping as needed.

## What should I do if I have interest in joining the Soccer team?

- Send an e-mail to the HEARTS Athletic Director ([athletics@heartsforjesuschrist.org](mailto:athletics@heartsforjesuschrist.org))
- If you are not a member of HEARTS, you will need to complete the HEARTS membership process. Begin at HEARTS web page: <http://www.heartsforjesuschrist.org/>. On the left under *Helpful Links*, select *Information Request*. Fill out this form and submit. Someone from HEARTS will contact you.
- There will be a \$50 non-refundable deposit for team members. It can only be refunded if the single sport of interest to a sport-only family does not go forward due to inadequate sign-ups to form a team.
- Once you have notified us, look for e-mails and other announcements that will get you ready for the season.
- There will be forms to complete, one of which requires a current physical. Your child will not be eligible to participate until all the forms have been received.