

## Intercounty Youth Soccer League

The RPSC Intercounty soccer program is the future for all soccer players in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (U10) and older. This is still Rec Soccer and there are no tryouts for intercounty. This past 2015 Fall season, 8 teams represented the RPSC in the Intercounty Youth Soccer League (see ICYSL league's website at [www.icysl.org](http://www.icysl.org)). Intercounty teams provide the opportunity to play in the fall and in the spring against teams from nearby towns all in Union County. The towns/clubs represented in the past have included: Berkeley Heights, Clark, Colonia, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Scotch Plains, South Mountain (Maplewood/South Orange), Springfield, Summit, Union and Westfield.

The Intercounty program encourages players to continue playing recreational soccer beyond the in-town program. Intercounty allowed Roselle Park to offer single gender teams. Intercounty offers players opportunities to realize their potential through training and competition. The goal of the Intercounty program is to:

- Enhance the player's skills through a recreational team environment.
- Foster a game-playing attitude based on sportsmanship.
- Have fun and make the experience positive and memorable.
- Develop a life-long love for the game

Spring 2016 teams: RPSC Intercounty fields U10, U12, U14 and U17 teams.

Teams are established based on gender and are based upon the player's age as of August 1 of the given year. For example, a player who does not turn 14 before August 1 will be U-14, or a player who is older but does not turn 17 before August 1 will be U-17. Typically, in the Fall, U-10 is for players in grade 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, U-12 is for players in grades 5 and 6; U-14 is for grades 7 and 8; U-17 is for grades 9, 10 and 11.

## **Intercounty Frequently Asked Questions**

For those of you not familiar with InterCounty soccer, here is a list of Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: What is InterCounty Soccer?**

A: InterCounty Soccer is a way to play recreational soccer against teams from neighboring towns.

**Q: What age groups are available in the Fall?**

A: In the fall, we field teams at the U17, U14, U12, and U10 levels.

**Q: What age groups are available in the Spring?**

A: In the spring, we field teams at the U17, U14, U12, and U10 levels (including U9 eligible rec players). New for Spring 2014 is the U19 age group.

**Q: How do you try out for an InterCounty team?**

A: There are no tryouts! Everyone who registers on a timely basis is placed on a team.

**Q: How much of a commitment does it take to play InterCounty?**

A: The same commitment it takes to play InTown Rec soccer. Generally there is one game each weekend and one practice during the week.

**Q: Exactly when will practices and games be held? Will they conflict with other sports and activities?**

A: This question is often asked and there is no way to provide specifics before the season starts. Practices will be scheduled by each team for one afternoon each week after school. Sessions generally run for 90 minutes. Games are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays and could be at any time of the day. An occasional Friday night game may also be scheduled.

**Q: Isn't there a lot of travel associated with InterCounty?**

A: There is very little travel. Half your games are played at home and the other half are played in nearby towns such as Cranford, Clark, Scotch Plains, Mountainside, New Providence, etc.

**Q: Is the league very competitive?**

A: As with the in-town rec program, there are varying degrees of team strength. Divisions are divided whenever possible to allow for stronger and weaker sub-divisions. There will be teams from some towns that are very strong but generally the games are quite competitive. Depending on the age group and amount of teams, some levels offer a "A" team, "B" team and also a "C" team. This helps with all levels of skills and team placement.

### **SUMMARY**

If you enjoy the fun and excitement of soccer but do not have the time commitment to play Travel Soccer, then InterCounty Soccer is the answer for you. It combines the best of both worlds---recreational and travel soccer---by allowing you to participate in a more relaxed, less intensive, less committed environment while still enjoying the excitement and challenge of playing teams from other towns! It is basically "travel-lite" for soccer.

We are also all rooting for Roselle Park and not playing the same teams over and over again. It brings RP soccer to a new level.