

What is Bay-Lakes Soccer?

SAY – Soccer Association for Youth, our governing national organization divides the United States into areas. Areas have a large number of players and wide geographic boundaries. Areas are broken down further into districts. Our area is called Bay-Lakes, and it is currently comprised of six districts including: Allouez Anchors, Ashwaubenon Youth Soccer, DePere/Wrightstown Rapides, Green Bay East Strikers, Green Bay West Kickers, Howard-Suamico United Hurricanes and Pulaski Youth Soccer.

Each district has the responsibility of running its own operation, including electing a board, registering players, setting its own schedule, planning its own events, training coaches and referees, and much more. However, being a part of the Bay-Lakes area, they are required to work with and follow along with policies and procedures established by the Bay Lakes board.

The Bay-Lakes board is made up of volunteers and appointees from all seven districts. The board has its own elected officers and is responsible for the actions of both itself and the seven districts that it encompasses. It is the go-between for the districts and national SAY, sending information both up and down the chain, voting on national SAY elections and rule changes, and sending requests for variances or changes in the way we operate our districts and area.

Part of the point of having districts is to keep kids playing soccer together with their friends and neighbors in small communities. All seven districts are able to do that for the younger kids, but as the players grow and find other interests, our player numbers decline and it becomes necessary to combine for inter-district play. This allows us to avoid playing just a few teams over and over all season. So at a certain point we combine, having teams with players from their own districts playing teams from other districts. This point varies, as some of the smaller districts combine for league play at the U12 level, while most of the rest combine at the U15 level. The Green Bay Strikers has inter-district play for U15 girls, U15 boys, U19 girls and U19 boys.

For the age levels playing within their own district, that district is responsible for their own schedules, playing fields, and referees. However, once we reach the age levels where we combine for inter-district play, the schedules and referees are provided by the Bay Lakes county organization, and each district provides fields for their home games. Green Bay East Strikers play our home games at the Arnie Wolff complex on Humboldt Rd. Some fields have similar names so make sure you are paying attention to where you are going. There is a Kennedy park in Green Bay East, and Kennedy School in Green Bay West. Southwest Park is in DePere, not at Southwest High School.

At the U15 and U19 age levels scores are kept. There are trophies for the league champion and runner up, and standings determine which teams are invited to the Tony Litt tournament to end the season. At these levels, games that are cancelled or suspended will be made up if less than half of the game has been completed. The county builds two make up weeks into the season. The make-ups from the first half of the season are played during the week off in early July, and make ups-for the second half of the season are played in the week between the last scheduled regular season game and the tournament.

The Bay-Lakes website at www.Bay-Lakes.org is where to find schedules, scores and standings, fields and locations, policies and procedures, and minutes from the Bay-Lakes meetings. Our weather policy, concussion policy, code of ethics, Bay-Lakes by-laws and Constitution, and information on filing complaints, protests, and due process, as well as links to the districts can all be found there, along with much more.

The Bay-Lakes board currently meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We work hard to try and foster cooperation between the districts and create the most opportunities and best environment for all the players in our Area. If you are interested in being involved as a board member, refereeing, or helping out with the Tony Litt tournament, please contact your district board, and they will get you in touch with one of your district's county board contacts.