

JR Blades Timbers & Thorns Program 2021/2022



The JR Blades (8U) program introduces a successful bridge into competitive, traveling club soccer. There are no tryouts for this age group. It is an annual program with a fall and a spring season, for players with future goals to participate in competitive club soccer.

JR Blades registration is open to 8U players, Birth year 2014, boys and girls. **NO PLAY UPS ALLOWED.**

Jr. Blade teams do travel to events so participants must understand the commitment involved before signing up. Space is limited, sign up today.

The JR Blades program will be under the direct supervision of the Director of Coaching Rick Mullins.

“Play Early, Play Forever.”

Casper Soccer Club Vision

The Casper Soccer Club, Central Wyoming's premier soccer organization, provides lifelong opportunities for challenge and growth - both on and off the pitch.

The goal of the JR Blades program is to create a bridge to the future competitive club play, high school and even collegiate play.

The Annual JR Blades Program

8U Boys and Girls born in 2014 are eligible to participate in the JR Blades program. The program will consist of a fall and spring training session with a winter optional training.

- Fall training season - Beginning August 24, 2021, ending October 30, 2021.
- Spring training season- Beginning March 22, 2022, ending with the Wyoming State Cup in May, 2022.

- All trainings and inter squad games are on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 5:45pm to 6:45pm.
- North Casper Soccer Complex – 1700 East K St, Casper, WY
- Players are expected to attend all training and games.

What do I bring to training and games?

It is the responsibility of **All** participants to bring positive attitude and necessary equipment to all sessions.

- Shin guards with socks cover the shin guard
- Soccer ball - size 3
- Appropriate soccer clothing to all sessions
- Full water bottle
- Gamedays, please wear your appropriate uniform set

Cost of JR Blades

Jr Blades annual membership cost \$270. Additional cost will apply to:

- Uniform Kit – 2 jerseys, 2 pair of shorts, 2 pair of socks – Approximately \$110
 - Boys Uniform is an Adidas Blades Timbers Kit
 - Girls Uniform is a Nike Blades Thorns Kit
- Team fees – including but not limited to winter facility rental and event registration.

JR Blades Training and Game Schedule:

- Training is 6 weeks in duration for both fall and spring sessions.
- All Training Sessions are Tuesdays from 5:45-6:45pm
- Inter squad games are Thursday from 5:45-6:45pm
- All trainings at inter squad games are at the North Casper Soccer Complex.
- Tournament/Event schedule will depend on the event and will vary but expect to dedicate the weekend to the JR Blades event schedule.

Program Benefits:

- A fun, competitive, and age-appropriate learning atmosphere.
- All Training sessions are led by the Casper Soccer Club Director of Coaching, Rick Mullins. Rick has a lifetime of soccer experience and is a USSF “A” and National Youth license and is an ODP Coach.
 - Additional Jr Blades Coaches will be working with the group.
- Development of individual technical skills and better understanding of the game.
- Tournament play.

Coach Education and Development:

- The JR Blades program is a great environment to develop new coaches.
- Under the Blades Director of Coaching leadership, volunteer assistant coaches will develop their coaching skills.
- Just as players need to develop, so do the coaches.
- We rely on the volunteer coaches to assist the staff with the program during training and the games.

Tournaments:

The JR Blades is a bridge to the competitive programs; therefore, the teams will participate in Tournaments. All tournaments are an additional cost. Tournament fees are divided evenly amongst the number of players on the team. This is often referred to as team fees. Tournaments may vary season to season. Below is the tentative tournament list for the program.

Fall Season:

- Sept 11-12, Fall Classic, Casper, WY
- Oct 2-3, Lander Invitational, Lander, WY
- Oct 9-10, Gillette Fall Classic, Gillette WY

Spring Season:

- April 9-10, Spring Jam, Casper WY
- May 7-8, Big Horn/Snickers Cup, Sheridan WY
- May 28, 29 30, United Cup, Casper WY

Winter Season:

- Winter season is optional for players.
- Winter programming is at an additional cost. Training begins late October depending on facility availability.
- Depending on demand, teams may be formed to attend indoor “futsal” tournaments in Gillette and Laramie, Wyoming.

Training format

- All training is led by Blades Director of Coaching, Rick Mullins.
- All training is done as a pool and is CO-ED. If we have enough boys and girls to form separate gender game day teams, we will do so. Otherwise, teams for games will be CO-ED.
- Training varies 1-2 times per week depending on tournament schedules. On weeks without a tournament, training will vary. Training will either be twice a week or once a week with an inter-pool game on Thursday. This schedule will be communicated with the group before the season begins.

Weekly In-House Inter Squad Games:

- All traditional and tournament games will be 4v4 with no goalkeeper. 2x20 halves (5-minute half time). Jamboree style game durations and numbers will vary. (Ex. 2v2, 3v3, 4v4)
- Small Sided Games provide repeated game situations on both sides of the ball thus impacting the players in all four components of the game. Those demands of both the match and training sessions help young players improve for today and tomorrow.

General Information

Removal of players from the JR Blades Program - The program director will have the option to remove any participant for consistent behavior issues, safety or if he or she feels the environment is not best for the player involved or the standard of the group.

The Casper Soccer Club and the Administrative Staff reserves the right to update and change the guidelines of the program without notice for the betterment of the program.

