

# DEXTER, MISSOURI



Parks & Recreation

DEXTER PARKS & RECREATION  
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August 9, 2024

Parents –

Year in and year out, Dexter Parks and Recreation (DPR) is committed to providing quality, affordable recreation programs to Dexter and the surrounding communities. With this commitment to quality, DPR has minimum registration number requirements in order to provide a worthwhile experience for the players, coaches, and spectators. This minimum registration number is enough to construct 4 teams within a league.

Unfortunately, the number of registered players (28 players) in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer division did not meet the registration threshold (44-48 players) in order to move forward with offering our recreational league this fall.

Since Spring of 2020, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer division has struggled to meet the minimum number of registered players in order to have a league. In Spring of 2021, there were only 22 players registered for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer. In Spring of 2022, there were 46 players, enough to meet the 4 team threshold. In Spring of 2023, there were 40 players registered. This falls below the typical threshold of players, however DPR made the decision to try to move forward with 4 teams of 10 players in an 8-on-8 format. This stretched teams very thin from the beginning of the season and resulted in several games being played with fewer than 8 players on the field. Finally, in Spring of 2024, there were only 37 players registered, again falling below the threshold.

In response to the struggles of this league, DPR held a meeting with representatives from DYSA, Dexter Youth Soccer Association, in order to form a plan to try to address the falling numbers in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer. The result of this meeting was a plan to move 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer to the Fall season, beginning in 2024. Both organizations were in agreement that this would be the next best step forward in trying to improve the registration in the program. As stated above, unfortunately, this change did not make a distinct difference in the registration numbers in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade league.

DPR is committed to continuing to explore options moving forward for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer in our area. This will include meetings and conversations with other local parks and recreation departments to see what issues they are facing as well and how they have starting trying to attack them.

Refunds for those registered for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade DPR Fall Soccer will be processed beginning Monday, August, 12, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [nate@dexterpark-rec.com](mailto:nate@dexterpark-rec.com) or 573-624-8244.

Thank you

Nate Watkins  
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Dexter Parks and Recreation