

StreetSoccer.us

building a community

All you need is a ball. Want teammates or opponents? Grab some friends. Want a goal? Throw some jackets on the ground or pull a garbage can near a tree.

Street soccer is the small-sided or individual, informal game that is played by millions of people around the world. It's the game in the street, in the playground, in the empty lot, in the backyard. It's 1v1, 2v2, 3v3, or whatever. It's mastering ball tricks by yourself or just having a kickabout with friends.

And the benefits of street soccer are undeniable—all of the best players in the world grow up playing it. In the street the game is open and free and a place where one can experiment and be creative without reprimand or fear of failure.

Unfortunately, unlike in most of the world, in the United States a street soccer culture does not really exist. So in the interest of facilitating the growth of one on Long Island I have created the **STREET SOCCER FORUM**, the purpose of which is simple: to serve as an online meeting place where soccer players can network with other soccer players and arrange their own street soccer pickup games.

While of course anyone can form a pickup game by calling, texting, or emailing friends, an online and public forum enables him or her to connect to a much wider audience and become part of a far-reaching community.

- ▶ Through the forum you can find out where others are getting together for pickup games and join them.
- ▶ Through the forum you can organize your own pickups and find other players who will want to join you.

While a web forum enabling one to network beyond his or her immediate locale will be most useful to older teens and adults, it is my hope and belief that the development of a street soccer culture will trickle down to younger players and become a natural part of their environment as well.

I would appreciate it if you would inform the players in your program and any others to whom you feel this would be of interest about the forum and the emerging street soccer scene on Long Island. The forum can be found by visiting <http://www.streetsoccer.us> and clicking the link "go to the forum" on the left side of the homepage. In the forum one is able to read posts without registering, but he or she will need to register in order to create or respond to posts. Registration is free.

If you have any questions either about the forum or about anything regarding street soccer, please feel free to contact me; I would be happy to discuss things with you. Thank you.

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