

**SCUGOG SOCCER  
ASSOCIATION**

**OUTDOOR MINI-HOUSE  
LEAGUE**

(U7 to U10)

**COACHES MANUAL**

(May 2007)

## MESSAGE TO COACHES

Welcome to the Outdoor Soccer season of the Scugog Soccer Association. Thank you for agreeing to coach a group of athletes who need a coach to enjoy everything that sport has to offer: fun, competition, friendship and personal growth.

Thank you for taking the time from your personal schedule to devote to the development of young people who will benefit from your presence, your planning, your teaching, and your personal involvement in making soccer a fun place to be.

Thank you for accepting the responsibility of helping young people become better athletes, for keeping them safe, and helping them feel good about themselves and what they do.

The main objective of House League Soccer is for the players to have fun, learn skills, and enjoy the game while playing in a safe and positive environment. You, as a Coach, will play an important role in meeting these objectives. Think back to some of the lessons your Coach taught you. Perhaps you remember the importance of trying your best at all times, or how important team goals and sportsmanship are. That Coach, and that experience made a difference in your life, and you too can make the sport experience meaningful, fun and memorable.

In order to help you do so we have created this manual. The intent of the Coach's Manual is to inform you of your responsibilities as a Coach, to assist you in your role as a coach, and to provide you with the necessary information to make the whole process more enjoyable for all involved.

The manual contains important information about our Privacy Policy as well as Cup Day, Photo Day, and other Scugog Soccer Association events. Contact names and information are also provided. The best resource for all of these is the club web site.

[www.scugogsoccer.ca](http://www.scugogsoccer.ca)

Every Coach will be provided with a copy of the Coach's Manual. It is the responsibility of the Coach to inform Assistant Coaches and parents not only of the relevant content of this Manual, but also of anything else that comes up during the season. Two-way communication is essential to a successful season, so please don't hesitate to contact any of the club directors or executive for questions, comments or concerns.

The Scugog Soccer Association would like to thank you again for agreeing to coach this summer, and we hope that it is an enjoyable experience for you, as well as your players. Good Luck, and we look forward to seeing you on the field.

## **YOUR ROLES AS A COACH**

People become coaches for many reasons: because they have a child in sport, because they were athletes themselves, or because they want an opportunity to help in their community. Some coaches step forward; some are asked to help; some are reluctant as they don't know much about soccer. No matter what the reason, all coaches have the same roles. You will be a teacher, a leader, an organizer, and sometimes will even act as a counselor. You will also be a communicator, and especially a **cheerleader!**

In your role as a teacher, you will be asked to share whatever knowledge you have of the sport, and prepare athletes to play by improving fitness and developing skills specific to soccer. In your role as a leader, you will make many decisions, to motivate your athletes and help them set and attain goals – both on the individual and team levels. In your role as an organizer, you will manage practices, and by the end of the season evaluate your players to help us better balance players next year.

In your role as a counselor, you will listen to and provide guidance and support for your athletes.

In your role as a communicator, you will be counted on to pass on information from the Club to the players and parents, and vice versa. You will need to pass information from the Club to your team, and we hope that any questions or concerns a player or parent has that you need assistance with will be passed on to the Club so we can provide the information. Please also direct parents to the web site which has lots of information including contact information for board members.

In your role as a cheerleader, you will be performing your most important role. We need you to foster the willingness to try new things, to take risks, to test potential. Sport should be fun! Fun doesn't mean that athletes need to be laughing and giggling all the time – part of fun is a challenge that is realistic and encouraging. Fun is being actively involved, being respected for yourself and your particular talents. Fun means that we all count as part of the team and we play the game fairly. Fun means having a sense of satisfaction that what you are involved in is gratifying and worthwhile. Fun is what your athletes should expect from you, and what you should expect now that you are involved in coaching.

It is important to understand that athletes, like coaches, participate for different reasons. Be sure to get to know each and every one of your players, and why they are involved. Find out what they want to accomplish this season – as a soccer player, as a team member, and as a person, and do what you can to help ensure they achieve their goals and have an enjoyable season.

Adapted from Coaching Basics written by “Sport Alliance of Ontario, and Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation”

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A COACH**

The responsibilities of Coaches include teaching their players the fundamentals of soccer, and how to play together as a team. Coaches are expected to be positive role models for players, given the fact that children learn by example. Whether the team wins or loses, the positive contributions that each player makes to the game must be emphasized. This fosters the development of confident players, and boosts their self-esteem.

The Coach is solely responsible for all soccer-related aspects of the team, including the activities and promoting appropriate conduct from Assistant Coaches, Parents and players during team related activities.

The following are some of the responsibilities you have as a Coach for the Scugog Soccer Association. Please also read the Policy and Procedure Manual on the Web site.

### **Communication**

To act as a communicator is not only a role of a Coach, but also a responsibility. Effective communication is an important component of a successful soccer season. Please be sure to pass on all information you receive from the Club to your players and their parents (i.e. Tournament Day schedules, photo dates/time, etc.), as you are the one they see as the Scugog Soccer Association. You will become their main source of information. The club attempt to keep the web site up to date at all times with date, time, schedules, contact information, etc. Direct as many of these inquiries as you can to the web site.

On the same note, you are the club's information source. If parents aren't happy about certain things you're probably going to hear about it first. Please direct there questions to board members or seek the answer yourself from the appropriate Director. By keeping all lines of communication open, we can provide a productive and enjoyable season for everyone involved and improve procedures or facilities.

You may wish to collect and distribute your team's parent contact information. Make sure they are all ok with this and keep the information only amongst yourselves for privacy issues. Collecting parent first names also helps parents feel they are part of the team and helps everyone to get to know each other. You should also list the child's shirt number so everyone can associate names to numbers. At the very least, parents may want your cell number if they need to contact you at the fields or at the last minute.

### **Equal Playing Time**

As previously stated, the main objective of House League Soccer is for players to have fun, learn skills and enjoy the game while playing in a safe and positive environment. As coaches, you are responsible for ensuring that all participants on your team get this chance by providing them with equal playing time. Let your parent know this is the club policy so they can remind you. Many coaches ask another parent to track playing time during a game as the coach is often too involved in the game to notice the time. This only applies to the kids at that game. If a child misses a game that doesn't mean they get more time in the next game. A players should also get a chance to play all positions including goal keeper. We're not saying to force the kids into playing every position but they should be given the opportunity. Encourage them to try as they may like it.

### **Uniforms and Jewelry**

Coaches should ensure that their players wear their team shirt, shorts, socks and shin guards for every game. **Shin guards MUST be worn inside the socks.** Proper rubber studded soccer shoes are recommended. Shirts **MUST** be tucked in and socks must cover the full shin guard. The coach should check players for watches or jewelry. All jewelry, hair barrettes, earrings, watches, bracelets, etc., need to be removed before the player goes on the field. The referee can refuse to allow a child to play due to jewelry. This is for the safety of all children playing not just the player involved.

### **Players on Your Team**

Only players assigned by the club may play for your team. It is a serious club and OSA offence to allow any children not registered with the Club to play on your team as they are not covered by insurance. It is also not fair to the players you have paid. If a number of your players have quit or are away for long periods and you are always short on players, please inform the office and/or see the playing short section below.

### **Playing Short and Call Up Players**

The minimum number of players required on the field for mini soccer is 5 players, and the maximum is 7. If you anticipate being short of players for a game, you may contact a house league coach in the next lower division to request players. The number of call-ups may bring the team to a total of 3 extra players on your roster. This allows for 3 subs during those very hot summer days. All players included on the game sheet must receive equal playing time. Any given player can not be called up more than 3 times during the season. Call up players must be listed as such on the game sheet. Call up players are not allowed for Cup Day games (ie playoffs).

NOTE: It is important that you become familiar with and adhere to the Scugog Soccer Association Privacy Policy as it pertains to call up player's information. The Privacy Policy can be found on the web site.

### **Game Sheets**

Each coach is responsible for providing their game sheet and ensuring that it is filled out completely and correctly. Coaches should ensure that the game sheet includes the date and time of the game, field location, the names (colours) of both teams, the signature of both coaches and the referee, the final score and goal scorers. Game sheets are how the referees get paid so please ensure the referee is given the game sheet at the end of the game. You can always ask or delegate a parent to help fill in a game sheet.

### **Sun and Mosquito Protection**

The Scugog Soccer Association does not provide sun block or insect repellent for any players. Coaches should encourage their players' parents to take appropriate steps to protect their children from overexposure to sun, and mosquito or other insect bites.

### **Player Refreshments**

Remind players to bring lots of water especially for the tournament dates and hot evenings. Have them drink before and during the game. They should actually start drinking a few hours ahead to stay hydrated. May we suggest you ask parents to bring appropriate snacks such as Orange wedges, small pieces watermelon, small freezies, small popsicles, juice boxes, lemonade, **NO carbonated drinks, NO candies or chocolate, NO peanuts.** Please cleanup all garbage before the second half of the game begins. Have a parent create a refreshment schedule if you like, so that each set of

parents take turns to provide all players at one game during the season. Don't forget the two tournament days which have multiple games.

### **Injuries**

At the start of the season, find out if any of the parents have first aid training. They should have completed a St. John's or Red Cross CPR course at some level. Let all the other parents know who these individuals are and if they are ok with this person attending your child should they become injured. There is a First Aid Kit just inside the door at the club house. We also keep cold packs in the fridge at the snack bar. They should be applied to bumps or twisted ankles/knees etc. to reduce the swelling. Use the 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off rule and never directly on the skin, use a cloth or material in between. Please return the ice packs to the snack bar before you leave the fields.

Should a player be injured, the referee should stop the game (if they don't get their attention) and the coach and the "trainer", if you have one, should assess the extent of the injury. If the injury is serious, such as heads banging, suspected broken bones, etc. **DO NOT MOVE THE PLAYER(S)**. This can be a potentially a very serious injury and you don't want to make it worse. If there is a need to call 911, have someone else do that and have someone else inform a director or someone at the clubhouse. There is a phone in the clubhouse. You will be asked to help with a required written report within 24 hours of any injuries requiring a hospital visit.

For any injury the coach should inform the parent/guardian who will decide on any further action. Please be sure to have contact numbers for the parents/guardians of your players in case they are not in attendance. Don't feel the need to get the game going. Take the time you need. There is a phone in the clubhouse. A written report should be provided to the club within 24 hours of any injuries requiring a hospital visit.

<b>911 Address: Scugog Soccer Fields, 16700 Old Simcoe Rd., Port Perry</b>
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### **Soccer Team Injury Insurance/Accident Reports**

All Scugog Soccer Association players, coaches, volunteers, and Board members are insured against injury, death and dismemberment, providing they are operating within the Scugog Soccer Association participation requirements. Should an incident occur, contact the director on site (see the board in the clubhouse) or the SSA office 905-985-7553 to provide details and arrange for the necessary claim forms to be completed.

Written documentation giving details of the accident must accompany all claims. Copies of claim forms are available at the clubhouse. These forms must be completed whenever a soccer accident occurs which requires some form of medical attention, and should be returned to a director or left at the clubhouse as soon as possible to be forwarded to the OSA.

### **Sponsors**

If possible, please find a moment to introduce yourself and thank the sponsor for your team. Often it may be a parent of one of your players or a local business. As a Club we very much appreciate the support of our sponsors, as we appreciate the coach's help in promoting the club's relationship with them. At the conclusion of the season the club will present the sponsor with a plaque containing a team picture and a thank you letter. If possible, please take the time to write a quick thank you note on behalf of your team to

your sponsor, and have all of the players' sign it – the personal touch could mean everything to your sponsor.

### **Complaints and Suggestions**

Encourage parents, coaches, players to provide the suggestions (or complaints) to the club that will help us improve our programs, but be prepared to get involved. Many things are done they way they are due to a lack of volunteers and/or money. All director's emails and phone numbers are listed on the website.

### **Conduct at Games**

The Scugog Soccer Association promotes respect for others and Fair Play. Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated ON or OFF the field by anyone; including Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Players, Parents or other spectators. In particular, the following actions will not be tolerated:

- Physical violence in any form
- Demeaning comments, verbal abuse, or profane language
- Damaging Scugog Soccer Association or Scugog Township property

This Code of Conduct will be in effect during all Soccer activities. The Coach is responsible for promoting the Code of Conduct in relation to any actions that takes place both on and off the field. Depending on the severity of the offence, the referee may first issue a caution to a spectator or Coach, and if the action is repeated or continued, the offender should be ejected.

### **Referees**

Referees are in charge of the playing field. As in the past, a "Zero Tolerance Policy" with respect to challenging decisions of the Referees is in effect, and will be enforced by them when necessary. All Referee decisions are final. Coaches are expected to act as good role models by accepting Referee decisions as final, without question. The Zero Tolerance Policy means that anyone interfering with, or demeaning the Referee during a game, will be ejected from the fields by the Referee (or Director if applicable). Coaches should ensure that all players and spectators affiliated with their team understand this policy and show respect for Referee's decisions at all times.

In regards to verbal harassment by a spectator, the Referee has been instructed to first ask a Coach to restore order, and then, if this is unsuccessful, to ask a Director to caution the spectator. If the inappropriate behaviour continues, the Referee may ask the Coaches and/or Director to have the spectator leave the park. Should the spectator refuse, the Referee has been instructed to abandon the game, and leave the field.

### **Parent Monitor**

In order to assist the coaches and referees, we suggest each team to have a Parent Monitor. This parent will be responsible for watching the parents on their child's team and if they feel a parent is getting a little too wound up at a coach, player or referee, they would go over and try to talk to the parent. This will hopefully prevent any cases of verbal abuse of any player, coach or referee. Coaches, please select your Parent Monitor carefully. The Parent Monitor would report any problems to the coach and/or referee after the game so it can be written on the game sheet.

## SEASON SCHEDULES

### **Distribution of Schedules and Equipment**

Your team rosters will be distributed in mid May along with this Coach's Manual. Please call players ASAP of receipt of your roster. Uniforms, season schedules and other information for the parents/players will be distributed prior to the season starting. Let parents know that help in running the team will be appreciated. There may be dates you can't be at the fields and so someone else will need to run things. Each coach will be contacted as to the dates and times and location of all coaches meetings and uniform distribution.

### **Team Evaluation**

If at the beginning of the season you feel a team in your division is far better or far worse than the average then please contact the office. Balanced teams within reason are a policy of the club. This can be a difficult decision for all parties involved but it's for the better of all teams involved.

### **League Games**

Please see your schedules for the game dates, times and fields. Sponsor Day and Cup Day have their own schedules. There is also a Photo Schedule that will be distributed to all teams. All league games start at 6:30p.m. Please try to have the players at the fields by 6:15pm so you can create your roster.

### **Practices**

The club expects coaches to conduct practices on the nights specified at registration. Coaches for a division may decide to have one big group practice with all coaches involved, or do their own team practice. You will need to find a location to have a practice. Fields 6 through 8 (the fields you play on) are often busy Tuesday through Thursdays. Field #5 might be free on some nights but busy on others as this is where U8, U9 and U10 select and Rep teams play. Games always have precedence over practices. There's also room east of field #5 where temporary practice nets will be set up. Check the web site for the master schedule to see who's playing when and where. You may have to find space on an empty the full size field.

### **Photo day**

Not all pictures can be taken on Sponsor Day due to the number of players/teams and so specific dates will be added (a Game night) to remaining teams picture. We will attempt to take all pictures in June while players are still in school and generally not away on holiday.

### **Player Development**

Scugog Soccer has a number of younger Select and Rep teams that, at times, that may need call up players. If you can recommend players to a Select or Rep team please do so to the Head coach or the Rep coaches. Note the Select and Rep players may also play on House league teams. The Club also hosts a Soccer Camp in July each year where players can develop there skills. More information on the soccer camp is on the web site.

### **Mini Soccer Cup Tournament**

Near the end of the season all divisions up to U10 will compete in the Cup Day Tournament on a Saturday in August. Each team plays at least twice and the teams with the most number of points play for a Champion and Consolation Champion. Trophies or

medals will be given for all players not just Champions. The Schedule for Cup day will be given out at the start of the season and is on the web site for your reference. Playoff game and tie breaking rules are listed in the Policy and Procedures on the Web site.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Scugog Soccer Association Annual General Meeting is normally held in the fall. Date and time will be posted on the web site. Coaches and parents are encouraged to attend and discuss improvements that can be made.

### **Field Safety and Etiquette**

The Scugog Soccer Association requests that each team inspect their field prior to games. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that the field is in proper condition (free of garbage, large divots, etc.) to allow for safe play. This is important for the safety of the teams and supporters. Please pick up and garbage before and after each game. Garbage and recycling cans are situated around the fields.

### **Field Conditions NOT Suitable for Play:**

- Large divot or pitting of the grass that could result in player injury
- Presence of excessive sharp material (broken glass, syringes, raw edged metal, splintered wood) that can't be cleaned up, or animal fecal matter that can't be cleaned up
- Any broken glass, raw metal, or objects that appear to contain body secretions, such as blood or feces should be handled with extra care: NEVER pick it up with bare hands.

Please contact the director at the clubhouse so that items may be picked up.

### **Field Cleanup Post Game**

The Scugog Soccer Association also asks ALL teams to do a quick cleanup of their field's perimeter after every game to ensure that all discarded water bottles and snack wrappers are disposed of in the proper receptacles provided. It is important that you encourage your players to take part so they can take pride and feel ownership of the fields. By instilling a sense of responsibility in the players and parents, we hope they will also take greater responsibility for the upkeep of our community in general. Should there not be any or enough garbage receptacles, or should they need emptying, please report that to the Clubhouse.

## **MINI HOUSE LEAGUE RULES (7v7)**

**The following rules apply to all 7v7 games:**

**Game Time:** 6:30pm kick-off. The maximum number of players on the field per team is 7 and the minimum number is 5 (including goalies). Teams will be allowed a 15-minute grace period (until 6:45 p.m.) to field the minimum number of players before forfeiting the game.

**Duration:** All games will consist of 2x25 minute halves with a 5-minute break at halftime (U10 2\*30min). Teams change ends at half time.

**Ball:** The home team is responsible to the game ball. (Each coach will receive an extra ball that is intended to be the game ball. Please label this and bring it to each game. All mini divisions use a size 4 ball.

**Substitutions:** Substitutions may be made at the stoppage of play for goals, goal kicks, injury, ANY kick-in or throw in and half time. Please make responsible and not tactical changes. The referees have been instructed to add time if any teams use changes as a tactical delay of the game.

**Impeding Goalkeeper:** Attacking players will not be allowed to impede (obstruct) the goalie in the goal area. If a goal is scored and the goalie has been impeded (obstructed), the goal will be disallowed and the ball turned over to the goalie for a free kick.

**No Offside Rule:** There is no offside for the mini divisions.

**No Rough Play Allowed:** This includes charging, tripping, holding, high kicks, pushing, and kicking the ball out from under the goalie's hands.

**Free Kicks:** Will be awarded for any infraction of the above rules and for a handball. Free kicks are taken at the spot where the offence occurred unless committed by a defensive player in his or her own goal area. A foul committed by a defensive player in his or her own goal area will result in a penalty shot, see below. All free kicks are INDIRECT, meaning a goal cannot be scored directly from a shot on the net. The defensive team must stand a minimum of 6 yards from the spot where the free kick is being taken and they cannot move towards the ball until it is played. Another player must touch the ball after a free kick is taken before the player that took the free kick can touch it. Should the same player touch the ball again without anybody else touching the ball, a free kick will be awarded to the opponents. The only exception to this is the penalty kick.

**Throw Ins:** When a team member knocks the ball out of play past either sideline, a throw in is awarded to the other team and taken from the place where the ball left the field. The team awarded the throw will bring the ball back into play by having one of their players, standing outside of the playing field, throw the ball in one motion straight over their head using two hands from a position behind their head onto the field. Both feet must remain on the ground. After a throw in player doing the throw in must not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. If this occurs, the throw in is retaken. Players are learning this skill and so we allow a second chance.

**Ball in Play:** The ball remains in play at all times unless it leaves the field or the referee stops the game. A shot taken on the goalkeeper is live until the goalie has hold of it or smothers it with his body. The goalie may not be interfered with. In the interests of safety, **IT IS AN OFFENSE FOR A PLAYER TO KICK THE BALL OUT FROM UNDER THE GOALIE'S HAND.** The goalie will bring the ball back into play immediately by either rolling it or kicking it in any manner. Any player may enter the goal area to play the ball and a goal can be scored from inside the goal area. **If the goalkeeper picks up the ball inside the field of play, then puts it down and releases it, it is LIVE and can be played by any player** (a goal kick is only awarded when the ball is out of play, having crossed over the goal-line).

**Handball:** The goalkeeper is the only player on the field that may use his/her hands (includes arms and even shoulders) and this is only permitted when he/she is inside the marked penalty area (the larger box). A handball is defined as a deliberate movement of the hand or arm intended to redirect the ball (as distinct from the ball hitting the hand without the player making an involuntary movement towards it). The referee is trained to

distinguish between the two, and even then, may elect to play the Advantage Rule (that is: when the ball is deflected to the advantage of the opposing team, play is waved on).

**Penalty Kicks:** Penalty kicks will be awarded when a defensive player commits any infraction inside his/her own goal area. The opposition takes the penalty kick from a penalty mark 8 yards from the goal line. The ball is to be placed on the penalty mark and is taken by any player on the playing field chosen by the Coach whose team was awarded the kick. The player will kick the ball from the penalty mark on the opposing goalkeeper with all the players outside the penalty area until the ball until it is kicked. If a goal is scored, the game is restarted with a centre kick-off. If the kick does not score, but the ball stays in the field of play, it remains LIVE and is in PLAY, but the penalty kicker may not take a 2nd kick at it until it has first been touched by another player from either team.

**Goal Kicks:** Are awarded when the offensive team kicks the ball out of play past either side of, or over, the defensive team's goal (over the goal-line). The ball is then placed anywhere in the defensive team's goal area (smaller box) and is kicked back into play by any player on the defensive team (it doesn't have to be the goal keeper). The opponents shall stand outside the penalty area for the goal kick and the ball must leave the penalty area before being touched by any player or the kick is retaken.

**Goals from Inside the Goal Area:** A goal scored from within the goal area counts.

**Kick Off Rule:** After a kick off, the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. If this occurs, an indirect kick is awarded to the opposing team at the place the infringement occurred. On the first touch the ball must go forward. If the ball is kicked backwards the play is restarted.

**Corner Kicks:** Are awarded when the defensive team is the last to touch the ball before it went out of play over the goal-line. The ball is then placed in the one yard corner arc of the field nearest to where it went out and intersecting the sideline. An attacking player kicking it in then brings the ball back into play. After a corner kick, the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. If this occurs, an indirect kick is awarded to the opposing team at the place the infringement occurred. The corner flag must remain in position and may not be bent out of the way or removed.

**Equipment Rule:** The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall be a shirt, shorts, socks, shin guards and footwear. The goalkeeper shall wear colours different from other players and the referees. No jewelry, watches or other equipment that can hurt any players including the player him/herself are allowed on any players. Teams will be given either a goalie shirt or a pinne to wear over there team jersey.

**Conduct:** Coaches play a critical role in creating the climate for player achievement and their enjoyment of the game. Coaches are, therefore, expected to conduct themselves accordingly. To prevent player confusion about coaching instructions during the game, coaches should position themselves along the same touchline and remain on the same half of the field for the duration of the game. Coaches must not encroach onto the field except when invited to do so by the referee to attend to an injured player. Conduct having the effect of intimidating the referees or players will not be tolerated. Ofcourse, Coaches must adhere to this personally, but, as well, they are expected to explain these requirements to team supporters and to promptly suppress any violations during the game.

**Coaching on the Field:** ALL coaching must be from the touchline and only the players and the referee are permitted on the field.

**Referee Decisions are Final:** Referees have all passed OSA C4 certification and typically are also registered club members playing in older age groups. They will occasionally be imperfect but are always doing their best. In any event, decision protests will not be entertained. Suggestions/complaints can be filed by contacting the head referee in writing.

**Game Sheets:** Must be filled in and handed to the referee before the game starts. The referee will deposit complete and signed games sheets in the clubhouse immediately after the game.

**Referee No-Show:** In the event of a referee no-show (at 5 minutes before the start of the game), please send a parent to the clubhouse where we can arrange for another referee to fill in. We often have other referees lining games that can be redeployed. If in the event no referee can be found the game may continue with each coach providing a referee for one half of the game.

**Weather:** Games will still be played in the rain and will only be cancelled in the event of lightning. This call is made by the referee on the field. If a team does not show up and the game is not called because of weather. The team will default the game. If there is any question regarding game cancellations at the field, it will be at the referee's discretion (in the absence of a referee, only at the mutual consent of both coaches).

## **GENERAL CLUB RULES**

1. The Club provides each player with identical sweaters with differing numbers on their back.
2. The goalkeeper must wear a contrasting sweater, which also must be different from the opposing team.
3. Substitutions will be allowed only at a kick-off, goal kick, injury, or OWN throw-in (the other team will also be allowed substitution). The referee must be advised of substitutions and have signally permission before they proceed.
4. The coach is responsible for all of his/her players and spectators at all times, and shall conduct himself/herself in a gentlemanly manner in accordance with the "Laws of the Game".
5. Spectators have to be on the opposite side of the field from where coaches/players are situated. No parents or spectators allowed with the coaches/players.
6. A player, coach or team official impending, harassing, or otherwise intimidating a game official, opposing coach, or opposing players, will be subject to severe disciplinary action.
7. All games will be played as scheduled unless:
  - At the discretion of the referee, postponement is necessary due to bad weather or field conditions.
  - A game is postponed in advance at the discretion of the league.
  - A game is postponed at the discretion of the President, V.P. of Operations or Field Manager.
8. Under no circumstances will teams be allowed to postpone games.

9. A game is deemed to be complete if 25% or less remains to be played when called by a game official due to weather or playing conditions.
10. The home team is responsible to provide the game ball. Size 4 ball will be used for all age divisions up to and including U-12. A size 5 ball will be used for ages from U-13 and up.
11. Generally, for their own and other player's safety, players recuperating from injuries through use of splints or plaster casts are not expected to play soccer. However, the Club recognizes that some players may have a permanent condition requiring that they wear braces or prosthesis of some kind. In these situations, at the discretion of the referee, they may be permitted to play; provided that these items are completely covered and cushioned such that it does not pose a risk of injury to other players. If you would like further guidance on this topic, please contact the club head referee (see the web page for contact information).

## **CODE OF CONDUCT TEAM COACHES**

- Treat players with respect and help them, as athletes, to develop a positive self-image
- Be responsible for encouraging good conduct by parents and players at games
- While representing the Scugog Soccer Association, it is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that they and all players under his/her control will not attempt to embarrass or otherwise demean their hosts, or act in any way which would serve to bring the Scugog Soccer Association into disrepute
- Display respect for the referee and his/her decisions at all times
- The coach is responsible for encouraging good conduct by players, managers, team officials and parents on and off the field
- Be a positive role model for players
- The coach must model the highest standards of personal conduct, model the principles of fair play, and promote good sporting behaviour.
- The coach is responsible for teaching players that officials are an important part of the game, and that the laws of soccer must be honoured
- Display respect for fellow coaches and their decisions during games and practices
- Good planning, development of common philosophies, and clarity of roles can prevent disagreements during games and practices
- Assume the best of each other
- Show concern for the physical safety of players at all times
- Provide smoke-free, alcohol-free and drug-free coaching before and during all games and practices
- Display respect for team coaches and players of the opposition
- Engage in good planning for, and be prepared for, games, practices and meetings
- Remember that winning is desirable, but winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game
- Losing can be a triumph when the team has given its best
- Development of the players as people should always receive priority consideration

## **PARENTS**

- Display respect for your child's coach
- Respect the role of coaches for being fully responsible for coaching during games

- Avoid coaching players with messages that conflict with direction provided by the coaches
- Display respect for the referee and his/her decisions at all times
- Make sure that your child is on time for games and practices
- Assist in making SSA soccer a pleasant experience for all involved by volunteering whenever possible.
- Applaud good plays by your team and the opposing team
- Provide alcohol-free, drug-free cheerleading before and during all games and practices
- Provide only positive comments to all players (home and visitors)
- Consider the physical safety of team players at all times
- Avoid any altercations, physical or verbal, with fellow team parents or parents of the opposing team
- Assume the best of each other
- Ask questions about coaching strategies after or between games

### **PLAYERS**

- Wear uniform proudly
- Arrive on time
- Follow the directions of your coach
- Act in a sporting manner at all times
- Avoid improper conduct
- Honour all laws of soccer, especially those which forbid abusive language and sexual or racist remarks
- While representing the Scugog Soccer Association, all players will wear the uniform provided to them by the Club
- Display respect for the referee and his/her decisions at all times
- Display respect for the other team coaches and players
- Display respect for fellow team players, coaches and parents
- Assume the best of each other
- Participate actively in games and practices without disruption
- Maintain a positive attitude at games and practices

### **SCUGOG SOCCER ASSOCIATION PRIVACY POLICY**

Please see the Privacy policy on the Club page of the web site.