



Dear In-House Coaches,

Welcome to the New Fairfield Soccer Club season. The NFSC Board of Directors and I would like to thank each of you for your time and support. The players and their parents appreciate your efforts and the contributions that you bring to our organization. Please read this material. It highlights your responsibilities as a coach and provides you with the rules of the New Fairfield Soccer Program. It is recommended that you have a team meeting with your players' parents so that they can be fully informed on the manner in which you intend to coach the team.

Should you have any questions concerning your responsibilities or the operation of the Soccer Club, you should direct them to the appropriate Soccer Board member.

Here are some general guidelines on the operation of our In-House League:

- ◆ If weather is a concern during the season, please check the website or call the Soccer League Hotline at 825-3100 to find out if the games/practices have been canceled. This will be your best and most current source of updated information. Note: no messages may be left on the hotline.
- ◆ If you have a problem with a team or a coach during the season, please contact the appropriate board member. For all general questions and problems please contact the in-house coordinator.
- ◆ If you have a problem with a referee, please contact the referee coordinator. Please do not embarrass the referees in any way or treat them harshly. Remember, they try their best but sometimes do make mistakes. Please treat them with appropriate courtesy and encourage your players (and parents) to honor their instructions and decisions.
- ◆ Short articles on each of your team's games are encouraged. These must be forwarded via email to russells@wcsu.edu by Sunday evening. Please emphasize effort and do not indicate the score of the game.
- ◆ Any injured player requiring medical attention must be reported to the President within 24 hours of occurrence. There is a form on the website that must be completed. This is required for insurance purposes. Please be sure to bring your first aid kit to every practice and game.
- ◆ Trophy Orders – Trophies will be issued to each coach for all players before the end of the season.

- ◆ Please use practice time efficiently. Be prepared for all practices and games. Use a positive approach based on encouragement and praise. Try to learn as much about the game as you can and help your players learn as well.
- ◆ Do not play or practice on wet or soggy fields with standing water. If you have a question about a field, call the hotline or the Field Coordinator. When in doubt, err on the side of caution.
- ◆ In the event that you need to reschedule or make-up a game that could not be played, please arrange it through the in-house coordinator. This will ensure that a field is available and that a referee is reassigned by the referee coordinator.

General Game Rules

- ◆ Please do not allow for more than a six (6) goal differential in any game. No player may score more than 3 goals. If a player scores 3 goals, have him or her play goal or another position.
- ◆ All players should have equal play time.
- ◆ Please have all players take “throw-ins,” “goal kicks” and “corner kicks” as well as play all positions (with the possible exception of goalie).
- ◆ Control your players conduct and do not permit any player to abuse a referee or another player. Do not teach or condone overly aggressive play. Slide tackling, pushing, shoving or other rough play will not be tolerated at any level of in-house play.
- ◆ Games need to finish on time even if they do not start on time. Otherwise, the rest of the day’s schedule is impacted.

Overall, please remember that our focus is on education, instruction and recreation. Have fun and emphasize good sportsmanship, respect, and team effort with your players.

Thank you,

New Fairfield Soccer Club

NFSC Coaches /Parents General Guidelines

1. Coaches/Parents are to conduct themselves in a professional, courteous manner at all times.
2. Coaches/Parents should be emphasizing effort and development, not winning or losing.
3. Coaches will use all of their efforts to create an encouraging, positive environment both at practices and during games.
4. Coaches/Parents should keep all criticism positive, whether directed at players (either team), referees, opposing coaches or spectators.
5. Coaches/Parents will not address any referee in a confrontational manner or raise their voices for any reason.
6. All discussions, questions, clarifications and explanations directed at a referee shall be directed to that referee in person in a non-confrontational and polite manner either during the half-time break or after the game.
7. Parents should not direct questions/comments at the referee, only coaches should communicate with the referees.
8. Coaches/Parents should let the referees call the game.
9. Coaches/Parents should not use foul language or strike a player (opposing or otherwise), referee, spectator or opposing coach.
10. Coaches/Parents should not belittle or denigrate any player (opposing or otherwise), referee, spectator or opposing coach.

U5 & U6 MICRO-SOCCER

Objectives

- **More time with the coach**
- **Increase contact with the ball**
- **More actual playing/skill time**
- **Takes less time to achieve an objective or show advancement**
- **Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense**
- **Experience repeating game situations more frequently**

NFSC Program Rules

- **Practice and game time on Saturdays only; no weekday practice for U5 or U6 in micro-soccer.**
- **Optional weekday practice for U-6 during the spring season when they are introduced to goalies, throw-ins, corner kicks, etc.**
- **30-35 minutes of instruction followed by 40 minutes of game with opposing team.**
- **5 minute halftime break for snack and juice.**
- **3 players vs. 3 players or 4 players vs. 4 players are acceptable alternatives.**
- **All players should have equal playing time.**
- **No goalies.**
- **No goal kicks, corner kicks, penalty kicks or throw-ins.**
- **Kick-ins should be used to put the ball back in play from the sidelines.**
- **Either team may substitute on any stoppage of play.**
- **Basic rule infractions (ie touching ball with hands) should be briefly explained to player and the play restarted.**
- **DO NOT KEEP SCORE.**
- **All players must wear shin guards and uniforms.**
- **Soccer ball size # 3.**
- **Opposing coaches and players should line-up and shake hands after each game.**
- **Having FUN should be emphasized.**

Coaching

- **One coach from each team on the field acting as referees.**
- **Assistant coach on the sidelines keeping the other players organized and attentive to the game. Can also help with substitution of players.**

IN-HOUSE GAME RULES

U7 and U8

- Soccer ball size # 3.
- Goal 6' x 12'.
- 7 (for U7) or 8 (for U8) players on the field (6 or 7 plus a goalie); teams to play with equal # of players.
- **DO NOT KEEP SCORE.**
- Goalie to be changed each quarter.
- All players should have equal play time.
- Game duration: Four (4) 12-minute quarters with 2 minute break between quarters and 5 minute halftime break.
- Either team can substitute on any stoppage of play, with referee's permission.
- No offsides will be called.
- No direct kicks.
- Throw-ins and goal kicks should be repeated until done correctly.
- There will be a referee assigned to each game. Please respect the referee's decisions and instructions.

Coaching

- For U7: One coach on field; and one coach behind the goal area.
- For U8: One coach on the field, the other coach on the sideline. (Not behind goal)
- There should not be any parents directly behind the goal area, coaching their own children.

Please note the big goals must be anchored. The fields coordinator will anchor them prior to the start of Saturday's games. If they have been moved for any reason, please make sure they are anchored before the start of play.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REFEREE WILL NOT ALLOW THE GAME TO START UNLESS BOTH GOALS ARE ANCHORED.

IT IS THE COACHES RESPONSIBILITY, NOT THE REFEREES, TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE ANCHORED. IF THERE IS AN ISSUE PLEASE CALL THE FIELD COORDINATOR.

This is for the safety of the kids, having a goal fall over on a child can cause very serious injury or worse.