



South Side Youth Soccer Recreational Club Rules

OUR AIM

The Recreational Soccer Program at South Side Youth Soccer aims to give youth players a positive, educational, and fun soccer experience and prepare all players for the next stage of soccer whether that be in a competitive program or high school soccer.

The program emphasizes fun for all participants, age-appropriate development of players, and education for coaches and referees. Our recreational soccer program focuses on player development and fun and emphasizes development over winning games.

AFFILIATIONS

Other associations with rules we follow are:

- FIFA – Federation Internationale de Football Association for basic soccer rules of the game
- USYSA – United States Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
- LSA – Louisiana Soccer Association

VOLUNTEER DRIVEN

Volunteers are crucial to help all non-profit organizations run smoothly throughout the year. They are invested, hardworking, and help to ease some administrative burdens that come with running a league or club. We are always on the lookout for volunteers to fill roles as organizers and participants. Our volunteers act as coaches, team managers, treasurers, committee members, and event workers who help with activities at both the Club and team levels. We encourage parents, grandparents, and older siblings (college age or older) to become involved with SSYS.

EXPECTATION OF COACHES

- Annually, beginning in July, and before meeting with youth players, coaches are expected to take and pass an online background check, complete online CDC concussion training, and complete online Safe Sport training. (All U7-U16 Assistant Coaches who will be on the sidelines during games must complete the same protocols or they will be removed from the team roster and the sidelines.)
- Coaches should strive to hold at least one training session per week unless the fields are closed by the park facility directors and an SSYS email is sent to members. Coaches who coach in the U9 and older age groups are permitted, but not required, to hold a second practice in the week – not to exceed 3 hours of total practice/training time in a week.
- Coaches are expected to, and are required to, include all players on their roster in all training sessions.
- Coaches are expected to learn the rules of soccer for their particular age group, and it is the coach's responsibility to ask questions about any rules they are unsure of.
- Coaches are expected to play every player at least 50% of every game from the time they show up from the game. For example, if a player shows up before the game starts, they should play 50% of the total game time. Likewise, if a player shows up at halftime, they must play at least 50% of the second half of the game.

- U7 and older coaches are expected to STAY OFF THE FIELD during game play unless called onto the field by the referee for an injury. Assistant coaches should never be on the field, regardless of age, unless they are acting as head coach.
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches are expected to follow all other rules in the Coaches Code of Conduct.
- Coaches MAY NOT revoke more than 50% playing time regardless of the player's attendance of practices.

CLUB INFORMATION

RECREATIONAL LEVEL OF PLAY

- Beginning level of play done for enjoyment of the sport. Competition is not emphasized, but teams of like talent or skill level may play against each other more often.
- Teams will play other SSYS teams at one of the two facilities SSYS uses. Teams do not travel for games further than the boundaries of our two game facilities: Youngsville Sports Complex and St. Julian Park Soccer Fields in Broussard except for special circumstances.
- Players are guaranteed a minimum play time of 50% per game from the time they show up for the game.
- Teams are formed by school, zip code, neighborhood, or by players request; players are not selected by tryouts at this level.
- Coaches MAY NOT request or keep a player from returning to his/her team. If there is a personality or behavioral challenge, SSYS should be notified during the season by email for documentation. A player or parent who is a danger to other players, coaches, or referees may be removed from the league.

LEAGUE SUPPORT

In order to grow a successful club, league support is key. Players and their parents have the expectation that the Club will provide a safe environment for youth players to grow and develop in their soccer abilities. The club has the following expectations for our members:

SSYS Members agree to put the Club ahead of the team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the Club and a particular team, the Club will come first. Club decisions will be made by the appropriate member of the SSYS staff and/or SSYS Committee vote. As such, rescheduling U7 and older games are highly discouraged and are rarely approved by the Club.

TEAM SPONSORSHIPS

Parents are encouraged to solicit corporate sponsorships for either the Club or individual teams. Team sponsorships help to offset individual player fees and avoid registration fee increases. The Club expects that each team will make all possible efforts to obtain team sponsorships each season.

BEHAVIOR & CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

SSYS wishes to emphasize the importance of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. Since good sportsmanship is open for interpretation, hopefully, the following will help everyone understand their responsibilities at a SSYS sporting event.

ALL COACHES, SPECTATORS, AND PLAYERS

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game. If you are un-informed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials or coaches. The spirit of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule. We use FIFA rules and US Club Soccer policies, but make some changes for our players due to the size of the playing fields and developmental changes in each age group. You can find SSYS's condensed rules at our website: www.southsideyouthsoccer.com under the Club tab.
2. Exercise representative behavior at all times. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of the team represented. Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents good sportsmanship, but also reflects a true awareness of the game by acknowledging quality.
4. Show respect for the officials. Officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved are a part of the game. The rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decisions made by the official. This is critical for young athletes to learn for later applications in life. It is also vital to for coaches, parents, and players to understand that referees are needed to play the games, and abuse of referees jeopardizes the Club and sport.
5. Display an open respect for the opponent at all times. Opponents should be treated cordially and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your team and your family.
6. Display pride in your actions at every opportunity. Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a league representative whether you are an adult, player, coach, or official.
7. No smoking or drinking is allowed in areas where players are present.

The Club will not tolerate aggressive, crude, profane, vulgar, argumentative and/or belligerent behavior, language or fighting.

DISCIPLINE

Red/Yellow Cards:

Any player receiving one red or two yellow cards in a game is banned for the remainder of that game and the entire next game. A second red card within the season results in a four-game suspension or for the remainder of the season whichever is less time.

Warnings/Ejections:

SSYS Spectators are expected to follow the Code of Conduct signed during player registration. Spectators and Coaches are expected to respect the referee's authority even if the wrong call is made. Spectators and Coaches can be warned and/or ejected from games, if necessary, by the referee for interfering with play, abuse of a spectator, player, coach, or game official. Abuse includes verbal, physical, or as determined by the referee to constitute abusive, unsportsmanlike, instigating or dangerous type behavior.

SIDELINE COACHING

U7 and older parents are not allowed on the sideline of the coaching staff and team bench. Spectators should respect a coach's decisions during the game. Cheer for the players and refrain from giving commands to them during the game. They try to listen to what their coach is telling them and that may conflict with a spectator's thoughts. After all events, please allow coaches to address the players without interference before they are dismissed. If a player is injured, the coaching staff will evaluate the

injury after being called onto the field by the referee. If a parent's presence is needed, the coach will ask for the parent at that time.

COMMUNICATIONS

If a parent and/or coach need to voice a concern or ask a question regarding a player, it is very important that these discussions occur at the proper place and during the proper time. The protocol should be to contact the parent/coach via e-mail, personal appointment or by phone call, and not during a training session or at a game. Comments should be constructive. In addition, parents should wait 24 hours prior to making contact with their coach should an issue arise from game play.

If you need to take your issues to a higher chain of command, please follow the following system:

- Head Coach
- Age Group Coordinator, if known
- Recreational Director
- SSYS Committee headed by the SSYS Director

CODE OF CONDUCT & CORRECTIVE ACTION POLICIES

Code of Conduct Policies and Corrective Action Policies for Parents/Spectators, Coaches, and Players can be found separately.

CLUB RULES

REFUNDS

SSYS has a NO REFUND Policy. Once a player has registered for soccer that player/family is responsible for the total amount of club fees. Refunds will ONLY be considered in the event of an injury with documentation by a physician or if SSYS cannot fill enough teams in a particular age group to form four teams.

AGE GROUPS AND REQUIREMENTS

Age brackets for youth players are authorized by USYSA and are divided by birth year, not school grade. Players are allowed to request to "play up" one age group. Any parent that would like their player to be considered to play up one age group, may request such during the registration process. Players may not play down to a younger age group. Any extenuating circumstances may be brought to the attention of the SSYS Committee for approval.

PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS

SSYS Recreational players are placed on teams by requests made during the registration process.

1. Players who played on the team the previous spring/fall season will get a returning spot on the team for the next spring/fall season.
2. Once the registration deadline has passed, the Registrar will look for empty spots up to the teams' maximum roster for placement of players who are looking to join a SSYS team or switch from another SSYS team.
3. Requests to play on a particular team, for a particular coach, at a particular complex, or with a particular player or classmate will be fulfilled by earliest registration first, up to the maximum roster assigned to each age group.

4. Players who do not wish to return to a particular team may request to play for a different coach or on another team. This request will be fulfilled if at all possible. A request to play on another particular team may not always be granted.

GUEST PLAYER POLICY

The Director of SSYS will decide if a player can guest play for any other team. A request must be made to the Director of SSYS for the request to be considered. The Director of SSYS will then review the request with the SSYS Committee and inform both affected teams' coach of their decision regarding the approval or denial of the request.

Any players found to have been playing for a team for which they are not officially rostered will be removed from the club. Any coach found to have knowledge of an unregistered player on their team will forfeit those games and may be removed as a coach from the club.

UNIFORM POLICY

All players must wear the designated uniform of the Club. SSYS has league Uniform Sponsors who will be the sole sponsors printed on the players' uniforms. Uniforms are available for purchase at Third Coast Soccer (100 William O. Stutes St. Suite B). Home and Away jerseys must be purchased through Third Coast Soccer. Black athletic shorts must be worn. White soccer socks are worn on game days unless the coach has designated a different color of soccer sock to be worn by the entire team. Third Coast Soccer has optional spirit gear available for purchase.

Players who are wearing uniforms of a different league or a different level of soccer (competitive team) will not be allowed to play in the game.

Each player must have the following equipment for each team training session:

- Appropriate shoes or cleats, no screw-in cleats nor toe cleats allowed
- Shin guards (Required)
- Water bottle(s)
- Soccer ball in the appropriate size for the player's age group
 - U4 through U8 #Size 3
 - U9 through U12 #Size 4
 - U13 through U14 #Size 5

Goalkeepers should wear jerseys that clearly distinguish them from the field players of either team and from the officials. The referee will decide if goalkeeper attire is acceptable.

For cold weather, players may wear long pants under their shorts, shirts or a jacket underneath their jersey as required for protection from weather conditions, gloves, and knit caps. Jersey colors may not be obstructed.

HEALTH

Players and coaches who are sick or have symptoms of an illness should stay home regardless of what is causing the illness. Avoid touching your eye/nose/mouth as much as possible. Wash or sanitize your hands often. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or with your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Avoid all spitting and open coughing. If a player will be staying home due to illness, please contact their coach as soon as possible to let them know of the absence.

NOTIFICATION POLICY

- SSYS will notify its members by email in the event of a park or field closure. If the complex director decides to close a complex during the week due to the weather, it usually occurs around 3pm on that day. An email will be sent out by SSYS to all members shortly after that time if there are closures.
- Coaches should notify their players/parents if they need to cancel a practice for any other reason. Coaches may use email, text, or a team app as long as the notification goes to at least one parent of all players on their roster.
- Players are expected to attend all games and training sessions. If a player is unable to attend, the parent should contact the coach as soon as possible.