



Guidelines for Traveling Practices & Games

In order to create a fun, safe and optimal learning environment for all the players on our soccer team, SLPSA needs your cooperation with the following guidelines, rules, and policies:

Practice Guidelines

- If parents are not going to be present at a practice, please provide a phone number to be reached at in case of an emergency.
- For younger kids, parents often bring and pick up their kids personally. However, if you have made arrangements with another person to drop off or pick up your son or daughter, please inform the coach to avoid any confusion.
- Parents leaving the practice/game field are still responsible for their kids - not the coach. For example: a player needs to use the bathroom, if there is only one adult (coach) that player may need to wait until somebody can help him/her.
- Please have your player at practice on time. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early to pick up your son/daughter.

Game Guidelines/Rules

- Complete game rules are posted at www.mnyouthsoccer.org within the *MYSA Policies and Rules Manual*.
- If you are not going to be present at a game, please make sure your coach is aware in case of an emergency.
- Players shall be prepared with shin guards, soccer shoes, WATER (at least a quart), and the complete uniform set (jersey, shorts, and socks). Please bring both jerseys (both colors) to all games. The referee may require one team to change if the opposing teams have similar colored uniforms. Please refer to the *MYSA Policies and Rules Manual* and the *MYSA Weather Guidelines* for complete details regarding uniform requirements and acceptable cold weather clothing.
- Parents WILL NOT address, argue or speak to the referee. Only the coach is allowed to talk to the referee. If necessary, coaches/team sportsmanship advocates may ask parents to move further away from the field or to leave in which case the player may need to leave as well.
- Players will be respectful to their coaches, their teammates, the opposing team and the officials.
- Players will sit as a team with the coaches during the game to address issues and ask questions.

- Parents will sit on opposite sides of the field from the players/coaches.
- Players will not request to play in a specific position; most likely everyone will get a chance to play all positions. It is recommended for the U-9 and U-10 players to play different positions, however, this situation may vary when the players get to be U-11 or older. It may also vary depending on the competitive level the team will be playing at.
- Coaches strongly encourage the parents not to coach the players from the sidelines. During the game the coaches are trying to get the players to work as a team and so minimizing the amount of information they receive and have to process is helpful and less confusing.
- Parents will not engage in arguments with any team (either team) parents or make derogatory comments directed toward our players/team or the opposing players/team. Again, this may result in parents and players being asked to leave.

Sportsmanship Policy/Guidelines

Each team is responsible for recruiting two team sportsmanship advocates volunteer parents. Please abide by the conduct and behavior suggested by the club sportsmanship advocate and help represent SLPSA's sportsmanship policy listed below:

The St. Louis Park Soccer Association wants to go on record as saying that GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE GOLDEN RULE IN ACTION. Therefore, it is our vision that all persons involved in our programs will exemplify good sportsmanship including players, coaches, parents, and fans.

We offer the following guidelines to insure that all parents, players, coaches and others connected with the St. Louis Park Soccer Association maintain a level of respect for ourselves, our opponents, the officials, and the game:

- Treat the team, opponents, and officials with respect. Allow coaches to coach, referees to ref., players to play, and fans to cheer.
- Only positive verbal interchanges with team (either team) or parents are allowed.
- Obscene gestures, abusive language, intolerance of others, or any unsportsmanlike conduct before/during or after a game is unacceptable.
- A handshake is the only physical contact acceptable, outside of the normal contact allowed in soccer.
- Be a humble winner and a proud loser.

Any incidents that can be judged as being unacceptable by the coach, or SLPSA, could lead to suspension or dismissal from the team subject to appropriate due process procedures.

Thank you for upholding these guidelines/rules/policies. Your efforts will help our teams focus their energy on player development, team performance and most importantly sharing a positive experience.