



Adopted: April 1999

Updated: December 2015

POLICY No. 005:

RECREATION LEAGUE – GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

1. Fair and Equal Play

- 1.1 Teach athletes to play fairly and respect rules, officials, opponents and teammates;
- 1.2 Make every effort to give all players equal instruction, support and playing time;
- 1.3 Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or performing badly. Remember children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves;
- 1.4 Make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities;
- 1.5 Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with praise and set a good example;
- 1.6 Please remember that in order to develop well-rounded players it should be insisted upon that team members take turns to try playing all positions instead of specializing in one single position.

2. Partners in Soccer

- 2.1 The FDSA encourages coaches to continue upgrading their coaching skills. Coaches may be reimbursed for the cost of coaching clinics upon approval of Club Head Coach or Executive Director, as well as proof of successful completion;
- 2.2 Games will be officiated by registered youth referees. Keeping this in mind, we ask that all coaches refrain from making unnecessary comments directed toward officials. Remember, they too need encouragement and positive feedback; however, in the case that any coach feels it is necessary to report any incident, please submit a written report to the Director of Officials;
- 2.3 For games scheduled as part of the Youth Year-End Tournament, the referee should report the game results to the appropriate FDSA source within 24 hours of the game's conclusion. However, FDSA asks all coaches to keep a record of all year-end tournament games played, so that such a record can be submitted to the FDSA as requested;
- 2.4 Remember that the more parents you involve with the running of your team, the more time you have to coach. Try to get someone to act as team manager. Identify early in the season any parents who have medical backgrounds or first aid training.

3. Player Eligibility

- 3.1 Only players registered with FDSA and assigned to that team shall be allowed to play in FDSA sanctioned games / events. No other party (e.g. visiting relations) will be allowed to participate, even in the case where a team is short of players;
- 3.2 Competitive teams will be allowed to pick up recreation players in the event that they are missing players for tournaments or exhibition games. The Competitive coach must get approval from the Director of Youth soccer in order to recruit a recreation player. After acquiring such approval, the competitive coach may contact the youth league coach, as well as the parent or guardian of the player. This mechanism must be adhered to in order to avoid any misunderstandings that may arise and, in due process, all necessary parties are informed of the selection;
- 3.3 Call-ups shall be clearly informed, in advance, of the length of time (i.e. game or tournament) that he/she is to spend with the competitive team. If the player is needed for the remainder of the season, the appropriate director (coaching committee) once again must give approval. In the event that there is no Division I player available, the Premiership team has the option of acquiring players from the recreation league ranks, as long as the same mechanism as outlined in 3.2 above is used;
- 3.4 The responsibility of costs associated with a call-up shall be at the discretion of the team acquiring the player;
- 3.5 A call-up can be used for a maximum of $\frac{1}{2}$ the number of regular season games;
- 3.6 Any long-term absence of a player should be reported to the Director of Youth soccer, who will in turn investigate and report back to the recreation league coach;
- 3.5 Drinking / drugs policy as per the competitive program – Policy 002, 5.3.4;