

Coaches Guide

The following policies, guidelines and information are offered as a guide for coaches:

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*****Please also refer to the Laws of the Game (Rules) for the specific division you are coaching.*****

Team organization

1. All coaches will note the nearest phone location and have emergency telephone numbers handy for all organized practices and games. Coaches should familiarize themselves with basic first aid treatment for injured players and must attend a course to be provided. Injured players and must attend a course to be provided.
2. Where possible, each team should have an active, functioning assistant coach (assistant coaches, as well as head coaches, must be approved by MLBTB-SC). Not only does this help to improve practices through additional adult supervision, but also avoids the inevitable problems when the primary coach is sick or absent.
3. Coaches should organize their parents to help with such tasks as calling ladders, and refreshments for the game. Coaches should urge a parent or guardian to be present at every game.
4. Game and practice schedule and other information should be distributed as early as possible to all parents.
5. No change in roster without Board approval.

The soccer program is organized with two main purposes:

1. Permit the maximum number of community youths to participate in team play at their approximate level of physical skill; and 2. offer every player the opportunity to participate to a substantial degree in actual game play.
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Practice

1. *Adult supervision from the beginning to end of each practice is mandatory.*

2. Coaches should make every effort to conduct an adequate number of quality practices for their players. The quality and quantity of practices usually have a direct relationship to success on the field. Practice should be conducted at least once a week, weather permitting.
3. Do not conduct practice on a field unless you have signed up for it.
4. Advice on tactics, strategy, and drills are available from board members. See the list of members and their responsibilities.
5. Coaches should emphasize to each player the importance of individual improvement during the season. Clear feedback (constructive criticism and earned compliments) about specific actions, should be given regularly. Constructive criticism should be delivered in an even tone to all players and should include the "DO" and not the "DON'T" ("you should move to the ball more quickly" instead of "don't stand around")
6. Coaches **MUST** arrive early enough and stay long enough after practice to ensure that all children are taken care of.

Games

1. All players at the intramural level will be offered to play for the equivalent of at least half of every game (assuming player's attendance and behavior have been acceptable).
2. All players at the traveling team level will be offered play for the equivalent of at least one quarter (strive for at least half) or more of every game (assuming player's attendance and behavior have been acceptable).
3. Coaches bear the overall responsibility for the discipline of their players, fans and of themselves. DO NOT ARGUE with the referee, opposing coach, or parents. If you object to the conduct of a referee, opposing coach or parents, report your complaint (with specifics) as well as all disciplinary incidents to the MLBTB-SC president. *Coaches and their fans MUST NOT argue with the coaches and the fans of the other teams. Wherever possible, teams and fans should be on opposite sides of the playing fields.*
4. *All coaches are responsible for notifying Sheila Glander of all referee disciplinary action (ALL RED OR YELLOW CARDS FOR ANY REASON, COACHES, PLAYERS OR FANS). Coaches carded for any reason will be responsible for any fines levied by an official organization.*
5. It is bad sportsmanship to run up scores unnecessarily. A 3 goal margin is almost always sufficient, and a winning margin over 8 goals is **unacceptable** , regardless of the level of play.
6. Supervise shaking of hands at end of each game.

7. Know the Game Rules!

Tournaments

Coaches are encouraged to consult with the MLBTB-SC in respect to the availability or advisability of tournament play.