

Mount Olive Soccer Club

Instruction League - Division 5 Basics

(*****This is only a guideline, see Club Rules and Policies for further details*****)

(2) 25 minute half's with 5 to 15 minute half-time (depending on time).

We play 9 v 9 (a goalie and 8 position players). If one team is short players they can either borrow a player from the other team, the coaches can play a slightly shorter game (don't go less than 20 min half's), or play 8 v 8, 7 v 7 etc.

We use a size 4 ball. Home team is to have a decent game ball ready. (Make sure ball has air in them; they may need air every few weeks.)

Have your parents get your players to the field at least 15 minutes before the game, this will allow us to start as close to on time as possible and will allow us to keep on schedule. If the games start late, the halves will be shortened to allow the next game to start on time.

The home team for the first game of the day is required to line the field for that day. This applies for all midweek games as-well. Liners and paint are located in the coaches shed.

Turkey Brook requires players and coaches only on the field. **No parents inside the fenced area of the fields**, unless they are the sideline flag person or bringing in halftime snacks. This rule will keep our beautiful fields at Turkey Brook staying that way.

Both teams must remain on the same side line (opposite ends) and setup on the outside of the full size field (where the full size goals would be). Coaches must stay off the field & stay on your side and your half of the field during play. No crossing the midfield, no walking the sidelines or instructing players from behind the goals. **Coaches are not to run flags**, each team is responsible to get a parent or another responsible child to do it.

Subs are allowed on a goal kick, after a goal, or their own throw in possession. Yell out "SUB" to the referee so they can make sure to stop the game until the changes are made.

There are no penalty or direct kicks. There is also no slide tackles. If a child keeps performing slide tackles you are to remove him from the field to explain the danger of slide tackling.

We do not change possession on an illegal throw in. We teach what the player what they did incorrectly and allow the player to re-do. Usually the referee will do the instruction, but you may have to explain to the player on your half of the field.

Goalkeeper possession - Basically, if a goalie has possession of the ball or is making a reasonable attempt to cover the ball; i.e. hand on top of ball, trying to smother etc, the referee should call keeper possession. Oftentimes the younger refs will be reluctant to blow the whistle. While we want to encourage our young players to be aggressive in moving the ball forward and taking scoring chances, you can help by teaching them about keeper possession. We do not want to see a goalie on the ground trying to cover a ball with other players trying to kick it out of his hands.

Hand Balls - Young refs call them all different ways. Technically, if you touch the ball with your hand that is illegal but the intent of the rule is to discourage the use of hands to alter the course of the ball. Most hand contact at this level is incidental; the kid couldn't get out of the way. Usually, flagrant hand balls are called such as a kid will pick a ball up, or make an effort to deflect a ball. Hand balls that nick, graze, or touch a player are usually let go. Make sure your parents are aware of this; everyone thinks they can call a hand ball.

Encourage your players. If you have to say something non-positive, use the sandwich method (positive – constructive/non-positive – positive). In a game environment, even Rec, we can get excited. This is fine and we often need to yell onto the field to get attention or to shout encouragement, tell the players where to go. Do not demoralize, or otherwise berate players. We are here to have fun.

Everyone plays who wants to play. Instructional soccer's goal is to have all players play at least ½ of the game. Many coaches prefer to keep the players involved in the game by playing all players a portion of each half. You do not have to run a stopwatch, or timer, just make sure you rotate the kids through. Some won't want to come out, others won't want to go in.

Assign one family to bring a snack (may include a drink, we normally suggest fruit like oranges or grapes) to each games. Be sure to check with the parents for children who may be allergic to anything. Try to keep the snack healthy to the game (example - potato chips are not good, could upset stomach after running hard).

The club will not tolerate **ANY** confrontation of our young referees; coaches will be disciplined if this rule is not followed. We will have a special referee card that is to be filled out by the coach and dropped off at the concession stand after each game. This card will allow you to tell the club how the referee is performing and your concerns will be addressed. If there are further issues, please speak with the Referee Coordinator or your division director.

**** If it is raining (you do not need to call the division director):**

1. Check to see if the field is closed; call the town hotline listed on website. If the message is not for that day, then ignore the message.
2. Check the MOSC website for message.
3. Call the other coach.
4. If games are still on, and you cannot play or do not want to because of weather, call the other coach and reschedule between the both of you.
5. If canceling call the referee coordinator then your parents.
6. When re-scheduling a game, contact the referee coordinator and VP of Play after day and time are agreed on by coaches. The field needs to be verified available and you will need a ref.

For division 5 make a smart decision on playing. If you feel the field is dangerous in any way or it is pouring, do not play. We normally play in drizzle to a light rain.

Six Goal Mercy Rule

Six Goal Differential

The following club rule will be implemented based on the guidelines provided by the Morris County Youth Soccer Association and the SAGE (Set A Good Example) Program. To prevent embarrassment and discouragement, and to reinforce the meaning of good sportsmanship, once a team achieves a six-goal differential, the coach will discretely reduce the number of players on the field based on the following guidelines.

Division 4 (6th - 8th Grade) = 2

Division 5 (3rd - 5th Grade) = 1

Division 6 (1st - 2nd Grade) = 1

The referee will instruct the coach of this rule, if not followed. The team will play with the reduced number of players as long as the differential remains six. Although down a player, the coach should direct the players not to score.

The club strives for good, strong, fun, competition mixed in with solid instruction. Good competition usually does not happen in blowout games. MOSC does not want the goal differential to be greater than 6 goals. The club disciplines coaches that do not abide by this rule. Keeping scoring within this 6 goal differential takes a lot of managing from the coaches.

Many coaches have explained how difficult it is to stop your players from scoring. With good competition in mind, we have set forth some new helpful guidelines in controlling your teams scoring. We stress to coaches to be proactive and not to wait until the game is at a 6 goal differential. It is important to be alert early in a game to the possibility for a blowout game. For example, if you are up a few goals you may need to discretely start using some or all of the following guidelines:

Move your defense and offense away from a supporting position.

Instruct your players to make a certain number of passes to their teammates or skill moves before they can take a shot.

Reduce the amount of players allowed to go into the offensive zone.

Instruct your strongest players that they must score with their weaker foot.

Instruct your players that a goal is now when they hit the outside side of the net.

Does the other team have any offensive chances? If so, place a weaker defender and/or goalie into those respected positions. This will give the opposing team a better opportunity to score and thus allow you more flexibility with your offensive moves.

Instruct goal kicks and goalie punts be passes to players outside of the Penalty Box.

Have the players driving down the field kick it out of bounds next to the goal. This will give a goal kick to the other team.

Lastly start to pull players from the field, starting with the strongest players

Remember coaches, the goal is to instruct your children good, strong, fun competition and for games not to even get to the 6 goal differential.