
Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association

Handbook

Revised 2009

www.scysa.ca

Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association Handbook

This handbook has been prepared as an aid to the many volunteers who willingly give their time and expertise to provide the boys and girls of the Sunshine Coast with the opportunity to enjoy the game of soccer.

It is intended that this handbook be used as an information guide to:

- Explain the organization of the SCYSA;
- Introduce and familiarize readers with the policies and procedures of SCYSA;
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of members of the Association;
- Assist in providing answers to questions or problems individuals within the Association might have.

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Soccer Season and Tournaments

Soccer games are played on Saturdays (U18 boys and Rep Girls play on Sundays) from beginning of September through March, with a break from mid-December to the end of January. No games are held on the Thanksgiving Weekend or on the weekends of Spring Break. The year-end tournament is ½ day for Mini-Soccer, 1 full day for U11, and 2 full days for U13 through U18.

The year-end tournament is organized by the divisional coordinator. The focus of the tournament is fun. All U7 to U11 players are awarded a medal at the tournament; medals are given to players who fully participated in the season, but who happen to miss the tournament. U13 to U18 divisions have a 1st place tournament trophy and a 2nd place medal awarded. The tournament format is set each year by the coordinator, who uses his/her best judgment to establish a schedule that will allow for fun and competition. The coordinator may use the standing from the year as a guide to create the schedule.

Divisions

Mini-Soccer

Mini co-ed soccer includes U7, U8 and U9 divisions. Games are played on modified fields with small nets and small sided teams. U7's play with 3 per side and use a #3 ball; U8 play with 4 per side and a #3 ball; U9 players play 7 per side and may use #3 or #4 balls. U7 and U8 players are run through basic group drills each week. At this level the drills are designed to foster enjoyment and provide players with basic skills through creating opportunities for each child to touch the ball as much as possible. Since the teams are small it is practical for coaches to share practices, which are usually held once a week, during the week. Younger teams will practice in school gymnasiums while older teams will practice at outdoor facilities.

Every year in March, a year-end tournament is held to celebrate the completion of a successful soccer season. Participation awards are presented to each player at the end of the games. The tournament is a fun finale to the season.

All players are expected to play an equal amount of time and all positions at the U-7 to U-9 level.

Intermediate

U11 and U13 boys and girls teams make up the four intermediate divisions. The U11 Divisions play with 8 sided teams on school fields with modified FIFA rules using a #4 ball. Off-side is only recognized in the final 1/3 of the field and players are given a second-chance on a wrongly executed throw-in. The U13 Divisions play with full 11-side teams on Park fields, full FIFA rules except for unlimited substitution, and use a #5 ball.

All players should be rotated evenly throughout league play: all players should play a minimum of one-half of the game in all league games.

Senior

U15 and U18 boys and girls teams make up the four senior divisions. All senior divisions play 11-a-side games with a #5 ball on full fields. Games are played in accordance with FIFA laws of the game, including the use of yellow and red cards to denote the severity of fouls committed by players. The referee issues yellow cards as a cautionary measure. A red card results in ejection of the delinquent player who must then attend a disciplinary hearing.

Players must play a minimum of one-half of the game in all league games.

SCYSA House Tournaments

The house season ends with a fun tournament for all divisions.

REP GIRLS

Female rep teams from U11 through U18 teams play in the Five District League comprising teams from the North Shore, Burnaby, Vancouver, Richmond, Ladner, North Delta, Tsawwassen, White Rock, Abbotsford, Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Langley, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, New Westminster and Mission.

All teams playing in the Five District League are automatically entered in Inter-District cup play. Gold and Silver teams are also involved in Provincial Cup play.

Male rep teams play in the 4-District Boys League, comprising of the North Shore, Burnaby, Vancouver, and Richmond districts.

All teams playing in the 4-District Boys League are automatically entered in Inter-District cup play. Single knockout rules apply to Cup play. Gold and Silver teams are also involved in Provincial Cup play.

Rep Team Tryout Process

Players at the U11 to U18 level are eligible to try-out for a rep team. Tryouts are held each year in the spring, and players are required to attend tryouts if they wish to play on a rep team. Any registered player who is not selected for a rep team will be placed in the house league.

The SCYSA is committed to allowing players to tryout for rep teams in an environment that is objective, consistent and fair, and one that gives consideration to a player's skill level, athletic ability, and playing ability. The "tryout" process will be repeated each year for players, and coaches will re-apply for coaching positions each year.

Coaches, parents and players must be prepared for the personal commitment and the extra costs required of those involved in rep teams. The ultimate tryout decision rests with the player and his/her parents.

Rep team Policy

1. Rep teams formed through tryout only. *Except under the following circumstances:*

- Players wishing to tryout, who are unable to attend all of the sessions, must notify the executive in writing as soon as possible in advance of their tryout date. The only acceptable excuses will be injury, illness,

school or church function. Players injured or ill during the tryout period may be considered for selection if they have participated in a previous select tryout and have been evaluated by their previous coach.

2. Only registered players may participate in the tryout process.

Registration starts March 1 to accommodate registration for rep trials. If a player does not get selected for a rep team, they will be placed on a house team.

3. SCYSA Executive will set the rep team tryouts for U11 to U18 age groups. The decision to enter a rep team from any division will be based on the availability of a qualified coach and the existences of a sufficient talent pool of players from the designated age group. If a qualified coach is not available or if there is insufficient talent or interest for an age group, no Rep team will be formed.

4. Email notifications will be sent to all players of particular age groups to invite them to participate in the tryouts.

5. All players who tryout will pay the non-refundable rep team registration fee; registrants must tick the box "Rep Team Candidate" when registering and the registration must be complete before the trial deadline date set each year.

6. The Rep Team Coordinator will select evaluators for each age group tryout.

An independent evaluator for each age group will be assigned. Independent evaluators may include rep coaches from other age groups or other qualified individuals. Independent evaluators shall not have "a conflict of interest" with the age group they are evaluating.

Rep Team Coaches will run the tryouts from a prescribed set of drills. The evaluator will keep track of the evaluations, and will inform the coach of the final selection. Coaches will confirm each selection with the parent/player, ensuring that they understand the commitment that they are making to the team and the SCYSA. Once all players have been confirmed, the final list will be reviewed by the Rep Team Coordinator and sent to the SCYSA registrar. This process should be completed by no later than June 15.

7. Rep Team Coaches will participate in the assessment and evaluation of tryout participants in their age group. *Each Select Team Coach gets one overriding selection, if necessary, but only if that selection is their son or daughter.*

8. Player selection will be based on the evaluation of each player's skill level, athletic ability and playing ability. However, voluntary goalkeeper assessments will be part of the tryout at all age groups.
9. Tryouts should be completed by the end of May. However, the SCYSA has the right to hold additional tryouts if required.
10. Rep teams will consist of a minimum of 15 players. The super-8 teams may carry fewer players.
11. Players must tryout every year and coaches must apply every year.

Playing Up Policy

Policy Statement –

While the SCYSA recognizes, and fully supports, the tenant that youth player development is, with rare exception, best served by players playing at their own age level, the association also recognizes that in some instances numbers will not permit the fielding of teams at each age group.

Accordingly, the policies covering under-aged players are as follows:

a) If a player wishes to try out at an older age level when a team of his own age level exists, the following criteria needs to be met.

- Players who wish to be considered for potentially playing up an age group must be evaluated at the trials in the top 3 of that division's group to qualify for placement on the team.
- Players are only considered for the divisions they tryout in, so a player, who is trying out for the next division up, should also consider trying-out at their own age level or make it known at the trial that they would accept a spot in their own age group.
- A player who is being considered for playing up an age group must have a high degree of technical skill which is transferable to playing situations. A player's individual skill must meet or exceed the technical abilities of other participating players within the age group the player wishes to play.
- A player must surpass other players in their own age group in physical strength, technical skill and speed, and have the ability to blend in with the players of the intended age group.

- A player must surpass other players in their own age group in game awareness and general knowledge of the game, and have the mental strength to deal with older and physically superior opponents.
- A player must be able to interact socially with players of the intended age group.
- A player must desire to play at this level.
- Underage players who successfully meet the playing up criteria and are placed a team at an older age level shall be exempt from the criteria during tryouts in subsequent years.
- Any exception to the playing up criteria must be approved by the Rep Team Selection Committee.

b) In the event that a team does not exist at a players own age level, the 'top three' requirement will be waived, and the player will be considered as of "age", and subject to the same criteria as those players of the older age level.

FIFA

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) is the international governing body of soccer that, among other things, administers the World Cup and Olympic soccer. FIFA defines and revises the "Laws of the Game", which are the rules governing worldwide soccer for the U-11 age group and onwards.

Canadian Soccer Association (CSA)

CSA is the governing body for soccer within Canada. It is directly affiliated with FIFA and organizes the Canadian National Teams at the World Cup, Olympic and Youth (U21) levels. <http://www.canadasoccer.com/>

British Columbia Soccer Association (BCSA)

Directly affiliated with the Canadian Soccer Association, BCSA is the governing body for amateur soccer in BC. It divides the province into Districts within which teams play in leagues at the Mini-Soccer and Divisional levels, and between which divisional provincial championship play is conducted. Further, it deals with matters related to player registration, coach and/or team discipline, and protests and appeals of league and cup games at the Divisional level. <http://www.bcsoccer.net/bcsa/>

North Shore Youth Soccer Association (NSYSA)

The North Shore Youth Soccer Association is directly affiliated with the BCSA and is the largest district in terms of player registration. The clubs that are part of the NSYSA are NV Lions Gate, Mount Seymour, Lynn Valley, West Vancouver, North Shore Girls, Whistler, Squamish and the Sunshine Coast.

NSYSA administers league and cup play for all Divisional teams on the North Shore that are affiliated with the BC Soccer Association. It handles certain aspects of player, coach, and team discipline as well as certain protests and appeals on behalf of the BCSA. It organizes leagues for the Mini-Soccer teams, and operates select teams (known as Metro teams) for both boys and girls starting at the U-14 age level that play throughout the Lower Mainland. <http://www.northshoredistrictsoccer.com/>

Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association

The SCYSA is a non-profit society operated by volunteers. A Board of Directors administers the organization with the assistance of many volunteers. In addition, coaches, managers, age group coordinators, and many involved parents are crucial to the successful operation of the Club. Parents and/or guardians of all registered players form the membership.

The Club develops, promotes and organizes community soccer for boys and girls for U-7 through U-18 age groups that live on the Sunshine Coast.

Annual General Meeting

Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association holds its Annual General Meeting in the late winter or early spring of each year. All association members - parents and guardians of registered players, coaches and referees - are encouraged to attend, participate, and vote. At the AGM the directors will provide reports on the activities of the past year and plans for the upcoming season and beyond.

New directors are elected at the AGM. Each year we seek nominations for new directors who we hope will provide new perspectives for the board, have a willingness to share the work of the organization and who will offer us greater contact with the teams, parents and coaches. Returning directors provide continuity. We encourage anyone interested in being involved to come out to the AGM. If you need information please contact the SCYSA by email and one of the directors will call you. Specific details of the AGM can be found in the calendar of events.

Communications

All Members of the Board and holders of Special Portfolios make themselves available to members of the Club. A complete Club Directory is available on the Club's website at <http://www.scysa.ca>

Questions and comments may be sent to coastsoccer@gmail.com. For difficult situations, please refer to the problem solving procedure below as an appropriate course of action. Most often, team officials will be able to address issues directly.

You are encouraged to communicate with club volunteers by e-mail so they are able to respond to you at a time that works within their schedules. Please, allow them sufficient time to get back to you: remember that they have responsibilities that go well beyond the Club, including their professions, families, and their children's soccer and other activities.

Electronic Communications

In an effort to disseminate information on a timely basis, the Club has chosen e-mail as its primary form of ongoing communication.

Each team must provide at least one email address (coach, co-coach, assistant, manager or designated communications person) to which messages can be sent. This contact person will be responsible to pass information along to the coaches, manager, players and parents of the team, as appropriate, to ensure that all teams receive timely information on upcoming events. Please ensure the league has this email address.

Website

The SCYSA website can be found online at <http://www.scysa.ca>

The site is home to all our policies, contact information, forms and links to other soccer-related sites. New information and user suggestions are always welcome.

Registration

- Registration is on-line.
- Fees are posted on the club website.
- All players must be registered and fees paid before they are eligible to play.
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse or revoke player registration.

Refunds and late registration

- Players who register late will have to pay a \$25 surcharge.
- Players who register late will be put on the waiting list for eventual placement on a team.
- Refunds less a \$25 administration fee will be granted up to the cut-off date of September 30. Wait-listed players will receive a full refund.
- Fees will be pro-rated [to the nearest quarter] for children joining teams mid-season.

Financial Assistance

- The club is able to provide financial assistance for reasonable requests through our registration fees or through KidSport. All applicants for financial assistance are requested to fill out a KidSport application form, which will be provided by the registrar upon request when registering. SCYSA hopes that no child will be prevented from playing soccer for financial reasons. All applicants who return a filled-out subsidy application will be considered paid.

Team Placement

- Only registered players will be placed on teams
- Teams will be formed based on age, sex, school district as best as possible

- Players will be placed, when possible, according to legitimate requests based on safety, medical or special needs that are expressed at the time of registration - we cannot guarantee that we can satisfy every request
- Players must play in their respective age groups unless special permission has been made for a move up or down (See House Move Up Policy/ Move Down Policy)
- No players may be traded between teams, or added to teams by coaches

House Move up Policy

All children are assigned to play in their own age division. The SCYSA combines age groups in order to have enough teams per division. This makes it extra-challenging to have children "play-up" as it may mean they will be playing with children 2 years older and more developed.

U11 Division	9 & 10 year olds	Grades 4 & 5
U13 Division	11 & 12 year olds	Grades 6 & 7
U15 Division	13 & 14 year olds	Grades 8 & 9
U18 Division	15, 16 & 17 year olds	Grades 10, 11 & 12

Players who have superior skill have an opportunity to try out for rep teams from age 10 to 17. If a player wishes to move up in the house league a written request must be made to the league annually. The request will be considered on its own merit with the following factors:

- Grade in school (skipped a grade)
- Physical size (larger than almost everyone his/her age)
- Maturity – can handle playing away from peers
- Soccer skills may be considered, but it is preferable that skilled players move to rep teams, or be a star in their own house division and be a leader to the team.
- Ability of the club to accommodate the request in light of overall enrollment in the affected divisions
- Coordinators may solicit feedback from the players previous coached as may be necessary

House Move-Down Policy

If a player wishes to move down in the house league a written request must be sent to the league (annually). The request will be considered on its own merit with the following factors:

- Grade in school
- Physical size (smaller than almost everyone his/her age)
- Physical disability
- Maturity, or challenge
- Ability of the club to accommodate the request in light of overall enrollment in the affected divisions
- If necessary an on-field evaluation will be held to determine if the move down is appropriate for the player, team and division
- Coordinators may solicit feedback from the players previous coach as may be necessary
- In the case of an infirmity, the SCYSA may request written evidence from a medical practitioner.

What to do if a team is Short of players

When, at the start of a match, a house league team **has less than a full side** (i.e. 11 players for U13 to U18 teams), they may pick up a maximum of 3 registered players from a younger division of the same gender to field a team with a maximum of 13 players. The match would be played as regular house league game, with the final score being reported and entered into the standings. Since younger teams may have their own regular team match to play on a given day, a coach who knows they are going to be short players before a match **must** phone the coach of the team that they are going to draw from. The coach of any team that finds itself chronically short of players should inform the league; it would be preferable to add more players to a team than to regularly rely on players from younger divisions.

Pick-ups are intended to prevent a team from playing short; coaches may not pick up players to increase their substitution pool. In addition - Coaches bringing up players from lower age teams should make their opposition coach aware that they have done so.

What to do if an unregistered player is on the field?

Please report any teams with unregistered players to the association with full details including team name and division, date of game, field and if possible the name of the unregistered player(s). Sanctions for teams with unregistered players:

Any team playing with unregistered players will receive a loss for all games in which that player participated, regardless of the score. Such players will not be allowed to play in any future games until they have properly registered and been placed on a team. The disciplinary committee shall sanction a player, who is unregistered and who subsequently commits a sending off offence during a game in which they are playing illegally. Any suspensions, which result from a red card received while unregistered, will be carried until the player is legally registered and placed on a team - the suspension will then be served.

Abandoned and Terminated Games

If a game is abandoned because a team has an insufficient number of players to meet the requirements of the Law, or if a team does not appear or leaves before completion of the game the game will be considered having been played and won by the team that showed up with sufficient players. If a team provides proper notification to the other team and referee that they will not be able to field a team for a game, the game shall be considered cancelled and should be rescheduled (if possible).

If a game is abandoned because the field or its equipment do not meet the requirements of the Laws or are otherwise unsafe to play a proper match, the match will be replayed (if possible).

If the referee, because of bad weather or darkness, terminates a game, a winner will be declared if at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the game has been played. If the game is terminated before this point the game will be abandoned; if possible it will be replayed - if it cannot be replayed it will be considered a 'tie'. If all games for a division are cancelled on the same day due to weather, no points will be awarded.

If a game is terminated by the referee for any serious infringements of the Laws, or because of interference by spectators or team officials:

- If the opposing team (non-offending team) is ahead at the time of the termination they shall be declared the winner;
- If the team committing the offence is ahead at the time of the termination - the game shall be considered a tie.

Cancelled and rescheduled games

The schedule does not have any 'blank' spaces to allow for make-up games due to cancellations. If the fields are closed do to weather the games missed will not be rescheduled. If a team cancels a game and wishes to make it up, they may try and find an available field at a suitable alternate time. The league will provide a referee.

If games are cancelled due to field closures the games will be struck from the schedule and **not played at all. The schedule will not be adjusted because of closures.**

Problem Solving Procedure

Bearing in mind that this is a volunteer organization and everyone is working toward a positive soccer experience for all players and members, the Club recommends that you take the following steps to resolve any conflict or difficult issue that may occur during the soccer season. Please act maturely and respectfully, and try to see both sides.

- Try to address the issue at the team level with the coaches and manager. Failing a resolution . . .
- Contact the appropriate Coordinator (Mini-Soccer, Intermediate or Senior), as appropriate, to advise them of the problem and to try to settle it. Failing a resolution . . .
- Send an email to coastsoccer@gmail.com and request that the Board address your concerns at its next scheduled meeting. Please provide written details that outline your concerns and the steps taken toward finding a resolution to the problem. The board will advise you of their final decision.

Training for Coaches

The club encourages all coaches to become certified and to continuously improve their coaching skills. Any coach who completes (passes) a BCSA certified coaching program may apply to the Board of Directors for reimbursement.

All coaches should report courses attended to the registrar so records can be updated within our club.

The club recommends Community Coach Children, Youth or Senior certification for all coaches.

- Community Coach Children Certification for coaching youth up to U9
- Community Coach Youth Certification for coaching youth up to U13
- Community Coach Senior Certification for coaching youth over U14

Coaches may take the Senior Certification without taking the youth certification, with the following restrictions, they will not be allowed to coach in provincial cup competitions, they are not allowed to take the B-Prep course, and will not be logged into the database of the National CSA.

Community Coach Children Certification

It is the intent of the SCYSA executive that all coaches in the U7-U8 age groups attain certification in the CCC (Community Coach Children) from BCSA. This will allow coaches to gain experience and knowledge, which will enhance the playing and development of our players.

Community Coach Youth Certification

It is the intent of the SCYSA executive that all coaches in the U9-U13 age groups attain certification in the CCY (Community Coach Youth). This will allow coaches to gain experience and knowledge, which will enhance the playing and development of our players.

Community Coach Senior Certification

It is the intent of the SCYSA executive that all coaches in the U14-U18 age groups attain certification in the CSC. This level continues the coaching development started in the CCY and allows the coaches to engage and develop older players.

Coaches Obligation

Coaches are only allowed to play and practice with players who are registered with the SCYSA and who are placed on their team. Failure to comply with any of the requirements can lead to the forfeiture of the game, no matter what the actual outcome of the play.

Volunteer Disclosure Forms for all Coaches

All coaches, managers and directors are required to complete a Volunteer Disclosure Form A-B. The intent of this procedure is to ensure the protection of our volunteers and our youth. Please be assured that maximum confidentiality will be maintained.

Every club volunteer who at any time could be expected, in the performance of his/her duties, to be alone with any registered player (other than his/her own child) for any length of time must complete the form. This includes any program administrator (club officer, director, coach or assistant coach). Forms for the current season must be completed regardless of whether or not forms have been submitted in the past.

The required form will be distributed with your coach package, or can be found on-line in the coaches section of the website. Please hand in your complete form at the coaches meeting, or mail to: SCYSA, Box 215, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

Compliance is mandatory.

Responsibilities of the Team Coach

- Teach the players the skills, strategies and rules of soccer.
- Teach the players sportsmanship.
- Teach the players the benefits of teamwork and cooperation with their fellow players.
- Show the players, by personal example, proper conduct on and off the soccer field.
- Arrange for others to conduct the practices or the games if you are unable to attend.
- Ensure that no player is left on her own while she is waiting for a ride home after a game or practice.
- Advise any parents or fans that may be interfering with the game or the referee that they are in serious violation of the rules of soccer, and that they could be asked to leave the field of play. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their parents and supporters on the sidelines (FIFA rules).
- Understand that every child should be given the opportunity to play in all practices and games regardless of ability; therefore, any youngster who attends practices regularly be allowed to play at least one-half of every game.
- Look for strengths in every player, and encourage and support growth in every player.
- Show a deep interest in the players and have a genuine enthusiasm that can be passed on to the players.
- A good coach wears many hats -- the coach is a father/mother, educator, friend, disciplinarian and psychologist to the players.

When a person assumes responsibility to coach a team, the individual also accepts a responsibility to the team, to the players, to their parents, to the club and to the game of soccer.

Coach's Code

- Soccer is a game of fun.
- The laws of soccer should be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit or letter of which no one should try to evade or break.
- Visiting teams and spectators are honoured guests.
- No advantages, except those acquired through superior skills, should be sought.
- Officials and opponents should be treated and regarded as honest in intention.
- Official decisions should be accepted without anger, regardless of how unfair they may seem.
- Winning is desirable, but winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
- Losing can be a triumph when the team has given its best.
- The Ideal must be the greatest good for the greatest number.
- In soccer, as in life, treat others, as you would have them treat you.
- To participate in competition in a mature manner requires that you:
 - (a) Resist frustration,
 - (b) Face stress with logic, and
 - (c) Accept failure intelligently.
- Be gracious in victory as well as defeat.

If the children enjoy the game, we are on the right track

Responsibilities of the Team Manager

- Obtain the game schedule(s) and advise the team.
- Schedule parents for team refreshments for games -- oranges and/or hot chocolate.
- Communicate to team members and their parents any information regarding canceled games, re-scheduled games, and events such as Tournaments, Club events such as Team Photos, Dances, Newsletters and Meetings. In addition, he or she should advise interested parties about Coaching and or Refereeing clinics and other similar events.
- Inform opposing team officials, coordinator and referee scheduler of any cancelled games, re-scheduled games, time and field changes. This must occur before noon on the day previous to the game.
- Distribute at the beginning of the season, and retrieve at the end of the season, team equipment, which includes:
 - Complete set of strip for each player: jersey, shorts and socks (socks need not be returned)
 - Goalkeeper's shirt and gloves
 - Practice balls (Return only balls in playable condition)
 - Game ball
 - Cones, liners, flags etc.
- It is imperative that this equipment, which is assigned to your team for use only by your team, be returned in whole and in re-usable condition at the end of each season.
- Both the manager and the coach are expected to advise any parent that may be interfering with the game and or the referee that he or she is committing a serious infraction of the rules of soccer, and that the parent could be requested to leave the field of play.
- The manager is encouraged to obtain help from parents of players. Everyone is expected to help.

Player's Code

- Arrive at games and practices on time with all of the appropriate gear.
- Perform up to your potential - be ready to try your best.
- Listen to the coach and try to learn new skills. Practices go most smoothly when everyone respects the coach and the other team members.
- Keep a positive attitude towards your team members - remember this is a "team sport".
- Maintain a positive and polite attitude towards your teammates, your coach, the opposing teams and referees.
- Play the game for the game's sake.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be gracious when you lose.
- Be fair no matter what the cost.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Accept the decisions of game officials with grace.
- Honestly and wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of your teammates and opponents.

The rules of the game are rules for life. They demand discipline and a sense of humour. Our opponents are, at the same time, our teammates, who join us in our enjoyment of the game.

Our opponents are necessary friends – without them, there would be no game.

Player Contract for Season

I _____ registered with the Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association hereby agree to all terms set down in the following:

I will contact the coach a minimum of one full day in advance if unable to attend a practice, and agree that a practice cannot be missed without adequate reason or I may forfeit time in the next game.

I will contact the coach a minimum of two days in advance if unable to attend a game, and agree that a game cannot be missed without adequate reason or I may forfeit playing time in the next game.

I will voice any and all concerns directly to the coach. This will be done outside of game time, unless it involves an immediate safety or health issue.

I will not swear, argue or be confrontational with other players or coaching staff or my playing time will be forfeited. If I display poor attitude or a lack of effort my playing time will be forfeited.

I will attend every game in full uniform.

I will not be late for practice or games without an adequate reason or I may forfeit playing time. I will contact the coach if I am going to be late. I will arrive at all games 45 minutes in advance of game time.

I will participate with all teammates in important decisions and abide by majority vote.

I agree to participate in all fund raising activities unless I have adequate reason and I hereby understand and agree to a player accounts system.

I will play all tournaments that my team enters, and all cup games that my team is eligible for.

I will play by fair play codes. Integrity, fairness and respect - these are the principles of fair play. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

I will be generous when we win, be gracious when we lose, being fair no matter what the cost, and obey the laws of the game.

I will never argue with the official's decisions and accept the decisions of game officials with good grace.

I will conduct myself with honour and dignity and wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of my teammates and opponents.

We will work out any problems between me and another player. In the event that the differences cannot be worked through, and affect other team members, we will then seek out the coach's aid in resolving the situation. We will not wait until the coach is forced to step in.

I understand the above mentioned and I will comply with all rules and regulations as stated.

Date: _____ Player: _____

Coach: _____ Parent(s): _____

Parent's Code

- Follow the steps for registering your child each year before the deadline; make sure all information is correct. Make certain payment is made, or a subsidy form is filled out and returned, before the deadline. Players will not be placed on a team until they have registered and paid.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports; team sports need committed players.
- Do not over-commit your child; if your child is already playing other team sports please make sure that they have time for this one
- Ensure the player arrives at practices and games on time and with appropriate gear.
- Model good sportsmanship - show respect for all players, coaches, game officials and the laws of the game.
- Be encouraging and enthusiastic towards all players and acknowledge the good plays of ALL players, on both teams.
- Inform the coach and or manager if player cannot attend practices or a game.
- Come out to games and practices - the coaches and players love the extra encouragement and support.
- Be willing to work with the coach if there are discipline problems on the team. Discuss any difficulties with the manager or coach.
- Remember that children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of the game will be accepted without undue disappointment.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their personal time and money to provide recreational activities for your child.
- Treat the coach as being sincere in his or her intent to be working on behalf of every member of the team, and the team as a whole.

- Applaud good plays and effort by members of your team **and** by members of the opposing team.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
- Between the exuberance of the winner and the disappointment of the loser, we find a person called an **Official**. All referees strive for the same objective: to watch every move of every player, and to call the game to the best of his or her ability. Do not publicly question the officials' judgment, and never question their honesty. They are a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship.

Above all, let your child be what he or she is ... a child

Respecting the referee

Game officials are necessary and important for all soccer games. It is imperative that the coaches, players and parents show the utmost respect for all game officials at all times. Any physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Coaches should be aware that it is their responsibility to control their players and supporters (i.e. parents). Failures to do so may result in discipline.

Parents, coaches and players (captain included) do not have a right to question the referee. However, if there is a significant problem with the officiating (i.e. the ref does not see that an opposing player is consistently tripping players) the coach or captain may calmly and politely approach the referee at half time or after the game to draw attention to the problem, keeping the comments both constructive and positive.

Referee conduct that is seriously questionable should be reported to the league in writing.

Remember the referee is also someone's child.



Referee Assignments

The SCYSA assigns all referees on the basis of experience and availability. All our referees have been trained to BCSA standards. It is important for coaches and parents to realize that encouraging and fostering the education of the referee is their responsibility. Youth referees are learning too; they need your support and encouragement to develop their skills.

Referee Training

All Sunshine Coast Referees have attained their BCSA District referee certification. To achieve this certification referees must have attended a 17-hour training course and passed the written exam with a mark of 75% or better. Referees are also required to attend an annual refresher course in order to maintain their certification. SCYSA Referees also attend monthly educational sessions – coaches and parents are welcome to attend.

Uniforms and Equipment

The SCYSA maintains a large inventory of uniforms and equipment in various locations on the Coast. One director is responsible for the overall inventory, ordering and monitoring of the inventory. Volunteer equipment managers are responsible for distributing and collecting the uniforms and equipment.

Because the equipment manager requires a considerable time commitment particularly in the fall and spring, a few rules are necessary for coaches and managers.

1. Coaches are responsible for pick-up and return of uniforms and equipment,
2. Coaches and managers may contact the equipment managers. Parents must work through the coaches and managers.
3. If you need something from the equipment managers, you probably won't get it if you wait until the last moment to ask for it. Give the managers at least several days' notice.

In the spring, return the clean, folded uniforms and all other SCYSA equipment to the equipment manager on the designated date. If you cannot make the drop-off date, please make other arrangements. Don't make the equipment manager chase after you to get things turned in. Coaches are responsible to keep track of uniforms handed to players and to collect them from the players at the end of the season.

A deposit of \$50 is required for all team jerseys. All coaches or managers are required to collect a post-dated cheque (post-dated to April 15, 20XX) made out to the SCYSA. The coach or manager will hold the cheques until the end of the season when they may be returned to the players upon return of the jersey. If a jersey is not returned the coach will submit the cheque to the SCYSA and we will use the money to purchase a replacement jersey. The jerseys are not for sale – we want them back!

Personal equipment

Shin pads are **MANDATORY** for all players and must be worn to all practices and games. Socks must be worn that cover the shin pads. Players do not have to have cleats at all -- athletic shoes are fine, especially for younger players, however it is recommended that cleats be used to avoid potential injuries on wet fields. If you buy cleats for your child, be sure to purchase soccer cleats. If you

have sports shoes designed for another sport, the toe cleat may be cut off to permit the shoe's use on the soccer field for practice or games.

Each player should come to practices and games equipped with proper footwear and shin pads. Kneepads and gloves are recommended when playing on all weather fields.

The rules state that jewelry is not allowed to be worn. This means everything including but not limited to, watches, earrings, necklaces, nose rings, rubber bands, string bracelets and hair clips. We encourage parents and coaches to check that their children are not wearing any jewelry to the field for games or practices. This is a FIFA rule and it is a safety measure.

Field closures

The SCRD, District of Sechelt and Sechelt Indian Band Parks Departments review the grass fields on Thursday and make a decision by Friday morning on whether to keep the fields open, close some fields, or close them all. Field updates will be posted on our website. The website should be checked weekly for changes to the schedule – it is the posted website that is the definitive one.

Field safety

The user groups or the referee will open no field that is closed. **Groups found playing on closed fields may be subject to the loss of field permits.**

If the weather turns bad, (snow, frost and thaw, heavy rain or hail), the coaches and the referee are asked to use good judgment and not proceed with the game if it is obviously going to cause damage to the field or present undue danger to the players.

U7-U11 Field Sizes for Mini-Soccer

DIVISION	FIELD SIZE	GOAL SIZE
U7-U8	28m x 18m	8 ft x 4ft
U9	36m x 22m	8 ft x 4ft
U11	55m x 36m	12 ft x 6.5 ft

U13-U18 Field Size

The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 90 m maximum 120 m

Width: minimum 45 m maximum 90 m

Game Duration

Age Group	Duration	Note
U7	2 x 15 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U8	2 x 20 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U9	2 x 25 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U11	2 x 30 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U12	2 x 30 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U13	2 x 35 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U14	2 x 35 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U15	2 x 40 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U16	2 x 40 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U17	2 x 45 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.
U18	2 x 45 Min. Halves	5 minute half time breaks.

First aid

The club recommends that someone on the coaching staff have first aid training, and requires that each team have at each practice and game an emergency kit that contains the following:

- A list of player names, with both medical and emergency contact information
- Spare change to make phone calls with if necessary
- A basic first aid kit (see notes below)

The Sports Medicine Council of BC states that a first aid kit should contain the following items, no medicines, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide should be included.

Disposable vinyl gloves

Clean white towel (to apply pressure to a wound)

Gauze pads (to control bleeding)

Antibacterial soap (to clean wounds)

Antibiotic ointment

Cotton tipped applicators (to apply ointment)

Telfa pads (to cover exposed cuts and abrasions)

Band-aids in assorted sizes

Adhesive tape

Scissors

Tensor bandages

Triangular bandages (to be used as a sling)

Vaseline (to apply to areas of friction, where blisters may develop)

Instant ice packs or zip lock bags to hold ice

Emergency procedures

This section is provided only to give information. Please seek medical attention if you have any question about an injury or condition.

If a major or serious injury should occur, the coach should adopt a steady and support policy.

1. Immediately dial 911
2. Support the player by making her as comfortable as possible until help arrives
3. DO NOT MOVE THE INJURED PLAYER - DO NOT REMOVE ANY EQUIPMENT

St. John's Ambulance recommends the following for minor injuries:

Use RICE for injuries to bones, joints and muscles - **Rest Ice Compression Elevation**

Rest means stopping the activity that caused the injury. If you've twisted an ankle, knee or elbow, don't try to "work it out".

Ice should be applied to the injured area once immobilized. It will reduce swelling by narrowing the blood vessels. Apply ice 15 minutes on - 15 minutes off.

Compression means using a bandage to apply pressure to the injury. This will help limit swelling.

Elevation is getting the injured part elevated to make it easier for fluids to drain away from the injury.

Use RICE while waiting for medical help. Even the most minor injuries will benefit from RICE.

RICE Warnings

- Do not put ice directly on the skin. Always have a layer of fabric as a barrier.
- Do not apply cold compresses to open wounds.
- Do not use compression on a fracture.

Note: A player that is bleeding shall not participate in the match until the bleeding has stopped, and any blood on his or her clothing is covered or removed.

Safety on the field is the first responsibility of every coach, referee, and all other club officials. Players may not wear any earrings, bracelets, watches, barrettes, or any object that could possibly cause injury to him/herself or another player to practice or to a soccer game. Pierced earrings will not be allowed, and covering them with tape will not be allowed. Please encourage your son or daughter to defer piercing his/her exposed body areas until after the season has concluded.