Game Day Procedures Policy

Coach Responsibilities
Volunteer coaches are responsible for creating a positive and organized game day experience. Coaches should:

- Arrive at least 20–30 minutes before kickoff.
- Ensure players are properly equipped before participation.
- Confirm player attendance and organize substitutions.
- Conduct an appropriate warm-up before the game.
- Maintain positive communication with players throughout the match.
- Demonstrate respect toward referees, opposing coaches, spectators, and players.
- Ensure all players receive meaningful playing time.
- Clean their team area before leaving the field.

Coaches are expected to model the behavior they expect from their players.

Meeting with the Referee
Prior to each game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee. This brief meeting provides an opportunity to:

- Confirm player counts.
- Verify any local league rule modifications.
- Clarify age-specific rules.
- Ask procedural questions before play begins.
- Communicate any special circumstances affecting the game.

Questions regarding rules or procedures should be addressed respectfully before kickoff whenever possible. During the game, coaches should avoid prolonged discussions or arguments regarding referee decisions.

Referee Responsibilities
Referees are responsible for:

- Enforcing the Laws of the Game and SSYS local rules.
- Promoting player safety.
- Managing the match in a fair and impartial manner.
- Stopping play for injuries when appropriate.
- Addressing misconduct in accordance with league rules.
- Maintaining a respectful and professional environment.

Referee decisions regarding judgment calls are final.

Player Participation
SSYS is a recreational soccer league committed to player development. Every eligible player who attends a game on time and is physically able to participate shall play at least 50% of each game. Playing time should never be determined solely by a player's skill level.

Coaches are encouraged to rotate players through multiple positions whenever practical to support overall player development.

Sideline Organization

Team Side
Only the following individuals are permitted on the team sideline:

- Rostered players
- Approved Head Coach
- One Approved Assistant Coach

Players not currently on the field should remain seated or standing with their team unless warming up under the coach's direction. Equipment should remain organized and clear of walkways.

Spectator Side
Parents and spectators must remain on the designated spectator side of the field.
Spectators should:

- Stay several feet back from the touchline whenever possible.
- Avoid sitting or standing behind the goals.
- Keep walkways clear.
- Supervise children who are not participating in the game.
- Keep pets under control and away from the field where permitted by facility rules.

Spectators may cheer positively but should not coach players from the sidelines.

Sportsmanship
All participants are expected to demonstrate respect before, during, and after every match. Unsportsmanlike behavior—including arguing with officials, disrespectful language, taunting, or inappropriate conduct toward players, coaches, or spectators—may result in disciplinary action by the SSYS Committee.

Weather Procedures
Player safety always takes priority over completing a game.

Lightning
If lightning is observed or detected:

- Play shall be suspended immediately.
- Players, coaches, referees, and spectators should leave the fields and seek appropriate shelter.
- Activities may not resume until the league or facility determines that conditions are safe.

Heavy Rain or Unsafe Fields
Games may be delayed, suspended, relocated, or canceled due to:

- Standing water
- Unsafe field conditions
- Severe weather
- Facility closures

The SSYS Committee or designated field coordinator will make cancellation decisions whenever possible before teams travel to the fields. Members will be notified by email.

Extreme Heat

Coaches and referees are encouraged to provide additional water breaks during periods of high heat or humidity. Games may be modified, delayed, shortened, or canceled when weather conditions create an unreasonable safety risk.

Cleaning Up After Games and Practices

Each team is responsible for leaving fields in better condition than they were found. Before leaving, coaches should ensure that:

- All trash is removed.
- Water bottles are collected.
- Benches are clean.
- Team equipment is removed.
- Personal belongings are not left behind.

A clean facility demonstrates respect for our community partners.

Post-Game Expectations

At the conclusion of each game:

- Coaches should thank the referee.
- Players should display good sportsmanship toward their opponents.
- Coaches should briefly address their team with positive encouragement.
- Concerns regarding officiating should be reported through league procedures (**Fair Whistle**) rather than discussed with referees immediately following the game.

League Authority

The SSYS Committee reserves the right to modify game day procedures as necessary to ensure player safety, maintain good sportsmanship, and support the efficient operation of league activities. Failure to follow these procedures may result in disciplinary action consistent with league policies.