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.

Inclement Weather & Weather Procedures

Player safety always takes priority over completing a game or practice.

Field Closures: Each complex director has authority to close their respective fields due to weather or unsafe field conditions. Complex directors typically notify SSYS of weekday closures by 3:30 p.m. and weekend closures by 6:30 a.m. SSYS will notify affected members by email within 30 minutes of receiving a closure decision whenever possible. If last minute closures are made, members will be notified by email as soon as possible. Games and practices may continue during rain unless fields become unsafe or hazardous weather is present.

Heavy Rain, Severe Weather, or Unsafe Fields: Games and practices may be delayed, suspended, relocated, or canceled due to standing water, unsafe field conditions, severe weather, or facility closures. The SSYS Committee, complex director, designated field coordinator, or game officials may make weather-related decisions based on conditions and player safety.

Extreme Heat: During periods of high heat or humidity, coaches and referees are encouraged to provide additional water breaks. Games and practices may be modified, delayed, shortened, or canceled when heat, humidity, or other weather conditions create an unreasonable safety risk.

Lightning: If lightning is observed or detected by the Lightning Detection System, play shall be suspended immediately. Players, coaches, referees, and spectators should leave the fields and seek appropriate shelter. Practices may not begin or resume until the detection system gives the all-clear alarm and the league or facility determines that conditions are safe. For games, see Game Stoppage After Play Begins. Additional hazardous-weather procedures are posted at the complexes.

Practices: If fields are closed due to weather, practices will not be rescheduled nor rebooked by SSYS. If a coach chooses to hold a make-up practice on another day during the week, the coach must check the online practice schedule for an unbooked field. Make-up practices may only be held on unbooked fields and are available on a first-come, first-served basis to the first team that arrives.

Game Cancellation Before Play Begins: If a game is canceled entirely due to weather or another unforeseeable circumstance, SSYS will make reasonable efforts to reschedule the game. However, due to scheduling, facility, or time constraints, some canceled games may not be rescheduled. SSYS will determine whether and when a game will be made up. Teams are responsible for checking the online schedule each Friday for moved or rescheduled games.

Game Stoppage After Play Begins: If a game is stopped due to weather, the game will not resume that day.

If halftime has occurred, the score at the time the game is stopped will be considered the final score, and the game will not be rescheduled.

If halftime has not occurred, the game will be rescheduled, and the rescheduled game will begin at 0–0, regardless of the score when the original game was stopped.

Authority to Suspend or Cancel: Referees, league representatives, and park officials have the authority to delay, suspend, or cancel a game when weather or field conditions present a safety concern. Coaches, referees, and facility personnel should err on the side of player safety when conditions are uncertain.

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.