

St. Croix Valley Athletic Association

Soccer Coach's Reference

Guidelines, Rules and Exceptions

The objectives of the SCVAA Soccer League are:

- Encourage youth and adults to participate in the sport of soccer.
- Teach youth the fundamentals of soccer.
- Learn how to win and lose in a sporting manner.
- Have fun. Enjoyment of participating in a sport is the key ingredient for everyone.
- Demonstrate and educate youth on appropriate conduct within a recreational league.

Parental support is strongly encouraged. Parents are requested to give the program their total support. The league asserts that the conduct of the parents is the coach's responsibility. Any abusive language or harassment by spectators or coaches will not be condoned. The person or persons responsible will be asked to leave the premises. If they refuse, the match will be forfeited. **Remember, the best and worst educator is the example set by coaches and parents.**

The following guidelines and rules were established in pursuit of the St. Croix Valley Athletic Association Soccer League (henceforth referred to as SCVAA Soccer) objectives.

I. Sportsmanship

- A. All coaches, referees and parents are encouraged to be examples of good sportsmanship.
- B. Coaches shall be responsible for the actions of parents and players.
- C. Poor sportsmanship shall be determined by the referee. For example, use of foul language constitutes poor sportsmanship and, after one warning, is cause for ejection.
- D. In the case of a player being ejected from a match because of poor sportsmanship, his/her team shall play the remainder of the game with one less player and the ejection will be reported to the league coordinator.
- E. Spectators will remain 1 yard off the field and behind the touchline (sidelines). Spectators are not allowed behind the goal lines.
- F. Fellowship is expected. Opposing teams, including coaches, shall line up at center field for handshakes after each match.
- G. Disciplinary Guideline
 - a. Players and coaches can be suspended for actions detrimental to the participants and program. Players can also be suspended for parent(s) actions.
 - b. Individual commissions can act on all discipline issues and take whatever disciplinary action deemed necessary for the integrity of the program
 - c. It is recommended that the Executive Board be notified promptly in writing of any disciplinary action within an individual commission before any action is taken.
 - d. The Executive Board of the St. Croix Valley Athletic Association will review all disciplinary procedures/actions of an individual commission before the individual commission proceeds with its disciplinary action.
 - e. All parties involved have the right to appeal the decision of the individual commission or Executive Board within 30 days upon receipt

of a certified letter from the St. Croix Valley Athletic Association.

- f. The appeal must be in writing and directed to the President of the St. Croix Valley Athletic Association or the Commissioner of the individual commission involved.

II. Eligibility.

- A. All Participants must meet the grade requirements described in Section V.
- B. All participants must have paid their registration fee and must have had the parent of league guardian sign the “Waiver of Injury” form.
- C. No one shall be denied the opportunity to play because of lack of ability. There will be no tryouts.
- D. Team selection shall be via selection protocol developed by the Soccer Commission.
- E. Team rosters will be provided to the coaches prior to or at the coaches meeting.

III. Registration Fee.

- A. Registration fee shall be determined by the Soccer Commission and shall be based on the costs, which includes: shirts, whistles, nets, balls, field maintenance, etc.
- B. A late fee shall be paid for any late registrations.

IV. Players Equipment.

- A. Each child is encouraged to have their own soccer ball.
(Size 3 for league K/1. Size 4 for 2/3 & 4/5. Size 5 for league 6-8).
- B. SCVAA will supply team shirts to each participant.
- C. The goalkeeper shall wear a shirt of a different color than the other players.
- D. Each player is required to wear shin guards.
- E. The players may wear molded cleats or sneakers. Metal cleats are

forbidden.

V. Grade Leagues

A. Six SCVAA Soccer leagues are defined by the grade or grade equivalency of the participant as of September 1 of the soccer season.

a.	League K/1	KG & 1 st Grade	Separate Boys & Girls Teams
b.	League 2/3	2 nd & 3 rd Grade	Separate Boys & Girls Teams
c.	League 4/5	4 th & 5 th Grade	Separate Boys & Girls Teams
d.	League 6/7/8	6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grade	Separate Boys & Girls Teams

B. No Youth may play in a league below their grade level. Exceptions to the league assignments are based on the best interests of the child and the league. Any exceptions must be approved by the League Coordinators.

VI. Number of Players

A. See the “League Rules Exceptions” for the number of players on the field.

B. A team may play 2 players short (i.e. 7 players on the field for League 5/6). It is recommended that if one team is short players, players shall be borrowed from the opposing team to equalize the number on each side or the other team play with the corresponding number.

C. If a team is short more than 2 players 15 minutes after the scheduled match time, the match will be forfeited.

D. In the event of a forfeit, players shall be borrowed from the opposing team to equalize the number on each side. A “fun” match should ensure which shall be refereed in the usual manner.

VII. Participation

A. Coaches must notify all players on their roster of practices, games, etc.

B. Coaches will rotate players through the various positions during each game. At these ages, players are not encouraged to specialize in any particular position.

C. No child will play 4 quarters until all players have played 3 quarters. Throughout the season coaches will even out playing time.

VIII. Schedules

- A. The SCVAA Soccer Commission shall determine the final schedule. The tentative schedule calls for clinic, practices, and matches to be held in August, September, and October.
- B. Schedules of each team, with match dates, times, and field locations, will be distributed to the coaches at the coaches meeting in August.
- C. Practices are to be scheduled by coaches. Field signup for practices will occur at the coaches meeting in August.
- D. Information on special events (picture night, training sessions, etc.) will be announced / distributed to the coaches throughout the season as necessary.

IX. Rain Policy

- A. Coaches of the two teams scheduled to play shall decide whether or not to play the match. The safety of the players should be the prime consideration. Factors to consider include:
 - a. Threat of lightning or dangerous storm.
 - b. Condition of the playing field (mud, standing water, snow, etc).
 - c. Heavy rain.
- B. The decision not to play may be agreed upon by both coaches 1.5 hours prior to the scheduled starting time.
- C. If the coaches do not agree to postpone the game 1.5 hours before game time, both teams are expected to show up for the match. Coaches on the field at the scheduled start time may agree to postpone the game. This decision should be based on the conditions of the field at the scheduled starting time.
- D. Postponed matches shall be rescheduled by mutual consent of the coaches. Date, time, and field signup are the responsibilities of the coaches.

X. Referees' Responsibilities

- A. The referees shall be instructive and control the safe flow of the game. All calls shall be explained to the players.
- B. Coaches perform the role of referee in Leagues K/1 & 2/3. Referees will be furnished for all 6-8 division games and for some 4/5 division games depending on availability of referees. In case a referee does not show, a

coach from each team, should function as a referee.

- C. The referee shall keep time. The referees must blow their whistle to indicate the end of each quarter/half, and any other stoppage of play.
- D. The referee's decisions are final. A difference of opinion on calls should only be discussed at stoppages in play; not to interfere with the game.
- E. Opposing coaches are required to meet and discuss aspects of play with each other before the match begins (rules, player numbers, etc).

XI. Coaches' Responsibilities

- A. Serving as instructor and teacher.
- B. Exhibiting good sportsmanship.
- C. Informing team members regarding schedule changes.
- D. Explaining the rules to youth and parents.
- E. Officiating their teams matches (Leagues K/1, 2/3, & 4/5).

XII. League Scoring

- A. Two points are awarded in the league standing for a win, one for a tie and zero points for a loss or forfeit.
- B. As a recreational league, these points and league standings are not publicized. Rather team points are used to match teams on similar abilities for Soccer Day Games (the last games of the season).
- C. Coaches are responsible to maintain the win/loss record. Coaches should inform the League Coordinator of the season record within two days after the last regular season game (i.e. in time for Soccer Days scheduling).

XIII. Rules

The rules set forth by FIFA are followed except for the exceptions listed on the "League Rules Exception" sheet for leagues K/1, 2/3, 4/5, 6-8. Please familiarize yourself with the rules of the game.

- A. **League K/1 FIFA Rules Exceptions**
 - a. The duration of a match is 30 minutes with 1-minute breaks every 5 minutes to substitute players.

- b. Each team shall consist of 6 players on the field, with 3 assigned to offense and 3 assigned to defense.
- c. Substitutions should only occur during 1 minute intermissions that occur every 5 minutes, or for injury.
- d. Most soccer rules do NOT apply including throw-ins, penalty kicks, goal kicks, offsides.

B. League 2/3 FIFA Rules Exceptions

- a. The duration of a match is four 10-minute running time quarters with 3-minute intermissions between quarters and at the half.
- b. Each team shall consist of 7 players on the field, one of which must be a goal keeper.
- c. Substitutions may occur by either team after a goal or before a goal kick by either team. Substitutions may also occur before a throw-in only by the team in possession of the ball. The only exception to these rules is a sub for an injury.
- d. A coin toss shall determine the choice of ends for the start of the match. The other team will have the kick off.
- e. The team kicking of the first quarter will also kick off the third quarter. The opponent will kick off the second and fourth quarters.
- f. Slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle will be treated as dangerous play and will result in an indirect free kick.

C. League 4/5 FIFA Rules Exceptions

- a. The duration of a match is four 12-minute running time quarters with 3-minute intermissions between quarters and at the half.
- b. The field size shall be no more than 80 yards by 55 yards. The penalty area shall be 30 yards by 12 yards. The penalty spot shall be at 10 yards from the goal line. The radius of the center circle shall be 8 yards.
- c. Each team shall consist of 9 players on the field, one of which must be a goal keeper.
- d. Substitutions may occur by either team after a goal or before a goal kick

by either team. Substitutions may also occur before a throw-in only by the team in possession of the ball. The only exception to these rules is a substitution for an injury.

- e. A coin toss shall determine the choice of ends for the start of the match. The other team will have the kick off.
- f. The team kicking off the first quarter will also kick off the third quarter. The opponent will kick off the second and fourth quarters.
- g. Slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle will be treated as dangerous play and will result in an indirect free kick.

D. League 6/7/8 FIFA Rules Exceptions

- a. The duration of a match is two 30-minute running time halves with a 5-minute intermission at the half.
- b. Each team shall consist of 11 players on the field, one of which must be a goal keeper.
- c. Substitutions may occur by either team after a goal or before a goal kick by either team. Substitutions may also occur before a throw-in only by the team in possession of the ball. The only exception to these rules is a substitution for an injury.
- d. A coin toss shall determine the choice of ends for the start of the match. The other team will have the kick off.
- e. The team kicking off the first quarter will also kick off the third quarter. The opponent will kick off the second and fourth quarters.
- f. Slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle will be treated as dangerous play and will result in an indirect freekick. Persistent slide tackles by one individual may result in the removal of the player from the game.