



# Recreational Parent Handbook

# Welcome

Welcome to the DSC Outdoor Recreational League! To all our returning players and parents, thank you for continuing to make Dixie Soccer Club (DSC) your club of choice for the sport of soccer. For those who are new to the club, we would like to extend a warm welcome to DSC. Our Club aims to promote the sport of soccer and player development, while building friendships amongst our members in a safe, and fun environment.

## Important Dates

The Clubs Important Dates will be posted to our Club website every January. Please follow/like us on our social media channels to stay updated as well!

## Safety

### Equipment

Without any of the mandatory equipment below, Coaches/Referees will not allow a player to play. Absolutely no exceptions can be made as this would be a severe safety risk.

- Cleats (soccer shoes) – Metal studs are **not** permitted
- Shin guards (must be worn under the player socks)
- DSC provided Player Uniform kit (jersey, shorts, socks) from current season.

### Prohibited

A player must not use equipment or wear an item that is dangerous to himself/herself or another player. This includes, but is not limited to earrings, watches, Fitbits, necklaces, hair clips, body jewelry, etc. Using tape to cover jewelry is not acceptable.

### Additional Safety

Parents and spectators must stay on the opposite side of the field from the player/bench area. Behind the goal and length of the end line (area between the goal posts and corner flag) are strictly off limits. Only the Coach and Assistant Coach listed on the team roster are permitted on the player's side. Parents and spectators shall not enter the field during game play unless authorized by the Referee or a Team Official.

### Inclement Weather

The safety of players, coaches, referees, club officials/staff, and spectators is the primary concern of the DSC in any weather event that occurs during all games, however, parents/guardians may take any reasonable action they deem appropriate for their safety of their child at any time.

### Rain

All soccer games will be played, rain or shine. The office will only cancel games ahead of their scheduled start time if the City of Mississauga or Club officials close the field or deem it to be unplayable. The office staff will post any game cancellations on the clubs' website by 5:00pm. All coaches in the effected division(s) will be contacted as well.

### Thunder/Lightning

If there is no thunder/lightning before the beginning of the game, the referee will decide the course of action in consultation with both coaches prior to kick-off. In our divisions without referees, U3-U8, the coaches of both teams and game leaders have the authorization to suspend play or cancel games in the event of thunder/lightning.

If thunder/lightning occurs, the play must be stopped immediately. DSC strictly observes the 30/30 rule. If the "flash to bang" is less than 30 seconds, play will be suspended for 30 minutes timed from the last flash or bang observation. If a game is played at least 10 minutes into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in our U13-U18 divisions, it will be counted as played and scores will stand. Any U13-U18 game cancelled due to weather will be recorded as a 1-1 tie or will be rescheduled.

## Heat

Games are not cancelled due to extreme heat; however, extra water breaks will be implemented by the Game Leaders/Referees. Coaches are to speak with the Match Officials prior to game kick-off to ensure all parties have been communicated to on when these will occur.

## Parent Code of Conduct

- I will teach my child that doing his/her best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game.
- I will make my child feel like a winner by offering praise for competing fairly and doing their best.
- I will not force my child to participate in sports. My child will participate because he/she enjoys the sport of soccer.
- I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and stay active and that the game is for the children and not the adults.
- I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the youth athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
- I will show respect for all players, coaches, club officials, and spectators always.
- I will respect the referees/game leaders and their authority during every game. I will not dispute, challenge, question or argue any call, nor confront any referee/game leader at any time.
- I will obey a request by a referee/game leader or from the team's Coach to leave the vicinity of the field if I fail to abide by the Code of Conduct.
- I will respect the volunteer coaches, who give their time to provide sport activities for my child, any show appreciation for their efforts.
- I will not approach the team Coach during a game. If I am upset by something, I will wait 24 hours before discussing the issue and will do so in a private and in a constructive manner.
- I will support all efforts to eliminate verbal and physical abuse from the sport of soccer.
- I will not take part in any form of bullying, whether that be to a parent, player, team coach, referee, or club representative. Bullying in any form, whether in person, or electronically will not be tolerated.
- I will respect the good plays of both teams. I will not engage in taunting. I will not disturb the other spectators with my actions, language, or behaviour.
- I will be responsible for my child at every soccer event. DSC is not responsible for unsupervised players/children.
- Through submission of the registration form for my child, I have accepted the Terms and Conditions of the DSC membership whether I have read them or not and am therefore subject to the Club's rules and regulations.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the DSC rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by match official, head coach, club representative and/or Director of Recreational Soccer
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by DSC
- Game forfeit through the match official or coach
- Parental season suspension

## Policies

### No Score

As per Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer, our U3-U12 age groups do NOT keep score or record standings. This is to take the focus away from "winning" and "losing" and to focus directly on player development and enjoyment of the game of soccer. Please do not encourage score keeping in these divisions. Our U13-U18 age groups do keep score and record standings.

### Team Balancing

While every effort is made to create balanced teams before the start of the season, rebalancing may occur up the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the season. Players involved must play for their newly assigned team by the league or they will no longer be eligible to play.

### Player Shortage

If a team has a shortage of players, the game may be played if both teams have at least the minimum number of players required for their age group. Both teams are required to field the same number of players as the other team at all times. At no point should a team play an extra player to receive an unfair advantage over the opposing team. If players arrive, additional players may be added into the game when the Game Leader/Referee indicate it is safe to do so.

### Minimum Players Required

- U5-U8 (5v5): 4 players (3 players + 1 goalkeeper)
- U9-U10 (7v7): 5 players (4 players + 1 goalkeeper)
- U11-U12 (9v9): 6 players (5 players + 1 goalkeeper)
- U13-U18 (11v11): 7 players (6 players + 1 goalkeeper)

### Equal Playing Time

Coaches must make every effort to ensure each player receives their fair share of playing time. DSC has a policy of "equal" time for all, subject to the practical considerations of the timing of substitution opportunities, player injury, or removal of player due to discipline. Coaches are simply not to play or favor some players more than others nor are they to "stack" their lineup or "shorten their bench" to gain a competitive advantage over the teams they are playing. Our program is about participation and having fun and while winning is always "nice", it is not to be at the cost of excluding any player.

## **Retreat Line**

The retreat line is to help develop a young athlete's ability to play out from the goalkeeper and keep possession. It will come into play when the ball has gone out for a goal kick or when the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her arms. All opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball leaves the field of play, crosses the retreat line, or is touched by a player of the team receiving from the goalkeeper.

## **Refund / Withdrawal from Program**

A refund may be requested prior to the season start. NO refunds will be given after the season has commenced. All refunds are subject to a \$50 administrative fee. Refund requests must be submitted via email to [dixiesoccerclub@rogers.com](mailto:dixiesoccerclub@rogers.com). All approved refunds will be issued by cheque within 4-6 weeks of receipt.

Please refer to the Recreational Programs Refund Policy on the Clubs website.

## **Vacation**

Vacations are an expected part of the outdoor recreational season and no players are to be penalized for being away. Parents are expected to fill-in when a coach is away for vacation. Please step-up when needed so the players can continue to play.

## **Anti-Bullying**

Bullying of any kind us unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Bullying is counterproductive to team spirit and can be devastating to a victim. DSC is committed to providing a safe, caring, and friendly environment for all participants.

## **Zero Tolerance Policy**

Parents and players are reminded that recreational soccer is about FUN. DSC has a Zero Tolerance Policy for abuse and harassment of referees, coaches, players, club representatives, and spectators. Please visit our website for full details.

## **Duty to Report**

If you suspect child abuse, contact your local Children's Services/Children's Aid Society, or your local Police department.

- It is your legal duty to report suspected child abuse. You do not need proof, just a reasonable suspicion.
- You do not need permission to report, nor can anyone prevent you from reporting.
- The report must come from the person who receives the information first-hand, not a third party.

## **Questions?**

Please contact the Director of Recreational Soccer at [dixiesoccerclub@rogers.com](mailto:dixiesoccerclub@rogers.com) or visit our website.