



DC STODDERT SOCCER

Admin Rules

DC Stoddert Soccer

Admin Rules effective 2018



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1 - DC Stoddert Recreational Program – Introduction

History: DC Stoddert Soccer was founded in 1977 to encourage the playing of soccer among Washington-area youth. The club initially consisted of 60 children learning together in small groups at Stoddert Elementary School in the Glover Park neighborhood, from which the club takes its name. Since then, DC Stoddert Soccer has expanded and become the city's largest independent youth sports program. Various soccer enrichment programs are offered for children during the fall and spring seasons, and typically serves upwards of 6,000 players, 9,000 parents, 400 teams, and 900 volunteers. In addition to organized leagues, DC Stoddert Soccer also offers a variety of training programs for players, referee training, and coaching courses.

Mission: DC Stoddert Soccer is a non-profit organization offering varying levels of soccer education and competition. Our mission is to provide a positive, fun, and developmentally appropriate soccer experience and to promote a love of soccer for youth in the Washington, DC area. DC Stoddert Soccer promotes sportsmanship, fair play, community building, and volunteerism among its members.

Description: DC Stoddert Soccer is the District of Columbia's largest youth sports program with more than 6,000 players participating in its Recreational Programs each fall and spring. DC Stoddert Soccer provides a coed soccer program for players ages 5 to 18 and a girls only program for players ages 7 to 18. We are dedicated to making soccer fun, safe, and accessible to all players. Nearly half of all Recreational players are girls, making DC Stoddert Soccer the

largest youth sports program for girls in the city.

In the fall and spring seasons, DC Stoddert Soccer offers a nine-week Recreational soccer program. The fall season begins after Labor Day and extends into the early part of November. The spring season usually begins the first weekend in April and runs through the first weekend of June.

The primary objectives of the Rec program:

Provide all participants with the best opportunities to maximize their development, their enjoyment, and their love of the game of soccer.

From this objective, the Rec program has three complimentary goals:

- Develop and promote consistency across teams, age groups, and players, while seeking to provide a superior soccer experience for all involved, AND
- Foster a fun and educational youth development environment, AND
- Create & maintain a safe playing environment for all participants.

This document lays out the administrative components of and regulations for the DC Stoddert Soccer Rec Program. Gameday Rules are maintained separately and are posted on the DC Stoddert website.

2 - KEY PEOPLE WHO MAKE REC SOCCER HAPPEN

AGE GROUP COMMISSIONERS

The Age Group Commissioner of a “division” (identified by age group/gender) has broad responsibility for the operation and administration of the division. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to: assignment of coaches, assignment of players, creation of a division game schedule, and settlement of intra-divisional issues.

The Age Group Commissioner should conduct a meeting of all coaches in their division (particularly for Kinder through 3rd grade) prior to each Fall season to conduct division business. Spring pre-season meetings are encouraged as well.

The Age Group Commissioners also work as a group, in conjunction with DC Stoddert staff, to formulate administrative improvements for the Rec Program.

VOLUNTEER COACHES & ASSISTANT COACHES

Each soccer team will have at least one coach. It is recommended that each team has at least two coaches; this improves the coach workload, splits the responsibilities, yields a better coach to player ratio, and ensures that in the case of a coach absence at practices or games, there is another registered, qualified adult to train and coach the team. Starting with the Fall 2018 season, all coaches must be volunteers; paid coaches are not permitted.

Volunteers may opt for assistant coach status. Assistants should work collaboratively with coaches to foster an appropriate learning and playing environment. Coaches should coordinate activities in advance in order to provide the best environment possible.

Before the start of their first season as a coach, all coaches should take the following online courses:

- USC's Foundations of Coaching
- CDC's HEADS UP to Youth Sports

Both courses are available for free, linked on the DC Stoddert Soccer website in the Coaching Education section, under Rec (<https://sports.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=923917>).

As a coach gains more experience, he/she should take advantage of other coaching education opportunities provided by DC Stoddert Soccer (and other appropriate providers) in order to have more fun as a coach and provide higher quality education to the players he/she serves. DC Stoddert Soccer will offer a variety of online and in-person courses and trainings each year in order to help our coaches grow and develop.

While DC Stoddert Soccer encourages older youth and young adults to participate in the Rec program as a volunteer coach, a team may never be left under the sole supervision of a minor. At least one responsible adult must be present at each team activity.

Also, it is strongly encouraged that a parent/guardian other than the coach be present at all practices and games; a single adult should not be left alone with any players except for his/her own child(ren).

DC Stoddert places a strong emphasis on requiring Rec coaches and all participating adults (i.e. family members who attend games and practices) to set an example of good behavior on the

sideline. DC Stoddert requires coaches to abide by the Coach Code of Conduct; available on the website (About Us>Rec>Coaching Education) at <https://bsbproduction.s3.amazonaws.com/portals/4115/docs/rec/code%20of%20conduct%20for%20dcst%20coaches%20final%202018.pdf>.

All DC Stoddert Rec coaches are specifically responsible for ensuring that all players, parents, and spectators refrain from engaging in unsporting conduct which includes, but is not limited to: prolonged yelling, abusive, or derisive language, and taunting or speaking in an intimidating or disrespectful manner to referees, coaches, players, or spectators from either team.

All DC Stoddert Rec participants are responsible for knowing all applicable rules related to their division.

These rules include all Administrative Rules contained in this document. Ignorance of any DC Stoddert Soccer rules is not an excuse for inappropriate conduct.

Starting with the Fall 2018 season, all Rec coaches must be volunteers.

No paid coaches or trainers are permitted for Rec teams participating in any DC Stoddert Soccer activities. Any team found in violation of this rule may lose access to practice space, other DC Stoddert Soccer-issued resources, or may be subject to other sanctions. DC Stoddert Soccer will seek to provide assistance in locating volunteer coaches, and of course all volunteers are eligible for support from the club (training, gear, etc.).

Communications Protocol

If coaches, assistant coaches or team managers have any issues that need to be discussed, the Communications Protocol (found in Section 4: Time to Play!, subsection J, found below in this document) details the process to be followed.

TEAM MANAGERS

Teams may have one or more volunteer team managers. Their roles frequently include managing communications within the team and organizing non-coaching functions (like gameday snacks or carpools, etc.). Team managers should support the team's coaches to the extent possible.

PARENTS

DC Stoddert Soccer has a Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians that all family members attending games and practices are asked to follow. The code is available on the website (About Us>Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct) at <https://sports.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=916996>.

Parents and spectators also should set an example of good behavior. DC Stoddert Soccer's "Sideline Ethics" guideline is available on the website (About Us>DC Stoddert Soccer Sideline Ethics) at <https://sports.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=916997>.

Communications Protocol

If parents of Rec program players have any issues that need to be discussed, the Communications Protocol (found in Section 4: Time to Play!, subsection J, found below in this document) details the process to be followed.

REFEREES

Recreational games in the younger divisions (Second Grade and older) may be refereed by a junior referee. These referees are no younger than 13 years old but generally 14 years or older and have received appropriate instruction and certification. Referee assignments will be made with due regard to the age division of the game and the age and experience of the junior referee.

Games in the older divisions (usually Sixth Grade and above) will ordinarily be officiated by USSF certified (or "FIFA-certified") referees. These referees are required to pass a referee certification course and to be re-certified annually. Certified referees supplied by DC Stoddert Soccer are preferably a minimum of 14 years old during the calendar year in which they begin refereeing.

For games in the Pre-K through First Grade divisions, referees are not assigned; instead, coaches of both teams playing also collaborate to manage their games.

As noted in DC Stoddert Soccer's various Codes of Conduct, all referees are to be treated respectfully by all DC Stoddert players, parents, and other spectators. Our referees are part of the DC Stoddert staff and should be dealt with as you would any other volunteer, coach, or staff member. Any reported instances of referee abuse will result in disciplinary actions.

TEAMS AND PLAYERS

All information about team formation and player registration is listed below in the Registration & Logistics section.

DC STODDERT SOCCER STAFF

Executive Director – Leads all aspects of the club, reports to the club’s Board of Directors.

Recreational Program Director – Leads the Recreational program and the Futsal program that is run during the Winter.

Club Registrar – Manages all aspects of registration for DC Stoddert Soccer activities. Handles participant inquiries.

Technical Director – Manages all soccer aspects within the club. Serves as the technical lead (the “top soccer guy”) and develops the club curriculum and training approaches.

Communications Manager – Manages all club communications, including email, website, and social media. Develops & maintains partnerships.

Programs Manager – New for Fall 2018. Manages camps & training programs, Tots, Juniors, Pro Youth Training, Drop-In and similar programs.

Assistant Travel Director – Manages most administrative work for the Travel program. Works with the Club Registrar regarding player registrations.

Director of Finance – Manages all financial aspects of the club.

DC STODDERT SOCCER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DC Stoddert Soccer is guided by a Board of Directors that provides governance and oversight of the club’s office personnel, soccer education programs, and outreach services to children and families in the District of Columbia. The Board meets monthly to discuss operational, programmatic, and other governance matters related to the club’s activities.

According to the organization’s bylaws, DC Stoddert Soccer Board members are comprised of between seven and 15 voting directors. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting, ex officio director.

Voting directors are elected by the DC Stoddert Soccer membership during the club’s Annual General Meeting from the slate of nominees proposed by the Board of Directors. Officers of the corporation are elected during the first Board of Directors meeting of the calendar year.

Members of the Board also volunteer their time to participate on Board and Advisory committees that pertain to the mission and services of the club. These committees include Audit, Risk, Executive, and Nominating.

To contact one or more members of the DC Stoddert Soccer Board of Directors, please email the Executive Director (dcstodderted@stoddert.com).

3 - DC STODDERT SOCCER PLAYER SAFETY, POLICIES, & RISK MANAGEMENT

DC Stoddert Soccer's highest priority is the safety of our players!

In general, coaches (volunteer or staff) are ultimately responsible for player safety during DC Stoddert events. From ensuring that the playing space is safe and free from hazards, to keeping an eye out on the local weather, and more, we work with coaches to provide a safe playing environment.

Coaches (with assistance from team managers, as available) should also make themselves aware of any allergies or medical conditions affecting their team's players. Any serious allergies or conditions should, with parental approval, be shared with the rest of the team in order to avoid accidental incidents.

Additionally, DC Stoddert has developed the following policies which are available on the Stoddert.com website:

- Concussion Policy (About Us>Concussion Policy)
- Goal Safety Policy (About Us>Goal Safety Policy)
- Weather Policy (About Us>Weather Policy)

KIDSAFE PROGRAM

The United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), of which DC Stoddert Soccer is a member, requires all its affiliates to maintain a Kidsafe Program to help identify any person 18 years old or older who, because of their conduct, should not be allowed to participate in the soccer program and have contact with children.

Under the KidSafe Program, persons who hold a formal position, paid or volunteer, in DC Stoddert Soccer, such as a coach, assistant coach, team manager, referee, Age Group Commissioner, Board member, etc., are required to respond to a questionnaire that asks whether they:

- (a) have ever been arrested or convicted of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or exploitation of a minor,
- (b) currently uses illegal drugs, or is subject to a restraining order or civil action relating to child or domestic abuse, or violence.

Any person whose response indicates that they have been convicted of abuse or exploitation of a minor will automatically be barred from participating in DC Stoddert Soccer programs. DC Stoddert will consider whether to prohibit a person who answers any other part of the questionnaire affirmatively from participating in programs. DC Stoddert Soccer has developed procedures for administration of this program.

PLAYER SAFETY - Dangerous Situations and Protection of Fields

Ensuring the safety of players and minimizing damage to playing fields are the central goals of DC Stoddert's inclement weather procedures.

The Age Group Commissioner, referee, or both coaches by mutual agreement, are obligated to suspend play in order to protect the fields or if dangerous conditions exist.

If there is thunder or lightning at any practice or game, play must be immediately suspended and the field cleared of players. Play may not resume until there has been no thunder or lightning for 30 minutes.

Additionally, coaches & parents should be familiar with and adhere to DC Stoddert Soccer's Weather Policy, which is found on the website (About Us > Player Safety > Weather Policy) here: <https://sports.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=909574>

INCIDENT REPORTING

For suspected concussions, injuries, or other incidents involving DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational or Travel players or training program participants, injuries should be reported through a link available on the website (About Us>Incident Report), <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda0XLaiZPCz2pfHVjShhfD7Lp2ecnKOMFksJqt0Fw63vXrBg/viewform>. This is particularly important for any injury requiring medical attention provided by a medical provider (emergency room, physician, urgent care center, etc.).

Following submission of the form, please also email incident@stoddert.com. If any follow up is necessary, a DC Stoddert Soccer staff member will be in touch.

PLAYER INSURANCE

While we hope our players never get injured, their player registration with the state association (facilitated by DC Stoddert Soccer) provides supplementary (secondary) insurance. Families who incur medical expenses as a result of any incident taking place during regular DC Stoddert Soccer activities are typically eligible to use this extra layer of insurance. To inquire about this insurance, please contact the DC Stoddert Soccer office.

4 - REGISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

All registrations must be complete, with the appropriate fee paid, by the deadline date established by DC Stoddert Soccer staff.

Players who register late are assigned to teams on a first-come, first-served basis if there is sufficient space, at the sole discretion of the Age Group Commissioner.

Registration does not guarantee a player a spot on a team. If there is no space available, registration fees will be refunded.

Unregistered players are not permitted to play, receive uniforms, or otherwise participate in DC Stoddert activities, except for those not requiring registration. Coaches must ensure that all of their players are registered.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Registration each season has the following deadlines:

- Registration opens (typically by the first week in June for Fall and mid-January for Spring)
- First deadline (approximately 30 days later). Includes first fee increase and Guaranteed Return to Team deadline. The GRTT deadline means that players who want a guaranteed spot on the team they played on last season should sign up by that deadline. After that deadline, team rosters are open and any player may be assigned. No spots can be saved for returning players after that deadline.
- Second deadline (approximately 30 days after the first). Includes second fee increase. Registrations received after this second deadline are not guaranteed a spot on a Fall Rec soccer team.
- Team creation deadline. May coincide with second deadline listed above. After this date no new teams may be created.

- Registration is typically open until a few weeks into the season

REGISTRATION DATE INDICATES PRIORITY (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED)

For registration & rostering: In the event that a team has more players interested in that team than the roster will allow, a player's registration date serves as a way of determining who gets priority. The earlier the registration date, the higher the priority a player's registration has when making rostering decisions, assuming all else is equal.

A special request may change a rostering outcome as well, assuming the request does not work against other rostering rules.

FEES

The Board of Directors approves fees for the Recreational Program, including any early bird discounts or late registration fees.

No Rec player may be required to pay any fees to the player's team or division other than those advertised during the registration process.

Fees are refundable only to the extent noted on DC Stoddert's website, where the Refund Policy for the Rec program is published. See below in this document under Refund Policy.

FINANCIAL AID

DC Stoddert strives to help families for whom the registration fee serves as an obstacle to participation in youth soccer. Effective January 2019, DC Stoddert Soccer has implemented a new financial aid approach that applies to all DC Stoddert Soccer programs (except for the Travel program, which has a separate policy and process). Qualification is based on demonstrated financial need, date of application, and is subject to availability. Players approved for financial aid are expected to pay only 25% of the regular program cost. Late fees are not covered by financial aid; late registrants still owe late fees. Likewise, Early Bird discounts don't apply either. Questions about financial aid should be sent to financialaid@stoddert.com.

The provision of such aid is not a guarantee of any other forms of support now or in the future.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds (less a \$15 processing fee) are available if requested before the date of the first game of the season. No refunds will be granted after that point. Email your refund request to the club Registrar (registrar@stoddert.com). Any additional costs incurred during registration (i.e. ticket vouchers, charitable donations) are not refundable. Players who were provided new uniforms or jerseys for the current season must return those to DC Stoddert Soccer prior to the fulfillment of any refund request.

SIBLING DISCOUNTS

DC Stoddert Soccer provides a sibling discount to families with three or more registered players.

ROSTERING RULES

Player Placement & Team Formation

Age Group Commissioners shall be solely responsible for the placement of players on teams.

Players who played on a team in the previous season and who register by the established deadline (the Guaranteed Return to Team deadline) shall be entitled to return to that team. This rule does still apply in cases where one team persists and others at the same school or group have disbanded.

New players and players returning after one or more seasons of not playing in the division shall be placed by the Age Group Commissioner, who shall consider: (1) the goal of achieving parity among teams in a division or subdivision and (2) the legitimate wishes of coaches and parents for the placement of players. Those players are not placed on pre-existing teams until after the Guaranteed Return to Team deadline has passed.

Coaches shall be entitled to have their own children placed on their team. These players must still register according to conventional deadlines and processes.

With assistance from the Age Group Commissioners, DC Stoddert Soccer shall establish minimum and maximum roster sizes for each division. Teams below the minimum roster size must accept players assigned to them, when available, or fold. Maximum roster size must be set to agree with the half-game rule; typically it equates to the number of players on the field at a point in time multiplied times two.

Only players on the official team roster shall be permitted to play (subject only to the conditions contained within Sections V.D.1 and V.D.4 below).

In order to be considered properly rostered & eligible to be scheduled, teams must have at least one registered coach.

Recruiting Prohibition

No coach, assistant coach, manager, player, parent, or guardian of a player or any individual acting on behalf of these individuals may approach any player, parent, or guardian of a player who is on another DC Stoddert Soccer team or was on a team at the end of the prior season, for the purpose of recruiting such a player to switch to a specific team, unless the player's prior team has disbanded or left DC Stoddert.

No teams formed through any selective process may play in the DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational Program or characterize themselves as a DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational Program team.

Team Formation – Age Groups, Playing Up, and Playing Down

DC Stoddert Soccer's first factor in player placement is the player's school grade as of the time of the season in question. Players may play according to either their FIFA age or their grade in school. A player's FIFA age is determined by their birthyear (i.e. 2001, 2008, etc.).

"Playing up": Playing up one year beyond a player's regular grade/age band will be allowed with permission of the Age Group Commissioner. Playing up beyond one year requires permission of the Recreational Program Director, and such requests will be granted only if exceptional circumstances warrant them.

"Playing down": Playing down is not allowed. However, in unique circumstances, Age Group Commissioners, in consultation with the Recreational Program Director, may exercise discretion.

Any falsification of a player's birth year on a registration form will result in the player being suspended from play for the season in which the falsification occurred. The player may be reinstated to play in the age-appropriate division upon written apology from the parent to the Age Group Commissioner.

Team Sizes

The following chart depicts team sizes & game formats current as of the Fall 2019 season:

age	Game format	Ideal size	Max size
Pre-K (Spring only)	4 x 4 (single game)	6-8	8
Kinder	4 x 4 (single game)	6-8	8
1 st	4 v 4 (single game)	6-8	8
2 nd	5 v 5 (dual games)*	11-14	14
3 rd	7 v 7	11-14	14
4 th	7 v 7	11-14	14
5 th	9 v 9	13-16	16
6 th	9 v 9	16-18	18
7 th	9 v 9	16-18	18
8 th	9 v 9	18	20
HS	11 v 11	22	22+

Divisional Placement

As formal standings are not maintained, Age Group Commissioners may use other means for determining divisional placement in those age groups where two or more divisions exist. AGCs may ask coaches at the start of the season for a relative sense of their teams' strength (i.e. new players gained, players lost, etc.). AGCs should have a mechanism for informally recording scores that is also used to present a relative sense of how the teams fared against each other.

All of this can help develop divisions that are closer competitively, although uneven games may still take place.

Select Players Playing on Rec Teams

Select players (those playing on teams where rosters are determined through a selective or tryout-based process, ie. "Travel" players) are permitted to play on DC Stoddert Soccer Rec teams. AGCs should try to be aware of which teams have select players. In the registration

process, participants must answer the question “Do you play on a select team?” and that information is available to those with admin privileges.

DC Stoddert Soccer staff and AGCs should all advise coaches of teams with select players to observe regular Rec rules regarding playing time. Select players should not be provided any different allocation of playing time when compared to their Rec-only teammates.

Players Playing on Multiple Rec Teams

As a general rule, only players on the official team roster shall be permitted to play. However, teams that are short players at the start of the game may invite guest players who are age-eligible and registered with DC Stoddert Soccer. Guest players may also be borrowed from the opponent, per Section D.1 above.

A feature unique to DC Stoddert Soccer’s Rec program is that girls may be rostered on both a Coed and a Girls team at the same time. In general, players may officially play for only one team per division.

Participation in External Events (tournaments, All-Star events, etc).

DC Stoddert Soccer has an established process for teams that wish to participate in external (non-DC Stoddert Soccer) events while under the DC Stoddert Soccer name and / or while using DC Stoddert Soccer-issued uniforms. This process - Recreational Program Team Participation in Events Outside of DC Stoddert Soccer – is found in Appendix A at the end of this document.

PLAYER UNIFORMS

DC Stoddert Soccer provides to each registered Recreational player a uniform kit with the DC Stoddert Soccer logo imprinted on the jersey. Uniform kits are distributed once a year, at the beginning of the fall season. Uniforms are to be worn for the fall and spring seasons.

Each player must wear the DC Stoddert Soccer issued shirt for League games. Players may not wear logo’d or branded shirts, jerseys, or uniform pieces from other youth soccer programs during DC Stoddert Soccer events (including games and practices).

In the event that both teams wear jerseys that are the same color (or even too similar, one to the next), the away team is responsible for using practice pinnies or other shirts (all in the same color) to differentiate them from the other team.

For those divisions playing with goalkeepers, each team is responsible for providing its goalkeeper with a jersey sufficiently distinctive in the judgment of the referee to enable the goalkeeper to be identified from all other players. In lieu of a goalkeeper's jersey, pinnies/scrimmage vests are appropriate, as long as the color of the pinny is different from the goalkeeper's own team's jersey, the opponents' jerseys, and the referees' shirts.

In accordance with FIFA rules and for the safety of the players, all players must wear shin-guards in games and practices.

Players may not wear anything that may potentially injure them or any other player. Players with casts or other physical protective devices that could pose a dangerous situation to other players will be allowed to play only at the discretion of the referees and coaches.

All FIFA equipment rules apply.

COACHES EQUIPMENT

Starting in the Fall 2018, DC Stoddert Soccer will provide Rec coaches with sets of coaching equipment. This serves to reduce the financial burden formerly borne by volunteers, and it makes it easier for all coaches to execute practice activities as described in the club curriculum.

Coaches are not expected to provide balls for all of the players during practices. Players should be encouraged to obtain balls of their own and to bring those with them to practices.

5 - TIME TO PLAY!

FIELDS & FACILITIES

DC Stoddert Soccer uses a mixture of natural grass and artificial turf fields in the DC area. Grass fields are apt to close due to weather issues more frequently than turf fields. Following are

fields used by DC Stoddert Soccer as of the Spring 2018 season (all are Rec Centers unless noted otherwise):

Grass Fields (2018)

Carter Barron Soccer Fields
Chevy Chase ES
Fort Reno Aux
Fort Reno Main
Fort Stevens
Hamilton
Hardy
Hearst
Stoddert ES
Trinity College
Walter Pierce
WES Grass
Westbrook ES
Westland MS

Artificial Turf Fields (2018)

Alice Deal MS
Georgetown Day School (lower school)
Horace Mann ES
Jelleff
Key ES
Maret School
Murch ES
National Presbyterian School
Palisades
Parkview
WES Turf
Raymond
Riggs LaSalle
Sidwell School
Shepherd ES
Tubman ES
Upshur
Wilson HS

FIELD STATUS INFORMATION & PLAYABILITY

Fields are presumed to be open and operational unless notifications are issued by the governing bodies that control or manage the fields. The majority of locations are controlled by DC's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). DC Stoddert Soccer does not control field statuses and can only reflect information provided by others.

If participants arrive at a field location and the field conditions are unsafe, coaches and/or referees should err on the side of safety and call off the event. If the field is in worse condition than expected due to weather (i.e. a portion of a field is extremely muddy after rain a few days prior), every effort should be made to avoid the impacted areas and avoid hurting the condition of the field.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER & NOTIFICATIONS

The quickest way for DC Stoddert Soccer participants to learn about field statuses is to monitor DPR's website (<https://dpr.dc.gov/page/dpralerts>) and to sign up for email and / or text notifications (<https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/m/1049>).

DC Stoddert Soccer manages all fields, regardless of the controlling agency, based on DPR's field status notifications. There may be occasional exceptions.

For any fields in Montgomery County (there are a small number of them), [this site can help](#).

Activities that are canceled due to weather may be made up if facilities and staffing permits. There is no guarantee that any event canceled due to weather will be made up, and no refunds will be granted in such a case, unless explicitly stated.

NO DOGS OR OTHER PETS ALLOWED AT ANY DC STODDERT FIELD LOCATION

Per DC Stoddert Soccer's rules, and typically per local rules or regulations as well, dogs are not permitted at any DC Stoddert Soccer activity. Frequently, but not always, signs noting the "No dogs allowed" rule are present on gates or fences at many facilities. The same prohibition applies to other pets as well, including cats, snakes, guinea pigs, birds, and more.

ACCESS TO BATHROOMS

DC Stoddert Soccer participants should not assume access is available to bathrooms at every field location or facility used by DC Stoddert Soccer. In some cases, indoor bathrooms or outdoor Porta-Johns are available. In other cases, nothing is available. Participants should plan accordingly and not violate standards of conduct regarding going to the bathroom in public (outside of approved facilities).

CONDITION OF FIELDS WHEN ACTIVITIES ARE COMPLETED

After games, practices and any other DC Stoddert Soccer activity, participants must pick up and remove everything that they brought. There should be **no trash left behind**.

Similarly, each team should police its area and take with them any belongings that are left behind. DC Stoddert Soccer typically does NOT collect such belongings and does not maintain a Lost and Found.

TEAM PRACTICE INFO

Recreational team practices are arranged by the teams' coaches. Information pertaining to where and when your child's team will practice will be coordinated by the Coach and/or team Manager. Most teams practice once a week, typically for up to one hour. Most teams practice on weeknights, and a few opt for Sunday practices. Practices usually start one or two weeks before the first game of the season, and they end when the season ends.

Prior to the start of each season, DC Stoddert Soccer provides a Practice Field Sign Up link to all coaches, and teams can sign up for one practice session at that point. After a period of time, coaches who wish to select a second practice instance may select another from the remaining options.

Some teams locate & arrange for alternate practice locations outside of the framework described above. It is up to the coaches or team managers of those teams to ensure that the location is safe for this activity.

Pre-K and Kindergarten teams usually have condensed practices right before their short games on Saturdays.

A DC Stoddert Soccer practice field allotment typically provides a portion of a field (e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the field, not the whole field) for a specific period of time. Not all field allocations include a goal. In instances where the number of teams practicing at a given location exceeds the number of goals onsite, the respective coaches should confer to determine a way to ensure roughly equal access to the goals, if desirable.

At practices, it is suggested that every player bring his or her own soccer ball, so that all players can be involved with the ball at the same time when appropriate. All conditions related to play on gamedays (i.e. no jewelry or watches, wear shinguards, etc.) apply during practices. As well, no animals are allowed at DC Stoddert Soccer practices.

During practices, if the team is lucky enough to have two or more coaches present, the coaches should coordinate things and strive to have one coach serve as the lead for the activity, such that the players are presented one consistent voice during the activity.

GAME PROCEDURES & PROGRAM PHILOSOPHIES

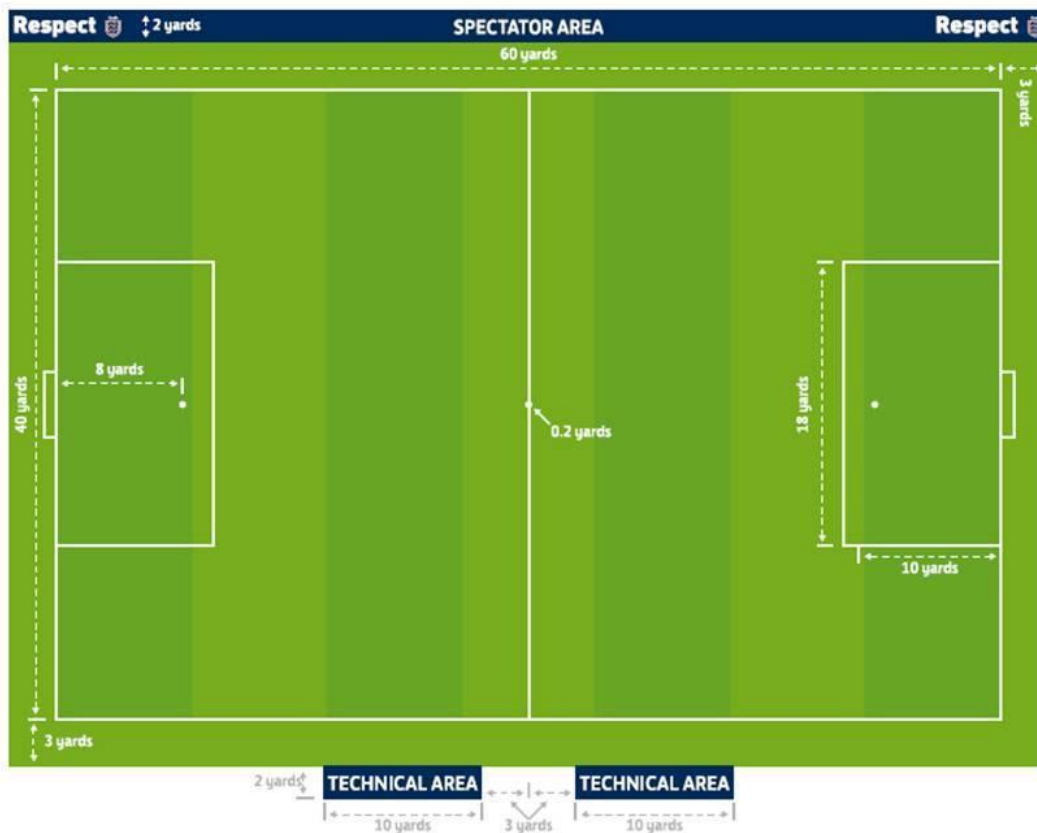
Half-Game Rule

All team members in good standing have the right to play one-half of a game, unless removed for disciplinary reasons by the coach or referee. Good standing means that players attend practice regularly, arrive 15 minutes prior to commencement of the game, and are cooperative with the coach and teammates.

In Seventh Grade and below, no player shall play goalkeeper for more than one-half of any game. Teams in the Eighth Grade and older divisions may use a single player as goalkeeper for more than half of each game, provided the player is expressly informed that he or she does not have to play a second half in goal and is entitled to play in the field if he or she so chooses.

Technical Area

Coaches and players from both teams shall be on the same side of the field. Coaches and bench players must remain together in the technical area. Parents from both teams should be on the opposite side of the field from players and coaches. The technical area may not be depicted at every field location but is commonly accepted to mean a specific area around and in front of each team's bench (see illustration below). Coaches and players are not to depart the technical area and wander the sideline during a game.



Coaching Behind Goal

Coaches, players, spectators, and parents of players may not stand or sit anywhere along either goal line during a game.

Coaches on Field

Coaches are not allowed on the field at any time during a game unless play is stopped for an injury.

In the case of player injury, a coach must first get the referee's permission before entering the field.

Runaway Games (Lopsided Scores)

If a team gets a 3-goal lead, it should not press for more goals as long as the 3-goal lead exists. Coaches should place their best offensive players on defense, play with fewer players, or use a combination of these and other techniques (e.g., not shooting, playing with non-dominant foot) to keep the lead down.

The team that is “up” should give the players challenges in the game (shoot only with the weak foot; only shoot when receiving crosses; when winning the ball, make every player touch it before shooting; mix players in different positions, etc.). The team that is “down” should focus on those aspects of the game that are going well and of course celebrate positive efforts. Also, when down by more than 3 goals, the losing team may add a player; this applies to games for grades 2 through 8, though again conceptually it could work for Kinder and 1st grade play as well. If the team goes down by 5 goals, another player could be added, and so on. If the losing team scores and narrows the gap, they should pull back that added player. Coaches from the opposing teams can even work together to provide a useful learning experience and try to keep the game somewhat competitive and engaging for all of the players.

Standings

DC Stoddert Soccer does not publish standings.

Communications protocol between teams

- Team parents (including team managers) should talk only to their own team’s coach(es)
- Only coaches from one team can talk to the coaches from the other team
- Only coaches can talk to the referee
- No one from one team should talk to players on the other team. Team coaches should be the conduit of communication in all instances.
- Respect is a key component in any of the communication scenarios listed above!

One voice is ideal

During games, if the team is lucky enough to have two or more coaches present, the coaches should coordinate things and strive to have one coach serve as the lead for the game, such that the players are presented one consistent voice during the game.

GAMEDAY RULES

See Appendix B for the Fall 2018 Gameday Rules Summary. For a more complete reference guide to rules, see the website (Rec>Recreational Rules).

All participants are expected to know the rules pertaining to their age group(s). Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse for improper behavior.

SCHEDULE CONFLICTS & SPECIAL REQUESTS

DC Stoddert Soccer does not ask for special scheduling requests. Frequently AGCs may ask participants in their age groups for unavoidable schedule conflicts. By asking for this input, we are not guaranteeing that we will be able to accommodate all such requests. When possible, we seek to accommodate as many requests as practical.

COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

If a program participant (player, coach, parent, or other observer) has questions about something or wants to discuss some sort of issue, the following protocol should be used.

First, speak to the coach or team manager associated with your team. Coaches and/or team managers usually know enough to deal with most conventional questions or situations. And if not, they will know how to find out the answer.

If that does not produce a satisfactory outcome, then talk to the appropriate Age Group Commissioner. AGCs are listed on the DC Stoddert Soccer website under Rec > Age Group Commissioners. AGCs are typically well-versed in many things related to the Rec Program and to DC Stoddert Soccer in general.

If for some reason that inquiry does not produce an appropriate response – and that will be rare – the next level of inquiry is the Recreational Program Director (dcstoddertrecdir@stoddert.com). This option should be exercised only if the other steps have not worked.

RED CARDS, YELLOW CARDS & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Red Cards & Yellow Cards

In the fifth Grade and older divisions, referees shall issue yellow and red cards in accordance with FIFA rules. Cards may be issued to coaches. Coaches are responsible for conduct on their sidelines.

In the fourth Grade and younger divisions, cards may not be shown to players, but where appropriate based upon their conduct, younger players may be disciplined by the referee as if they had received a card (e.g., be expelled for violent play).

A player receiving a yellow card may be substituted, at their coach's discretion. Only the player receiving the yellow card may be substituted at that time.

A player or a coach who is issued a red card and thus sent off from a game shall not be permitted to stay on or near the field for the remainder of the game. In addition, a red carded individual shall be suspended from the next game. An individual who receives more than one

red card in a season may be subject to imposition of additional sanctions. The coach of a red carded player is responsible for enforcing the suspension for the subsequent game.

Disciplinary Actions

Violation of club policies may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, warnings, reprimands, game forfeitures, suspensions, or expulsions. In taking disciplinary action, the club's primary concerns will be (a) the safety, health, and well-being of its players and (b) the preservation of a healthy youth development-focused atmosphere.

Disciplinary action may be initiated by the Age Group Commissioner of the affected division or by the Recreational Program Director, acting upon a referee game report, a complaint by a club member, or the Age Group Commissioner's or staff member's knowledge.

Recreational Program Disciplinary Process

Recreational Program coaches, volunteers, or parents who violate any part of the Coaches Code of Conduct or Parents Code of Conduct are subject to disciplinary action. As part of the disciplinary process, the appropriate Age Group Commissioner and/or the Recreational Program Director will seek appropriate information regarding the violation(s), so that a full picture is available.

Possible disciplinary actions include (in no particular order; there is no requirement to start with the least restrictive action):

Verbal Warning: The appropriate Age Group Commissioner and/or the Recreational Program Director will verbally discuss undesirable conduct with the individual(s). This conversation will outline the expectations of the club and reinforce to the individual(s) that conduct detrimental to the program will not be tolerated and could result in further disciplinary action.

Written Warning: The Recreational Program Director will send a formal letter of reprimand to the individual(s) stating that the undesirable conduct will not be tolerated, and the next offense will lead to probation or game or season suspension.

Probation: Recreational Program Director will notify the individual of a probation period that will last one calendar year from the date put on probation. If during that time period, the individual(s) displays any conduct that DC Stoddert Soccer deems inconsistent with the Coaches and Parent Codes of Conduct, the individual(s) will be suspended for the season or indefinitely.

Suspension from Game(s) / for the rest of the season: The Recreational Program Director will suspend individual(s) one or multiple games, or for the rest of the season. Any individual(s) that has been suspended will lose the privilege of attending or participating in any DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational Program activities, practices, and games during the prescribed time period.

Indefinite Suspension: The Recreational Program Director will suspend individual(s) indefinitely from all DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational Program activities, practices, and games. After one calendar year, the individual(s) will then be eligible to make a formal request to the Recreational Program Director to be re-instated into the program. The individual(s) will then have to meet with the Recreational Program Director and appropriate Age Group Commissioner to determine if the individual(s) is capable of conduct that conforms to the Coaches and Parents Code of Conduct.

Documentation of all warnings, suspensions, and other disciplinary matters will be filed with the Executive Director and available for review by the Board of Directors.

Coaches, volunteers, or parents who are subject to disciplinary measures do not have avenues for appeal.

No refund or adjustment in fees will be made for playing time lost due to disciplinary action.

6 - APPENDICES

A - Recreational Program Team Participation in Events Outside of DC Stoddert

Participation of currently registered DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational Program teams or other collection of currently registered DC Stoddert Soccer Recreational players in an external event under the DC Stoddert name or via affiliation with DC Stoddert Soccer requires following the steps identified below.

Please note: Acceptable events for Recreational Program player participation are ones that: 1) Have a “Classic” or some other non-Travel-level team classification; and 2) Do not have DC Stoddert Travel teams participating.

1 – Notify DC Stoddert’s Recreational Program Director via email and include: team name, age group, coach name and contact information, and event name. Provide this notification at least **30 days prior** to the application deadline of the event.

2 – For events requiring Recreational Program **player cards**, teams must request those cards from DC Stoddert’s Registrar at least seven days prior to the event’s application deadline. Late requests may not be accommodated.

3 – **Payments** must be paid by the team. DC Stoddert Soccer will not handle event payments or any other aspect of event registration other than the preparation of Recreational Program player cards, as noted above, and the provision of a DC Stoddert Recreational Program **team roster** if required by the event organizer.

Note that the **team roster**, if required, will be provided for existing / current DC Stoddert Rec teams. Tournament teams comprised of players from more than one DC Stoddert team will get the roster of the team containing the largest number of participating players, and other players will have to be added manually by the DC Stoddert Registrar. New rosters reflecting “tournament teams” will not be produced via the registration system.

4 - **Team names** either (a) must reference DC Stoddert Soccer and possibly other appropriate terms (e.g. “DC Stoddert [conventional name approved upon submission]”, like “DC Stoddert Wolves” or “DC Stoddert Stars”) or (b) must avoid all references to DC Stoddert Soccer (e.g. Bob’s Happy Team).

5 - **Team uniforms** either (a) must reference DC Stoddert and may include the use of current DC Stoddert Rec uniforms, or (b) must avoid all references to DC Stoddert Soccer (e.g. Bob’s Happy Team), with no DC Stoddert logos, etc.

6 – Coaches and Team Managers must agree to abide by the DC Stoddert Soccer Code of Conduct (<https://sports.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=916996>).

7 – Within seven days of the event’s conclusion the team’s coach must provide by email the **event results** (team’s scores, etc.) and a note describing the team’s experience, including an indication of whether or not the team would participate again in that specific event.

8 – **If any incident of note occurs** involving a DC Stoddert team (including but not limited to: issuing of a Red Card to a player or coach, or injury to a player), the coach must provide by email a short, written explanation of the incident. This should be sent to the Recreational Program Director within two days (if not sooner) of the incident.

If there are any questions about any of these steps or anything else related to participation in such events, please contact the Recreational Program Director.

2-2-18

B – Fall 2018 Gameday Rules Summary

DC STODDERT RECREATIONAL SOCCER RULES SUMMARY

Fall 2019

Age	Game Format	Team Size	Team Max	Practices (mins per week)	Game Length (mins)	Ball Size	Referee	Throw Ins	Offside
Pre-K	4 v 4 (single)	6 to 8	8	25 on gamedays	6 x 4	3	Coaches	No; Continuous play	No
Kinder	4 v 4 (single)	6 to 8	8	15 on gamedays	8 x 4	3	Coaches	No; Continuous play	No
1 st	4 v 4 (single)	6 to 8	8	Encouraged	12 x 4	3	Coaches	No; Continuous play	No
2 nd	5 v 5 (dual)	12 to 14	14	Encouraged	12 x 4	3	Yes, plus coaches	Liberal throw ins	No
3 rd	7 v 7	11 to 14	14	60	25 x 2	4	Yes	Yes, 2 tries allowed	Only if obvious
4 th	7 v 7	11 to 14	14	60	25 x 2	4	Yes	Yes, 2 tries allowed	Yes, regular rules
5 th	9 v 9	14 to 16	18	60	25 x 2	4	Yes	Yes, regular rules	Yes, regular rules

6th	9 v 9	14 to 18	18	60	25 x 2	4	Yes	Yes, regular rules	Yes, regular rules
7th	9 v 9	14 to 18	19	60	25 x 2	5	Yes	Yes, regular rules	Yes, regular rules
8th	9 v 9	14 to 18	20	60	25 x 2	5	Yes	Yes, regular rules	Yes, regular rules
HS (9-12)	11 v 11	16 to 20	22+	60	35 x 2	5	Yes	Yes, regular rules	Yes, regular rules