

Murfreesboro Soccer Club Recreational Policies and Procedures

Rules of the Game

All matches played under the jurisdiction of Murfreesboro Soccer Club will conform to and abide by the rules and laws of Soccer as stated in FIFA Laws of the Game and the rules communicated to the Referee's Association.

Recreation Registration

A. Registration

All players must complete the MSC recreation registration form online or in person and pay the established fees. Proof of age is required for registration. Scholarships will be provided in accordance with the Murfreesboro Parks and Rec Department Financial Assistance Policy.

B. Player Assignment

1. All players will be assigned to teams in a random and impartial manner.
2. Siblings may be placed together on the same team.
3. Special requests for a particular coach or team will not be granted for mere convenience.
4. There will be a maximum of (3) requested players on any team. The coach, assistant coach and sponsor shall submit such request to the Registrar at the time of registration.
5. Younger players may request to play in an older age group that is just one age group up. Such election must be noted on the registration form at the time it is submitted to MSC. There is no guarantee that a player will be placed in an older age group.

C. Late Registration

Late registration will be held at the discretion of the MSC Club Registrar.

D. Refunds

Refunds will be given if requested BEFORE the first game of the season. After first game registration vouchers for future play will be issued. Refunds are processed once a month. Refunds will be minus a \$5.00 processing fee.

Insurance

A. Coverage

All registered players affiliated with MSC shall have in effect the medical, accident and liability insurance programs specified by the Club, the cost of which will be included in the player registration fee paid to the Tennessee State Soccer Association (TSSA) or other specified organization.

B. Claims

All injuries to be claimed against the medical insurance shall be claimed on the proper form that will be obtained from the TSSA website.

Medical

A. Hard casts and protective devices

Any player with a hard cast may still participate in matches and practice provided the hard cast is sufficiently padded and the player has written permission from a licensed physician. The match referee has the authority to determine whether or not such condition is safe for the protected player and/or the other players. Soft cast or other protective devices will be allowed using the same guidelines as hard casts.

B. Bodily fluid

If a player begins to bleed during any MSC match, upon discovery, the referee shall immediately stop play and that player shall be substituted. Said player may return to the game once the bleeding is stopped, the affected area covered (if possible) and any blood cleansed from the player's body surfaces and/or clothing. MSC requests that if possible, the player's parents perform any bandaging and treatment.

Coaches

A. Selection

MSC coaches and assistant coaches are selected from volunteers 18 and older, and are required to register before each season. All coaches must follow the supervision and direction of Murfreesboro Soccer Club Board of Directors and agree to follow policies and procedures of MSC. Failure to abide by MSC policies and procedures may lead to immediate removal as well as any additional sanctions deemed appropriate by the MSC Board. All coaches and assistant coaches must submit to a background check each calendar year.

B. Pre-Season Orientation Session

Coaches will be required to attend one pre-season orientation session. At this session they will receive additional information concerning their specific division, rosters, team uniforms and policy and procedure updates.

Referees

A. Murfreesboro Soccer Referee Association

MSC contracts with the Murfreesboro Soccer Referee Association (MRSA) to provide referees and linesmen to officiate all MSC matches. A representative from MRSA is invited to attend all MSC board meetings. The MRSA Assignor is the person who makes all game assignments for the referee association. MSC requires that every effort be made to schedule game officials with no

vested interest in the outcome of the games they are assigned to officiate. In the isolated instances where this cannot be avoided, the MRSA Assignor or Referee should notify both coaches prior to the match. The match Referee is deemed the ultimate authority over the match and should exercise all powers granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game.

Postponement

A. Inclement Weather

Prior to a match or practice, authority for postponement due to inclement weather and/or field conditions is vested in a specified representative of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation, the President of MSC, the MSC Director of Coaching and the Vice President of MSC. In the event that matches or practices are postponed or cancelled, players, coaches and spectators will be instructed to leave the Siegel Park complex for safety reasons. The decision to play or not to play the next schedule slate of matches or practice sessions will be made as the situation dictates for the remainder of the day. The decision to reschedule any postponed match will be made by the MSC Board of Directors.

During a match in progress the referee has the authority to clear the field due to unsafe weather conditions. The referee will determine when conditions are safe to reinstate play or whether the match will be indefinitely suspended.

If a match or practice is suspended due to an electrical storm, players, coaches and spectators will be instructed to return to the safety of their vehicles for the duration of the storm.

Conduct

A. Players

1. Pre-Match Inspection

Players must be present during the referee's inspection prior to the match in order to be allowed to play. Players not present for the pre-match inspection will not be allowed to participate in the match until they have been cleared by the referee during such time as determined at the referee's discretion.

2. Language and Behavior

Each player will refrain from any violent or abusive language or behavior. The referee will have the authority to take action against any player exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior.

3. Discipline

Any player found in violation of good sportsmanship will be subject to disciplinary action.

4. Equipment

Players are required to wear shin guards during all practices and matches. NO JEWELRY- absolutely no jewelry is allowed during soccer games. This

includes but is not limited to earrings, facial piercings, bracelets of any kind, rubber bands around wrist and necklaces. NO hard hair accessories allowed. Piercings may NOT be covered with a bandage. Metal cleats or baseball cleats are not allowed.

B. Coaches

1. Language and Behavior

Each coach will refrain from any violent or abusive language or behavior toward players, spectators, officials or other coaches during matches and practices. The referee will have the authority to take action against any coach exhibiting unsportsmanlike or disruptive behavior during a match.

2. Playing a non-rostered Player

Any coach playing a player who is not listed on that team's official roster is violating the rules of the game. The match will be forfeited and the coach will be suspended for the next match.

3. Spectator Behavior

The conduct of team-affiliated spectators is the responsibility of the coach. Spectators are to remain off the field, away from the sidelines and will refrain from any unsportsmanlike behavior or language.

4. Match Conduct

Teams and coaches ONLY will occupy the designated sideline during the match.

5. The Team Coach or an approved assistant coach must be present with youth teams at all times during matches or practices and will have coaching pass.

Consequences

1. Point System

MSC will use a point system to govern players and coaches who receive cautions/ejections. A yellow card counts as 1 point. A red card counts as 2 points (the maximum for one game). A total of 4 points during the season calls for a the suspension from the next scheduled match. A total of six points for the season will result in suspension from the remainder of the MSC season.

2. Additional action

Any player, coach or spectator found in violation of good sportsmanship will be subject disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or ejection. MSC and the MRSA referee have the authority to ask any person to leave the complex if observed exhibiting inappropriate behavior.

Grievance and Disciplinary Action

A. Grievance

The Grievance and Disciplinary Action committee will address any grievance submitted in writing within 10 days of an incident. The Grievance and Disciplinary committee will NOT entertain a grievance concerning a referee's subjective call.

B. Procedure

1. Hearing

The Grievance and Disciplinary committee shall provide swift and just hearings for all formal grievances. Upon receiving a formal grievance and request for hearing, the Committee chair will notify any party named in the formal protest and shall send a copy of the grievance to the individual(s), along with notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. The Committee chair, at his/her discretion, may require notice of the hearing to be sent to other parties who may be affected by the decision or may be relevant to the proceedings. All involved parties will be made aware of the charges to be discussed at the hearing. Each involved party will have an equal amount of time to speak at the hearing. The committee may ask the involved parties to produce documents or other evidence related to the incident that may be necessary for a decision to be rendered.

2. Deliberation

After the presentation of facts, the hearing will be adjourned. No facts, evidence or statements will be presented to the committee after the hearing is adjourned. Only members of the committee shall be present during the deliberation. The committee may meet immediately following the hearing or at a later date.

3. Outcome

Notice of the decision will be sent via email or postal mail to all involved parties.

C. Appeals

Any individual dissatisfied with the results of his/her hearing may submit a grievance to the MSC Board of Directors within 10 days of receiving the results of the hearing of the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee. In a like manner, the process of hearing, deliberation and outcome will be repeated with the MSC Board of Directors serving as the Appeal Committee.