Monday, October 30, 2023

Lancaster Parks & Recreation “Everyone Plays” Soccer Rules for Coaches, Players, & Spectators

The Basics:

* Just as the name says, this is a recreation league in which all players that have signed up are expected to play, equally with all the players on a team.
  + This is regardless of practice attendance. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have their players attend as many practices as possible, but playing time is not to be determined based on practice attendance &/or participation.
* This league is for fun & for teaching players the basics of soccer and good sportsmanship. Any adult not demonstrating good sportsmanship will be handled accordingly.
* As this is a a non-competitive **recreational** league, any athlete that is registered with Ohio Soccer Association with any club travel team, is not permitted or eligible to participated in the League.
* There are no try outs permitted to be held for any team that will be playing in the Lancaster Parks & Recreation “Everyone Plays” soccer program.
* **Jewelry:**
  + Earrings are **NOT** permitted **AT ALL.** Covering with tape &/or a bandage the player is still not permitted on the field to play. There are no exceptions to this rule.
  + This includes a player not being able to wear a necklace, ring, bracelet, wristbands, etc.
  + Medical alert bracelets are permitted, but those MUST be taped down for the safety of all players.

Weather:

* We will send an email during the season with updates & if we have cancellations due to weather. We will also put cancellations on Facebook.
* We do not make a call on cancellations for weather prior to 4:00pm.
  + We will be sure to reach out to coaches in a group email to let teams know. Sometimes the weather passes & we like to give enough time for that to happen as it is very hard to reschedule games.
* In case we are on the field and bad weather comes in, please listen for the air horn that the head referee on duty will sound in case of thunder/lightening.
  + The policy for thunder/lightening is a 30 minute suspension of play once lightening is seen or thunder is heard. If a delay is underway & lightening is seen &/or thunder is heard, the 30 minute clock is restarted each time there is lightening or thunder.
    - Please have your players & spectators go to their vehicles & not stay outside in the grass area.
    - The head referee will let you know when you can return to the field safely OR if play for that day has been ended.
* We DO play in the rain. However:
  + If it is a really rough downpour, either the Recreation Supervisor or the Head Referee will make the call on cancelling games.
  + If field conditions are unsafe due to rain, we will cancel as well.
* **Temperatures for Games & Weather cancellations/delays:**
  + If the Real Feel/Heat Index is above 90ºF, we will have mid-half hydration breaks.
  + If the Real Feel/Heat Index is above 105ºF, games will be canceled.
  + If the Real Feel/Windchill factor is 35ºF & below - games will be cancelled.

Games:

* We use an online site to post our games ([PlayPass.com](http://PlayPass.com)). The Recreation Supervisor will email the links to the coaches once the schedules are set.
  + Coaches are expected to share them with their teams. Schedules are printable from the website
  + Please check back on the site periodically. Schedule changes happen occasionally, & PlayPass is updated with those changes.
* Number of Games:
  + We try to give each team 8-10 games each season.
    - If we have several weather related cancellations, games may not be rescheduled.
* We do not keep score for Preschool, Division 1 or 2. Scores for Divisions 3, 4, & 5 will be posted on the schedule website. When scores are posted, they will not display more than a +/-5 goal differential.
* There are field maps on the Parks website and several locations around the Soccer Complex.
* There is a limit of **TWO (2)** coaches per team.
  + These two (2) coaches are the only other people allowed in the team bench area.
  + Coaches are expected to refrain from using tobacco products (cigarettes, vapes, smokeless tobacco) while at the Soccer Complex with their teams.
* If a team does not have enough players to field a full team, please reach out to the Recreation Supervisor prior to the game & we can try to make a change.
  + We do everything we can to try to not cancel a game, so we may just allow the game to happen with less players on the field.
    - If this happens both teams will reduce to equate, i.e. both teams on the field have the same number of players.
    - In the event that a team has no subs, there will be a 1 minute water break for the teams midway through each half.
      * + This is water break only, & the game clock will continue to run.

Players should come to the sideline, catch their breath, get a drink, & return to the field to restart the game.

* + Or we can try to reschedule so a team doesn’t have to forfeit.
    - If rescheduling cannot happen, then a forfeit would be the end result.
* **We do not allow outside, unregistered players to play in games.**
  + **We also do not allow players to play from other teams within the league.** (No guest players or player “loans” - Players are registered to one team per season & one team only.)
    - If a player is found to have played for a team other than the team that they are registered/assigned to, the team that uses the “borrowed” player will have that match declared a forfeit.
* Spectators:
  + Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators, & may be asked to help correct poor spectator behavior.
  + There is a designated side of each field for teams (coaches & players) & spectators. They are listed on the field map & we enforce this rule for many reasons.
    - Only two coaches & players are permitted on the team side of the field.
    - Spectators are not allowed on the team side of the field for any reason, or immediately behind the goals.
  + Hanging on the frame of the goals &/or goal nets is not permitted on any field, at any time.
    - This includes siblings playing on “empty fields” while at a game.
  + Coaches &/or spectators who are dismissed are not allowed to be outside any vehicle behind the goal, they must be inside a vehicle.
    - Out of sight/sound from the field.
* We abide by IFAB/FIFA for Laws of the Game (LOTG), & as with other soccer organizations, we modify the LOTG with our League’s Rules of Competition for game play, which are posted on the Park’s website.
* Make sure to have your team bench area completely clean when you leave the park. Ensure all water bottles are taken with players & empty plastic water bottles before throwing them in the trashcans.
  + This helps the maintenance crew when they are mowing & getting the trash bags out of the cans,

Referees

* Our referees consist of several adults, but mostly minors. Please treat them with fairness & respect.
* We have referees for Divisions 3, 4, & 5, however if we have the availability, we may have new referees at Division 2 to help with training.
  + They may be writing scores down to get trained, but these will NOT be recorded.
* Yelling at referees IS NOT PERMITTED.
  + If you have a question for them, please ask at halftime or end of game.
    - DO NOT badger them.
  + The calls made by the referee(s) are final.
* If we do not have enough referees for an evening, we will start with fielding referees for Division 5 & work our way down.
  + It is possible that a game may not have a referee.
    - In this case, we will have the coaches referee the game.
    - If coaches refuse to referee, or to find an agreed upon individual to referee, the game score will not be recorded.
* We do have a Head Referee on site each day.
  + Zak Kennedy is the Head Referee & Referee Assignor
    - He can be reached at 740-438-6316
      * Not available on Thursdays
  + Virginia Quay is the Assistant Head Referee
    - She can be reached at 740-503-8099

We are always looking for referees, if you or someone you know is interested in

becoming a referee – rec or fully USSF licensed – please let us know with their contact

information so we can follow up.

Recreation Supervisor Jennifer Shamblin is in charge of the “Everyone Plays” Soccer program. She handles the assigning of players to teams, scheduling games, coaches compliance with various state laws in regards to youth sports, & any discipline for any misconduct that occurs. She can be reached at 740-438-0711 anytime for any questions or concerns.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Compiled by ZK, with input from RQ & VQ. Summitted to & approved by JS 11/28/23 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)