



GAME PROCEDURES

Following are a couple of the standard procedures we need to follow for all games and tournaments. Some of you may know these guidelines, but we also have new parents/players.

Arrival time before games may vary from team to team but the rest of the guidelines are universal.

If you have any questions, let us know.

Arrival Time

Coach wants each player to be dressed and ready to take the field at least 30 minutes before game time. Coach will want to warm-up the players and review tactics, field assignments, etc. At this age, we also recognize that players will need a few minutes to socialize, settle into game mode, etc. Thus, we need the full 30 minutes in order to effectively get them ready to play. Dressed and ready to play means in uniform, shinguards and cleats on, jewelry removed, etc.

Apparel

For all home games, we will wear blue jerseys, blue shorts, and blue socks. For all away matches, we will wear white jerseys, red shorts, and white socks.

For tournaments, refer to the published game schedule to identify for which games we are the home team and which we are the visiting (away) team. We will follow the same general rule – blue/blue/blue for home, red/blue/red for away.

For all games (tournament, league, etc.) bring both sets of jerseys, shorts, and socks. Depending on the other team's colors, we may have to change.

Jewelry

No jewelry is allowed for safety reasons. All earrings and necklaces must be removed. If your child has recently had their ears pierced and you can't remove the earrings for the hour the game is played, the earrings must be covered by a band-aid or tape. Most times, if the referee can't directly see the earring, he/she will let it go. However, they have the right/authority to not let the player take the field until it is removed.

Discussions with referees

Only coaches should be talking to the referees -- do not engage the referees in any discussion about a call. Coaches are experienced players and/or certified referees and are very effective at communicating with referees in a manner that works to our advantage. However, this can be undermined/offset by players, parents, fans directing comments to the referee.

Sideline Protocol

All cheering should be positive – nicely done, good job, etc. Do not try and coach from the sideline – your directions will likely not be heard in time to have any effect. In addition, they may conflict with what coach is telling them.

RDYSL rules state that parents and players for each team shall be on opposite sides of the fields.

The home team has the choice of sidelines. Tournaments may follow that protocol or the opposite (players from both teams on one side, parents from both teams on the opposite side). When parents and players are on the same side – please do not stand near the team. Allow the coaches space to work with the players. Parents will usually have no interaction with the players from the time they arrive before the game until coach dismisses them about 5 or 10 minutes after the game.

Spectator and Player Behavior

Fines assessed by the league for spectator misconduct and player misconduct (red card) are solely the responsibility of the individual(s) involved, and will not be paid by Fairport Soccer Club.

In addition, independent of league action (if any), FSC may impose disciplinary action for spectator or player misconduct or other actions that reflect poorly upon FSC.

Injuries

If a player is injured, the referee will stop the game – perhaps not immediately but they will stop the play. Coaches will be allowed by the referee to come onto the field to assess the injury and assist the player. If it is determined that a parent should come onto the field, a request or signal to the parents will be made. In the absence of such a request, please do not run onto the field – in all likelihood you will not be able to help and may only embarrass your child. Trust me, if the injury is serious, you will be notified immediately.

Water

Be sure to have the players drink plenty of water BEFORE the game – dehydration is not something to ignore. Each player should bring a large water bottle and/or Gatorade type drink to each game and practice.

Weather

Only the referee can suspend or cancel a game for weather related conditions. Even if it is storming, we must show up at the designated game time, ready to play, or be subject to forfeit. Forfeiting a game results in a \$150 fine and gives the club a bad image – we will not forfeit a game!

If the town/school district declares the field unplayable (we aren't allowed on the field), then a different process is followed. The above instructions refer to thunder/lightning conditions. Games are suspended if lightning is in the vicinity – but again, only the referee can suspend the game. If that happens, we must wait to see if he/she is merely temporarily suspending the game (waiting to see if the storm passes) or is ending it. If we are in the second half and the game is called, the score as it stood at the time of suspension becomes the final score. If we are in the first half, then the game will be replayed.

For new parents – soccer is played in all weather except lightning. Rain, snow, wind, etc that may suspend a baseball game or other sport will usually not affect a soccer game. So bring your inclement weather clothes to the games. In addition, bring a few dry towels and a set of dry clothes for the player to wear on the ride home. The weather in Rochester is very changeable and conditions in other locations can be significantly cooler. Be sure to have sweaters and/or jackets for both players and spectators.

Parking

Please be respectful of the lawns and other grassy areas near the fields. There are usually parking spaces relatively close to the fields. Use them before parking on grass. At Martha Brown, although the school district allows parking on the lawn off the driveway, do not drive on the hill/lawn and park more than one row of cars. We have a special arrangement with the schools for expanded parking for our tournament – at all other times do not park on the hill!

Do not park on Ayrault Road near the new fields – although it is a bit of a walk, use the back parking lot. There are a limited number of spots at the front of the school but do not park in the Fire Lane.

Litter

For all games and practices, be sure to pick up all tape, water bottles and other litter when leaving the field. For home games, pick up any litter the visiting team may have left behind.

Thank you! We are looking forward to a terrific season.

FSC Board of Directors