

LIVINGSTON SOCCER CLUB TRAVEL PROGRAM GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

INVOLVEMENT AND BEHAVIOR

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

PARTICIPATION & COMMITMENT

Parent participation and commitment are an important part of our Travel Program. Parents will have the responsibility to provide transportation for their children to and from practices as well as games. NCSA games for Boys may play on Saturday in the Fall. Away games can be as close as West Orange or further than Princeton. Tournaments generally take place on holiday weekends such as Labor Day, Columbus Day, and Memorial Day. The Essex Fall Tune-Up Tournament, discussed below, usually takes place the weekend after Labor Day. Parents, like their children, must be willing to make the two (2) season commitment to the Travel Program.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

Parents are encouraged to become administrative managers or coaches of Travel Teams. The full-time coaching qualifications are outlined above. In order to become a Team manager, a parent must first have the "F" Level Coaching License that is required by NJYSA for all Travel Team coaches. If possible, an "F" Level Coaching License Course will be given in Livingston every August. The LSC will pay for the "F" Level Coaching License Course for any member of the LSC. Note that the "F" Level Coaching License is also a prerequisite to attaining the "E" Level Coaching Licenses discussed above. The LSC will not pay for higher level coaching courses. Additional information can be found at http://www.njyouthsoccer.com/coaching/coaching_schools.htm.

Being the manager of an LSC Travel Teams includes the following responsibilities:

- Active participation in planning and execution of the EFT Tournament;
- Liaison between the LSC and the Team;
- Interaction with the trainer to schedule practices and coordinate game schedules;
- All paperwork including the "carding" of players;
- Certain game-day responsibilities (including paying refs);
- Collection of Game Day Coaching Fees from Team families;
- Coach Teams on a part-time basis if professional coach cannot attend a game; and
- Scheduling make-up training sessions/minimum number of tournaments required.

Prior to the start of the season, an orientation meeting will be held to acquaint managers with these responsibilities. Anyone interested in becoming a manager or coach should contact the Travel Director(s).

DISCIPLINE

Soccer leagues throughout the United States have adopted standards for player, coach, and parental behavior during a soccer game. Rules allow for individuals to be suspended, barred completely, or otherwise disciplined for their actions. The LSC strictly adheres to these standards of conduct and will not tolerate abusive behavior or any action that is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others. Parents and athletes are encouraged to visit the MNJYSA web site to learn more about the "Setting A Good Example (S.A.G.E.)" Program (<http://www.mnjysa.org/sage/SageCover.html>).

If a coach, manager, player, or spectator receives a "Red Card" or is otherwise ejected by a referee or other game official, and there is a monetary fine associated with that "Red Card" or ejection, the fine imposed on the LSC will be paid by the offending party. The Board of Trustees unanimously passed the following resolution in May 1996:

RESOLVED, that any Livingston Soccer Club Travel Team manager and/or coach receiving a "Red Card" and subsequent fine and suspension from the MNJYSA or other governing body shall be personally responsible for the payment of said fine. Payment shall be made directly to the LSC within seven (7) days of receiving notification of said fine and suspension unless payment by the coach or manager is overridden by the Club's Executive Committee on appeal. Furthermore, the coach or manager will not be permitted to participate at either a game (assuming the suspension has been served) or practice until said fine is paid.

In the event the coach or manager does not pay the fine in a timely manner, they will be suspended from their Travel Team duties until the fine is paid. With regard to parents or spectators on the sidelines, it is LSC policy that failure to pay a fine in a timely manner will result in that parent or spectator being banned from watching his/her child play. In both cases, if the fine continues to go unpaid, and it becomes necessary for the LSC to pay it, the LSC will use all available means necessary to collect the fine from the coach, manager, parent, or spectator. This includes legal action.

MNJYSA and other governing bodies impose mandatory suspensions in the case of a coach, manager, or player receiving a “Red Card” or cumulative “Yellow Cards” in a soccer seasonal year. In addition, it is the policy of the LSC that if a coach or manager receives two (2) “Red Cards or three (3) “Yellow Cards” in a soccer seasonal year they will be automatically relieved of their duties as a representative of the Travel Program and the LSC. There will be no exceptions. Should they wish to resume their responsibilities, they will have to meet the requirements set forth in the Training and Coaching section of these Guidelines. Once reinstated by the Travel Committee, they will serve a mandatory one-year probationary period (begins on date they resume responsibilities). If coach or manager does not receive any Red or Yellow Cards during this probationary period, the probation will end. If they do receive any Cards during this period a permanent ban from training, coaching, and managing will be instituted.

In the event the LSC is assessed a fine by MNJYSA or any other governing body as the result of forfeiting a game, the Board of Trustees, through the Executive Committee, reserves the right to require the coach and/or manager of the Travel Team which causes the forfeit to reimburse the LSC for any and all fines paid on behalf of the forfeiting team.

CODE OF CONDUCT

DEFINITION

The LSC expects all players, coaches, managers, parents, and spectators to conduct themselves according to the highest principles of sportsmanship and fair play. The following Code of Conduct is the standard of behavior that is expected of everyone associated with the LSC Travel Program. It is in effect at all practices, matches, and any other Team functions. If the Team is attending a function lasting more than one day, such as a tournament, this Code remains in effect at all times during the stay.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

The undersigned player/parent participating in the LSC Travel Program agrees to abide by the standards of conduct outlined below and any additional guidelines established by the LSC Board of Trustees or Travel Committee that will be presented at Team meetings.

All players, coaches, trainers, managers, parents, and spectators will adhere to all rules and regulations and will refrain from illegal and inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the Team or be detrimental to its performance objectives. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

COACHES, TRAINERS AND MANAGERS:

- Coaches, trainers, and managers are expected to maintain a higher level of sportsmanship, professionalism, and integrity both off and on the field.
- The coaches', trainers', and managers' primary responsibility is for his/her players to have fun, to develop soccer players, and to instill a passion for the game.
- Your performance as a coach and/or manager is not measured in wins and losses, but rather in what you teach your players in terms of technique, sportsmanship, and fair play.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers must have control and discipline at all times.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers must maintain respect for the game as well as the referees. They will not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the game. They shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers are charged with the responsibility of controlling their players and parents at all times during a game.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers lead and teach by example; your players will be a reflection of you.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers are expected to have a basic knowledge of the game and to pursue coaching education that will allow them to better develop their players.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers should use positive reinforcement when dealing with players, never use foul or abusive language, and never abuse a player physically, verbally, or mentally.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers are to make sure the fields are left clean when they leave training/practice and games.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers should not leave a Team function until all players have been picked-up.
- Coaches, trainers, and managers should take appropriate measures to minimize runaway scores in games.

PLAYERS:

- Players play soccer to have fun, to learn and develop a passion for the game, as well as to improve their skills.
- Players have a responsibility to their teammates, coach, manager, and the LSC. They are representatives of the LSC, as well as the Team, coach, manager, parents, and the community.
- Players must maintain a high level of sportsmanship and fair play at all times. They will treat opponents with respect. They will win without boasting, lose without excuses, and never quit.
- Players must have respect for their coach, manager, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.
- Players are expected to be on time and prepared for games and training/practice sessions.
- Players shall train and play to the best of their ability, always have a positive attitude, and encourage their Teammates to do the same.

- During practices/training sessions, all players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that enables and promotes a learning atmosphere for everyone there. Abusive language and behavior, or disrespectful acts toward teammates or coaches, will not be tolerated.
- Insubordination to members of the coaching staff or others will not be permitted.
- Players are required to wear the approved LSC uniform during all games. Players are expected to take pride in their appearance when representing their Team and the LSC. Uniforms must be clean. Socks must be pulled up to the knee to cover shin guards. Jerseys must be tucked in anytime the player is in public view.
- At games and training/practices, Team members must stay with the Team until dismissed by the coach or manager.
- Other acts of misconduct determined by the coaching staff to be in conflict with the mission, goals, and policies of the LSC will result in disciplinary action.
- Players will play within the FIFA Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game.
- Players will display self-control in all situations and will not use foul or abusive language at any time before, during, or after a game or training/practice session.
- Players will show respect towards the referee and his/her assistants as well as towards the opponents. They will not harass, abuse, or berate a referee for any reason at any time.
- Players are to make sure that they clean-up their playing area after games and training/practices sessions, picking up all plastic bottles, papers, orange peels, etc.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:

- Parents/Spectators must set the example for the children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship.
- Parents/Spectators participate in a game by watching, cheering (complementary, not instructional), and supporting the efforts of all participants of the game. Soccer must be Fun. The game is for the children; their participation and enjoyment of the game is the most important element.
- Parents/Spectators should focus on player's mastering of soccer skills, not on the win/loss record. Every effort should be made to decrease the emphasis and pressure to win. Avoid the use of fear: love of soccer is rarely fostered by fear of the consequences of failure.
- Parents/Spectators should be mindful that soccer's primary value is to allow our children the opportunity for physical and mental development as well as teaching an individual to work as a team player.
- Parents have responsibilities to the coach, manager, Team, and the LSC that they are a part of.
- Parents/Spectators must have respect for their coach and manager. They should never criticize a coach or manager in a public manner (including social media). Parental coaching from the sideline is strictly forbidden; let the game day coach do his/her job no matter how much you may disagree.

If there is a problem talk to the manager after the game or contact the team liaison. Supportive parents communicate with the coach and/or manager thereby creating a positive working relationship.

- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. They will not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the game. They shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for all players. Cheer in a positive manner, not negative. Encourage your Team; do not berate the other team. Cheer in a way to reward the good play of both teams and promote fair play.
- Parents are welcome to observe practices/training sessions. However, they must refrain from approaching the field while the practice/training session is in progress.
- Parents are expected to be on time to pick-up players from practice/training sessions as the coach or manager is required to remain until the last child is picked up.
- Parents/Spectators are never to use foul or abusive language towards anyone for any reason.
- Parents/Spectators have a responsibility to learn the Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game.
- Parents/Spectators are encouraged to get involved with the LSC and help promote the game in a positive way.
- Parents/Spectators must at all times demonstrate the utmost in sportsmanship and integrity; they are the role models for their children.
- The Livingston Soccer Club Travel Committee believes each trainer should be fair and impartial when it comes to playing time and position. To ensure this, individual parents must not offer any gifts to a trainer (Not including items the team is eating/drinking on the bench). Team gifts are acceptable. Additionally, parents may not socialize with the trainer outside of a team function (Ex. Team party, parents meeting, etc.) where the majority of parents/players are in attendance. Major life events are acceptable.
- Livingston Soccer Club prohibits its trainers from conducting private training sessions with individual player(s) on their team (other than the full team) for a fee and I will not conduct any such prohibited private training sessions.

Should the LSC learn that this Code of Conduct has been violated the LSC reserves the right to discipline the coach, trainer, manager, player, parent, or spectator in an appropriate manner.

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