



CODIAC SOCCER

Grassroots/House League

COACHING MANUAL

2017

Codiac Soccer Grassroots/House League Coaching Manual

Thank you for volunteering to coach, and welcome to the Codiac Soccer family. Our volunteer coaches are a valuable part of our soccer program; offering guidance, leadership, and fun to the hundreds of players who enjoy the game of soccer with us each summer.

This manual is intended to:

- To inform you of your responsibilities as a coach.
- Provide you with answers to questions you may have.
- To direct you to coaching resources that will assist you with practice-planning.

Responsibilities of the coach

- Attend training sessions as appropriate.
- Review the team roster, and contact the parents of each player by (before the start of the season) to introduce yourself, and provide start-up information such as time and field location for the first session.
- Distribute uniforms to players at the start of the season.
- Hold a brief team meeting with the parents of your players.
 - This can be done at the first session, and it should include a discussion of the City of Moncton's Code of Conduct.
 - Please stress that no abuse of referees will be tolerated (this applies to coaches, players, and parents/spectators). Anyone in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - Review the Weather/Cancellation policy, so that parents know how/where to check for field closures due to weather.
 - Provide parents with your contact information.
 - If you do not already have an assistant coach or team manager, this is a good opportunity to see if there are parents who are willing to offer their help (this is particularly important if there will be times when you are unable to attend), or when you need assistance making phone calls to the team.
- Ensure that the rules of Fair Play are followed. All players, regardless of skill level, are entitled to equal playing time during each session of play.
- In the event that you are unable to attend a scheduled session, it is your responsibility to find someone to act as coach in your absence.
- Following each game, review the referee's game sheet, and sign the game sheet to indicate that you have verified the score being submitted (this does not apply to coaches in the U4, U6, U8, or U10 age divisions).
- Remember that youth soccer is for children. Your role, as coach, is to foster an environment of learning, support, and fun. While it may be easy to get caught up in the competition, be aware of your coaching style, and the manner in which you interact with your players. Feedback should be offered in a construction and encouraging manner.
- Be respectful of the referee and opposing coaches at all times. If you feel that a referee or coach is acting inappropriately, please address the matter with Codiac Soccer staff, either on the field at the time when the incident occurs (if game is being played at CN fields), or contact the Executive Director at the office the following day (either by phone or email). It is expected that coaches set a positive example of behaviour for their young players; this includes avoiding on-field confrontation with opposing coaches and referees.
- Please give your players your full attention and refrain from using cell phones (for texting or calls) during the hour that you are on the field.

Your Contact Information

Please ensure that Codiac Soccer has your updated contact information (email, phone, and mailing address). Most correspondence will be conducted via email, so please indicate your preferred email address if you are providing more than one.

Useful Information

Weather cancellations – games may be cancelled for two reasons: field closures and thunderstorms/dangerous weather.

Field Closures

The fields we use are owned by the City of Moncton. As such, the City has the authority to close the fields in the event of poor weather (typically heavy rain). These closures are done to protect the fields from being damaged when they are excessively wet. Whenever the City of Moncton closes the CN Sportsplex soccer fields, all Codiac Soccer House League games are cancelled, including those games scheduled for play outside of the CN Sportsplex.

To check for field closures, visit the Codiac Soccer website (www.codiacsoccermoncton.com) and click the Quick Link labelled Check for Field Closures - this will take you to the City of Moncton webpage where field closures are posted. Please verify that the date posted reflects the day in question. Closures should be posted by 3:00 PM, so it is best to wait until shortly after 3:00 to ensure you are viewing the most up to date information.

It is the responsibility of the parents to check for field closures when the weather is poor; coaches are not required to contact their team to notify parents of closures.

Thunderstorms/dangerous weather

If, during play, the weather becomes dangerous due to a thunderstorm, all play will be immediately suspended. Codiac staff will sound the notice of cancellation by way of an air horn (at the CN Fields only). Coaches and referees have the authority to cancel play at the first sign of a thunderstorm, and are encouraged to get players safely off the field as quickly as possible. There is no need to wait for Codiac staff to confirm cancellation of play.

If the early games are suspended due to thunderstorms, the late games are cancelled as well, even if the weather improves.

Games at Rocky Stone field are cancelled if games at the CN fields are cancelled.

Games missed due to poor weather are not rescheduled.

Uniforms

At the start of the season, you will be given uniforms for your team. Each player “kit” consists of a jersey, shorts, and socks. Distribute uniforms to players according to size. Each team receives uniforms of various sizes. Rather than accommodating player requests for a particular jersey number, ensure that players have a jersey of appropriate size. Keep a record of your players and the jersey number that they received. Following the first 2 weeks of the season, any remaining uniforms should be returned to Codiac Soccer staff at the shed. There is no need to collect jerseys at the end of the season; the uniforms may be kept by the players.

Player Equipment

All players are required to wear shin guards. Cleats are not required, but it is strongly recommended that all players wear them.

Watches, jewellery, medical devices and other similar items worn or carried by a player are strictly prohibited. The final decision on whether an object worn or carried by a player is appropriate rests with the referee.

Team Pictures

The opportunity to purchase team and/or individual photos is provided by Crandall Studio. **All arrangements are handled by the photographer directly.** There is no requirement for parents to purchase photos if they choose not to. Any questions regarding pictures (scheduling, purchase, etc.) should be directed to Bruce at Crandall Studio at 382-6681 or bruce@crandallstudio.ca.

Holiday schedule

We will hold regular league play on Monday, July 3, 2017 and Monday, August 7, 2017.

Rules

Player eligibility

Only those players listed on your team roster are eligible to play with your team. No unregistered players, nor players registered with another team or age division, may compete for your team. Playing non-roster players will result in forfeit of the game in which the ineligible players participated.

The Codiac First Touch Playing-Up Policy does not apply to House League teams.

Length of game

Please refer to the specifications below to determine the length of games for your age division.

4 Year Old: No specified length of scrimmage as game scores are not recorded and no referee is present.

U6: No specified length of scrimmage as game scores are not recorded, and no referee is present.

U8: 15 minute warm-up/practice, two 20-minute halves, five minute half-time. League standings are not tracked.

U10: 15 minute warm-up/practice, two 20-minute halves, five minute half-time. League standings are not tracked.

U12: Two 25-minute halves, five minute half-time.

U15: Two 30-minute halves, five minute half-time.

U18: Two 35-minute halves, five minute half-time.

Number of players

U8: 6 v 6 (five outfielders + one keeper)

U10: 6 v 6 (five outfielders + one keeper)

U12: 7 v 7 (6 outfielders + one keeper)

U15: 11 v 11 (10 + one keeper)

U18: 11 v 11 (10 + one keeper)

Minimum number of players

If teams are unable to field the minimum number of players, they are required to forfeit the game.

U12: minimum of five players (four outfielders + one keeper)

U15: minimum of seven players (six outfielders + one keeper)

U18: minimum of seven players (six outfielders + one keeper)

Policy

City of Moncton Code of Conduct

As we are users of the City of Moncton facilities, we must abide by the City's Code of Conduct. A summary of the document follows:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice.
- I will maintain a "Fun is No. 1" attitude, and will remind myself and all players to laugh and keep a sense of humour.
- I will treat officials, coaches, and all players with respect and avoid ridicule or sarcasm.
- I will praise all players just for participating, regardless of their athletic skills, and I will remember to look for positives with all players.
- I will remain calm when players make a mistake, and help them learn from their mistakes.
- I will remind all players not to get down on themselves when things do not go well.
- I will try not to take myself too seriously when it comes to my involvement in youth sports, reminding myself that youth sports are for children, not adults.
- I will emphasize teamwork in team sports with the players, teaching them to think "we" instead of "me."
- I will teach players by giving them a good example of sportsmanship:

Winning Without Gloating/Losing Without Complaining

It is imperative that parents/spectators conduct themselves in a proper manner. Use of profanity, verbal, or physical harassment towards officials, staff, coaches, or players, will not be permitted. I understand that failure to abide by the policy and the above code of conduct will result in the following: **First** offence: parents/spectators being asked by a league

representative to stop the inappropriate behaviour; **Second** offence: parents/spectator being ejected from the game; **Third** offence: parents/spectators being banned from all league activities. I also understand that physical violence or threats of physical violence will result in an immediate and permanent ban from all league activities.

Any person in violation of any aspect of this policy is subject to a disciplinary process. To view the full City of Moncton Code of Conduct please visit our website at www.codiacsoccermoncton.com.

Conduct towards referees

In addition to the City of Moncton's Code of Conduct, it should be noted that Codiac Soccer has a policy of zero tolerance with regard to the abuse of referees. All referees, whether new to the system or experienced, will make calls in error, or calls that coaches disagree with. Despite a missed call, it is expected that coaches act respectfully towards the referee. Any abuse in the form of verbal or physical assault, or any attempt to intimidate or threaten the official, will be subject to disciplinary action by the Codiac Soccer Board of Directors.

Social Media Policy

Regarding the use of Web pages or Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) for team communications, Codiac Soccer has adopted a series of guidelines for the security of its membership and corporate partners. Approval to publish the team site or page must be granted by the Codiac Soccer Web Administrator based on the following:

- Web pages or social media pages must not be available for viewing by the public. This includes but is not limited to the following content: team rosters, game/practice or fundraising schedules, pictures, etc.
- The administrator of the page/group must either be a member of the coaching staff or an adult (18+ years of age) designate.
- Any requests for access to the page/group must be reviewed and granted by the administrator.
- Any advertisement associated with the team/page or group can not be in direct competition with an existing corporate sponsor of Codiac Soccer Inc. and must be approved by the Codiac Soccer Web Administrator.
- Access to team web pages must be granted to the Codiac Soccer Web Administrator to ensure compliance with the above listed items.

Codiac Soccer Contact Information

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