

# Parent & Player Handbook



**2011**

House League  
Outdoor Season

# Parent/Player Quick Rules of Conduct

## DO ...

- ⦿ Respect the players and officials both on and off the playing field.
- ⦿ Applaud good plays (regardless of which team or player made it).
- ⦿ Stay with your child at practices and games.
- ⦿ Inform your coach in advance if you are going to miss a game.
- ⦿ Complete a "Game Evaluation Form" if there is a situation you want the Club to address.
- ⦿ Volunteer to assist the coaching staff, including participating in practice drills.
- ⦿ Ensure the player has the correct uniform, shin guards and soccer shoes.
- ⦿ Keep the practice and game fields clean and free of trash.



## DON'T ...

- ⊗ Be rude or disrespectful to the referee, coaching staff, players, spectators or any other official.
- ⊗ Leave (abandon) your child at the field (practices or games).
- ⊗ Be apathetic. If you see an issue, work with the Club to achieve a positive environment for all.
- ⊗ Be down on your child or any member of the team. Always be positive and encourage them all to do their best, no matter the result.
- ⊗ Leave empty water bottles and other trash on the fields when you leave practices and/or games.

# What Parents Should Know

## LEAGUES

All games shall be played in accordance with the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association's (FIFA) Laws of the Game* in conjunction with the *Ontario Soccer Association's (OSA) Published Youth Soccer Rules*, unless otherwise augmented within the *Newmarket Soccer Club (NSC) Rules*.

These rules are available through the Club website at [www.newmarketsoccer.com](http://www.newmarketsoccer.com).

It is the policy of the Newmarket Soccer Club to offer leagues in individual age groups, wherever possible. It reserves the right to combine age groups, if at its sole discretion it deems it necessary to do so.

**Schedules shall be provided for the leagues by the Club and distributed by the coaches.**



## TEAM SELECTION

Teams shall be populated from the Club's registered players list.

Requests to play together are not honoured in the U07 through U18 Divisions, except in true hardship cases. Requests, in the case of hardship, must be made in writing to the "Fair Play Committee", with substantial detail as to the reasons for consideration. Requests to play together are honoured in the U04 through U07 and the Senior Divisions, providing that the Club is reasonably able to do so. The Club reserves the right to refuse play together requests.

## TEAM BALANCING

If it is noted that one or more teams are dominating play within their division, the Director of that division, with the knowledge of the Board of Directors has the right to balance teams before the fourth (4) game of the season. The teams shall be notified of the player's movement and the player must report to his/her new team for his/her next scheduled game.

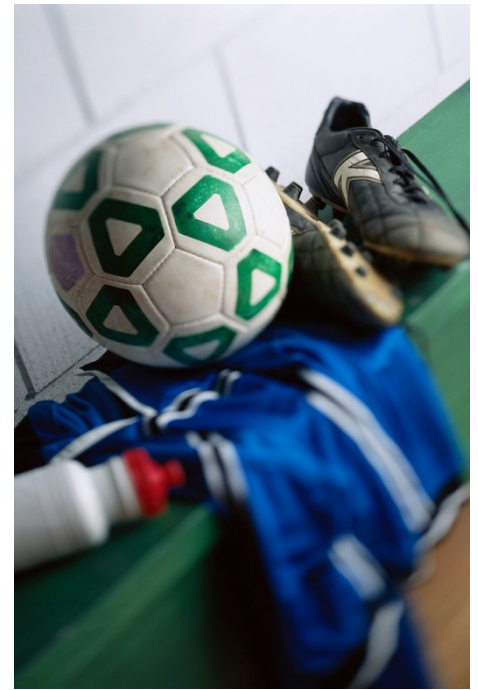
## EQUAL PLAYING TIME

All players must be given equal playing time, during all games, to the extent that such is logistically possible. This shall apply to all games during the season including Soccerfest, Cup Games and any House League Tournaments.

A parent should report any discrepancies, in writing to the Club using the *Game Evaluation Form*.

## PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

- A player must wear the proper uniform as provided by the NSC, including numbered team jersey, shorts, and matching socks.
- A player must wear shin guards that provide a reasonable degree of protection and that are fully covered by the stockings.
- A player must wear footwear. Soccer shoes with rubber or plastic cleats are highly recommended.
- A player must not use equipment or wear anything which endangers themselves or other players including:
  - Splints, casts, or leg braces constructed of plaster, fibreglass, plastic, metal, or other hard materials.
  - Metal cleats.
  - Jewellery of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather or rubber bands or visible body piercings. Loose beaded hair is also not permitted unless tied back or covered by a net. (Exception: Medic Alert Bracelets are allowed but must be taped. The taping should be such that the description of the medical problem is clearly visible.)
- No bandanas, sweatbands or hats may be worn by players. (Exception: the goalkeeper may wear a hat provided it contains no metal or plastic parts.)
- Only head protectors permitted by FIFA are allowed.
- Eyeglasses are allowed if they are sports spectacles and are safe for the players themselves and for other players.



## Parents' Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Parent (or their designate) to accompany and stay at the field of play or practice with their child. **A coach cannot transport or remain alone with any of their players;** with the exception of their own children. Should the coach notice an unattended child, they will ask another parent to remain with the coach and the child until a pick up is arranged and completed. The coach will report the occurrence to the Club office. Should the parent fail to prevent further incidents from occurring, the parent shall face disciplinary action, which could include player suspensions and the possible removal of the player from the league.

- **No parent, spectator or coach may sit behind the goal lines.**
- **No parent or spectator shall enter the field of play during the game or at any stoppage of play; without the permission of the referee.**
- **No parent or spectator shall sit or stand on the same side of the field as the players or the player's bench during games or practices.**
- **Spectating must take place from the OPPOSITE side of the field only.**

It is the responsibility of the parent to make themselves fully aware of the Rules, Policies and Procedures of the Club.

## Weather



The Club's website has information on field conditions and availability. Check there to see if fields have been deemed unplayable and closed by the Town of Newmarket. It is updated on a daily basis.

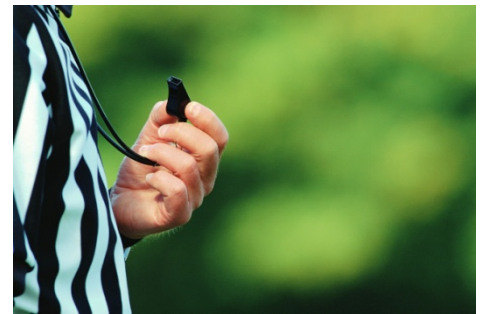
In the event of severe weather, coaches and their teams must present themselves in the vicinity of their playing field, at least 15 minutes before the scheduled game time, regardless of weather conditions. In the event of conditions which may be hazardous to the players and spectators, the referee and/or the league may suspend play until conditions permit safe continuation of the game. Only the referee and/or the Club are authorized to postpone a game.

The Club reserves the right to shorten the length of any game, in an attempt to ensure that all games are played. The League may also cancel any games which, in its sole opinion, do not have a bearing on the final standings of any age group.

A parent may withdraw their child from any game where they feel that the child may be at risk, but does not have the right to cancel or postpone a game.

## Referees and Assistant Referees

Coaches, parents and players should recognize that referees are integral to the game of soccer. Under the "Laws of the Game", referees are the sole authority on the soccer pitch during a match. But referees cannot see every-thing that happens on the field, nor will they necessarily interpret action on the field the same as the coaches, players or spectators. Good referees will never change their call on the advice of a coach or a parent. They must never show that their calls can be influenced by intimidation from a coach, player, parent or spectator. A coach, player or spectator who yells at or threatens a referee is not maintaining a respectful and fun atmosphere for all concerned.



**Any verbal or physical abuse of a referee or assistant referee from a coach, player, parent or spectator WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and will result in an automatic game ejection, and an automatic "Hearing" which could result in a further suspension of up to one year, for the first offence. See the Discipline section of this handbook for additional information.**

A coach may address an issue they deem to be unfair with the Club either through the Director or the League Manager of the division. A player, parent or spectator may also address a concern to the Club.

### **The Referee is the sole authority for stopping or canceling games.**

This means that if the field conditions become dangerous at any time before or during a game, the referee may stop the game at their discretion. Although the referee usually does this due to weather or turf conditions, it may also happen if the emotions on or around the field appear to be growing unsettled or threatening and the referee determines that it is best to stop the game immediately. The referee will file an incident report to the Club which will be followed up on.

# House League Events

## Soccerfest

Soccerfest is our House League Tournament and is held near the end of June. It provides an opportunity for all players to experience what tournament play is like.

The headquarters of Soccerfest is at Richardson Park (Bayview) and will feature a host of activities for both players and their families. All trophies shall be presented to each member of the winning teams in each Age Group at this location.

Individual and team photos are taken during Soccerfest. Your coach will provide details of time and location for your photo time.

## Division Championship

The Division champion shall be deemed to be the team that, during the season, has amassed the most points, based on the criteria, as set out in: "League Standing & Tie Breaking".

## House League Challenge Cup

The "House League Challenge Cup" is an "elimination" tournament usually held in the last week in August, with the final games held in late August or early September. It is held with a "Draw" format that is decided on at the beginning of the season. It provides an opportunity for all players to experience a different type of tournament play. It ends the Outdoor Season.

An award shall be presented to each member of the winning team in each Age Group. Awards shall be presented at the designated Tournament Headquarters.

## Photography Day

Every player in House League gets a team photo which is taken at Soccerfest. These photos are available by early August. A retake day is also scheduled at the end of the season for those photos that need replacement. Check the website and with the coach on locations and times of the photo schedules.

## Discipline

- The NSC deals with any misbehaviour by its members through a discipline committee. The Discipline Committee shall be comprised of The Discipline Chair and two impartial Directors or appointed Club officials.
- Players ejected (red card) from a game or accumulating three (3) cautions (yellow card) over the season, shall be summoned to attend a disciplinary hearing to determine the length of his/her suspension, if applicable.
- A player, coach, team official, parent or spectator ejected from a game shall be notified in writing of the length of their suspension, if applicable.
- Should an offending party wish to appeal the decision, they shall be required to attend the next scheduled discipline meeting.
- Any player, coach, team official, parent, spectator and/or team may be subject to disciplinary action for flagrant or persistent violation of Newmarket Soccer Club or FIFA rules.
- Decisions of the Discipline Committee may be appealed, with cause, in writing, to the Board of Directors. The decision of the board shall be final.
- Any decision regarding discipline and suspensions, which cannot be satisfied during the current season, shall extend into any of the following seasons.