

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN SOCCER POLICIES AND RULES

Coaches & Parents: Please keep this information for numbers & game rules. Any questions, contact the appropriate person from the contacts list below.

President – Mike Hickman 886-1864
Anything not answered by anyone else

Registrar – Karen Barrett 667-5654
Player Information for Teams

Referees – Rob Pompelio *[t/b/a]*
Scheduling Refs

Field Scheduling – Greg Goodgame 886-3445
Coordination of Field Usage

Uniforms – Darren Bird 886-2180
Coordinates Distribution of uniforms

Director of Coaching – Darren Bird 886-2180
Available to provide guidance and suggestions to coaches.

Notes:

IN RECREATIONAL SOCCER ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE EQUAL PLAY TIME.

Parking: Do not park in the circle unless you are on the SMSL board and have a permit displayed. Use either the upper or lower parking area, not the side of the road.

Rain or Wet Conditions: Coaches and parents are to check the website at www.signalmountainsoccer.com or call **517-1700** to see if fields are open for play. If fields are closed, no team may practice or play on that day. Unless you hear otherwise, we will always have practices or games.

Coaches please stick to the game schedule: Please play all games as scheduled if at all possible. It is ok to recruit other players if you're short, provided they are registered Signal players of the appropriate age. Also ok to borrow players from the opposing team if needed. If a game must be postponed, please give SMSL at least 5 days' prior notice. Games should only be postponed as a last resort.

Referee Calls are FINAL. Parents or coaches who verbally abuse referees will be escorted from field. In severe cases, that person will be banned from attending scheduled games.

Parents: This game is for the children – goal is for them to play the game the best that they can with guidance from their coaches, their peers, and their families. We want your children to appreciate the sport, learn the rules, learn good sportsmanship, teamwork, new skills, and, most of all, have fun. Please reinforce the practices of your coaches in regards to those matters. Please limit your interaction, on the field with your children, to positive encouragement from a distance. During games, please DO NOT sit on the player/coach side of the field. Please treat the referees with the respect they deserve.

Sportsmanship: Coaches will be responsible for teaching the players good sportsmanship. If there is a problem with a child, please contact that child's coach. Parents are responsible for their child's behavior on and off the field. Aggressive behavior (other than what is appropriate on the field), cursing, cutting down other players (teammates/opponents), teasing, and negative comments will not be tolerated. Recurring problems will be dealt with appropriately.

Player-Development Philosophy: Players should always be encouraged to use their soccer skills during the game. It is much better to try to do something positive with the ball: dribble, pass, or shoot—than to just kick it away haphazardly. Please do not encourage defenders to regularly kick the ball out of bounds. Player development and having fun are much more important than winning rec soccer games. (And in the long run, developing soccer skills is the way to win.)

Complaints: Regarding parents, players, coaches should be addressed to the commissioner first, then the Board. Serious complaints need to be in writing.

Equipment: #3 Ball for U6 & U8; #4 ball for U10 & U12; #5 ball for U14 and older.

Soccer cleats (no steel spikes), shin guards, drink bottle (game uniforms will be provided – socks, shorts, and jersey in the fall, jersey in the spring.) Players may not wear watches or jewelry. Shin guards must be covered by socks.

Safety Around Goals: The larger goals (U10 and above) must be firmly staked to the ground at all times. Never allow children near such a goal that is not firmly staked.

Abbreviated Rules of Play

Goalie: (AKA – Last Defender) Must wear different colored shirt from teammates and players of opposing team. Can wear goalie gloves. No goalie in U6 or U8. Goalie can use hands on ball only while ball is in penalty box. Exception: If player intentionally kicks ball back to own goalie, goalie must kick the ball and cannot touch with her hands even when in box. Goalie will hold ball no longer than 6 seconds. Referee should use substantial discretion and warn before making this call.

Field Players: Rest of team is made up of field players in any combination to make up forwards, midfielders, and defenders. Players may use any part of the body to move the ball except area between shoulders and fingertips.

Object of the game: Move the ball down the field and get it into the other team's goal. Ball may move in any direction and generally may be touched an unlimited number of times by any player or team.

Kickoffs: Coin toss by team captains. Winner can elect to kick off or choose side of field. Ball is placed in center of field. Players, of team kicking off, line up on center line, when whistle blows, 1 of those players moves ball forward and she may not touch it again until someone else touches it. Opponent team will have lined up on their side of center line but outside the center circle. Kickoffs are also used at start of 2nd half or after a goal is scored.

Offside: (rule begins @ U12 rec level) A violation where an offensive player receives a pass or is otherwise involved in play when there are less than two opposing players (typical scenario is goalie & 1 defensive player) between herself and the end line. This rule avoids goal hangers. (No offside in U6, U8, or U10 rec soccer.)

Free Kicks: Free kicks are awarded for fouls. Opposing team must stand 10 yards away from ball at time of kick. Beginning with U10, kick may be "direct" or "indirect." (In U8 all free kicks are indirect.)

Direct Kick: Ball may be kicked directly into goal from the kick.
Direct Fouls: kicking, pushing, tripping, jumping @ someone, hitting, charging, holding, handball.

Penalty Kicks: (rule begins @ U10 level) Awarded for direct fouls in the penalty area. Kick made by player with only goalie to go through.

Indirect Kicks: Kick must touch at least a 2nd player (on either team) before going into goal. Indirect Fouls: Poor conduct, offside violation, dangerous kicks (anything near head), obstruction, goalie interference, goalie infractions.

Corner Kicks: Defending team kicks ball over their end line. Offensive team kicks ball back in from corner. Opponents have to stay @ least 10 yards back. Players can score from a corner kick.

Goal Kick: After offensive team kicks ball over opponent's end line, defensive team kicks ball from anywhere in six yard box. Ball must leave penalty box before anyone else can touch it.

Throw Ins: If the ball is sent over the sideline, the other team throws it back in overhead using both hands evenly, both feet planted on ground. Generally referee will allow second chance to make a correct throw in.

Subbing: Coach may sub in any number of players on his team's throw in, halftime, goal kicks by either team, after a goal, or for an injured player.

Lines are part of the field: Ball is not out of bounds until entire ball crosses the line. Goal is not awarded until entire ball crosses goal line. Similarly, a ball on the line of the penalty area is deemed to be in the penalty area.

Game Length: U14, two 35 minute halves; U12, two 30 minute halves; U10, two 25 minute halves; U8, four 10 minute quarters; U6, coaches' discretion, generally a 30 minute game. NOTE: referees may allow extra water breaks in hot weather or when otherwise appropriate.

Referees: U14, generally one center ref and two linespersons; U12, generally one center ref and two linespersons; U10, one center ref only; U8, one center ref only; U6, no referees, coaches are on the field with the players in U6.

Hurt Player: Common courtesy – should the ref decide, the play will be stopped, all players should sit down in place (away from injured child). Players should remain quiet and refrain from disruptive behavior. Coaches/Parents will assist child and evaluate situation. Any medical professional ALWAYS welcome to come check out the situation and give guidance.

Let's Have A Great Season!