

BYLAWS OF THE DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. The operating procedures of the Club shall be as outlined in the Western Suburban Soccer League (WSSL) except for those modifications as specified in the Club Bylaws.
2. All teams are to have a Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager.
3. A player cannot move up more than one age bracket at a time.
4. To coach a travel team, you must be of driving age and receive a Risk Management Card.

TEAM ASSIGNMENT

1. Assignment of teams shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board.
2. Playing over age requires parental permission and approval of the Executive Board in consultation with coaches as to the player's ability.
3. Players signing up by the end of the registration period will be assigned to teams by their request, if possible, within the proper age division.
4. Players signing up after the registration period will then be assigned to teams in order of registration to teams requiring players.
5. Parents of players may request switching teams prior to the first game of the season. Approval of the Executive Board in consultation with the coaches is required.
6. Travel team rosters will be dictated by WSSL roster guidelines. Pee Wee team rosters will be dictated by the number of registrations received. Each roster will not exceed a maximum number of players as follows:

Under 5	6 players
Under 6	7 players
Under 7	8 players
Under 8	9 players

7. All Select and Premier Teams will have coaches assigned to them by the Executive Board. Coaches that want to coach a Premier / Select team must apply with the Executive Board and present all coaching credentials in front of the Executive Board. Executive Board will make a decision on the applicant.
8. All registered players with the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club are registered to the Club and not a specific team or Coach.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS: U5 AND U6

I. THE FIELD OF PLAY

A. FIELD DIMENSIONS:

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not being more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. Field width will be no more than 20 yards nor less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. Fields shall be lined for either one or two mini games.

B. MARKINGS: Distinctive lines shall outline the field of play. Lines shall be two to five inches wide. The goal area shall be five yards from the goal line and from touch line to touch line (across entire field).

C. SPECTATOR VIEWING: Spectators are welcome to enjoy the game from the bleachers or bring their own chairs that may be placed no closer than two yards from the touch line (side line). Spectators should sit between the goal lines, not behind the goal line, the goals, or the corners. Spectators may NOT stand on the sideline and “coach” the players on the field. That is the job of the coach.

D. COACHES: ONE coach per team is allowed on the field during the game to instruct their players. Coaches are NOT permitted in the goal areas while play is in progress. Coaches may NOT physically direct their players during play.

II. THE BALL

A. The ball used will be a size four (4) ball.

III. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. The maximum number of players on a team roster shall be as follows:

1. U5 – Six players per team, playing one small sided formatted game.
2. U6 – Seven players per team, playing two small sided formatted games.

B. The maximum number of players on the field at one time shall be four (unless Rule XVI applies).. The minimum number of players shall be three. **NONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE A GOALKEEPER OR PLAY CONTINUOUS DEFENSE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL.** The small sided games shall be played either 3v3 or 4v4 format.

C. Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may take place by either team before a kick-in or goal kick, and after goals or quarter breaks. Substitutions for injured players can occur after the coaches have stopped play.. Substitutions during breaks in the quarters require no permission.

- D. PLAYING TIME shall consist of four ten minute quarters. There shall be breaks of two minutes between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime. **EACH PLAYER SHALL PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE TOTAL PLAYING TIME.**

IV. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- A. Each player will receive a uniform. Each player must wear a Club issued uniform. **NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT A UNIFORM.**
- B. **SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT SHINGUARDS.** THE SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AGAINST THE SKIN, COMPLETELY COVERED BY THE SOCCER SOCKS. Soccer cleats are recommended, but are not required. A participant may play in tennis shoes.
- C. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or to the other participants. **NO EARRINGS, JEWELRY, OR METAL HAIR WARE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

V. REFEREES

- A. Coaches on the field shall act as referees. Their decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. They shall verbally explain the infraction called to the offending player. **ABUSE OF COACHES/REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

VI. THE START OF THE GAME

- A. The home team shall decide which goal it will attack. The visiting team shall kickoff. The kickoff shall take place from the goal box line (five yard line). Opponents must be six yards from the goal box line when the kickoff is in progress. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

VII. METHOD OF SCORING

- A. The whole of the ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in, carried into the goal, or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm into the goal.

VIII. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- A. The whole of the ball must cross either the goal lines (end line) or the touch lines (sidelines). The ball is also out of play whenever the referee deems and blows his/her whistle to stop play.

IX. FREE KICKS

- A. All free kicks shall be INDIRECT free kicks. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick. Another participant must play the ball before it enters the goal. The ball does not have to be played by a member of the same team. **THERE WILL BE NO PENALTY KICKS.** All free kicks in the penalty area shall be indirect. **A KICK OFF IS AN INDIRECT FREE KICK.**

X. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- A. Conform to FIFA Laws. All fouls are awarded an INDIRECT FREE KICK. Opponents must be at least six yards away from the ball. The referee must explain ALL infractions to the offending player and his/her coach. The Head Referee has copies of the FIFA Fouls and Misconduct. Copies can be made available to coaches and/or parents.

XI. OFFSIDES

- A. The offside rule will not be enforced at this age level.

XII. KICK-IN (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the touch line, the game shall be restarted with a kick-in (dribble-in) from the spot nearest where the ball left the field of play.

XIII. GOAL KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A, When the ball crosses the goal line and was last played by an attacker, the defending team shall restart the game by taking a kick (dribble-in) on the goal line nearest to where the ball left the field of play.

XIV. CORNER KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the goal line and was last played by a defender, the attacking team shall restart the game by taking a corner kick (dribble-in) at the intersection of the goal line and touch line.

XV. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Players are encouraged to shake hands with opponents before the game. No scores are kept. Every game ends in a tie. No league standings are kept. Publicity of the game and results are strongly discouraged.

XVI. FOUR GOAL LEAD RULE

- A. When a team is losing a game by four or more goals, the losing team's coach has the discretion to add an additional player on the field. The additional player may continue to play until such time as the difference in score is three goals. **COACHES**

ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO RUN UP THE SCORE (SEE PEE WEE SOCCER POLICY). The coach of a team who is winning by five goals or more should consider imposing restrictions on his players, which will allow the players to improve different skills during the game, such as: players may only score after three consecutive passes, may only score with player's weak foot, may only shoot after all of the team's players have handled the ball, or only player X may score. Use your imagination.

XVII. NO SMOKING POLICY

- A. Smoking is prohibited on or around the playing fields at all times.

THE GAME IS FOR THE CHILDREN. LET THEM LEARN AND PLAY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY. LET THEM HAVE FUN!!!

DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS: U7

I. THE FIELD OF PLAY

A. FIELD DIMENSIONS:

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not being more than 55 yards nor less than 35 yards. Field width will be no more than 35 yards nor less than 25 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

B. MARKINGS:

Distinctive lines shall outline the field of play. Lines shall be two to five inches wide. The goal area shall be five yards from the goal line and from touch line to touch line (across entire field).

C. SPECTATOR VIEWING:

Spectators are welcome to enjoy the game from the bleachers or bring their own chairs that may be placed no closer than two yards from the touch line (side line). Spectators should sit between the goal box lines extended, not behind the goal line, the goals, or the corners. Spectators may NOT stand on the sideline and “coach” the players on the field. That is the job of the coach.

D. COACHES:

NO coaches are permitted on the field when play is in progress. Coaches are permitted to coach the players from the sidelines between the goal box lines extended.

II. THE BALL

A. The ball used will be a size four (4) ball.

III. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. The maximum number of players on a team roster shall be eight.

B. The maximum number of players on the field at one time shall be six (unless Rule XVI applies). The minimum number of players shall be four. **ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE A GOALKEEPER.**

C. Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may take place by either team before a kick-in or goal kick, and after goals or quarter breaks. Substitutions for injured players can occur after the referee has stopped play. **ALL SUBSTITUTIONS NEED THE REFEREE’S PERMISSION WHEN THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS.** Substitutions during breaks in the quarters require no permission.

- D. PLAYING TIME shall consist of four twelve minute quarters. There shall be breaks of two minutes between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime. **EACH PLAYER SHALL PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE TOTAL PLAYING TIME.**

IV. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- A. Each player will receive a uniform. Each player must wear a Club issued uniform. **NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT A UNIFORM.**
- B. **SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT SHINGUARDS.** THE SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AGAINST THE SKIN, COMPLETELY COVERED BY THE SOCCER SOCKS. Soccer cleats are recommended, but are not required. A participant may play in tennis shoes.
- C. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or to the other participants. **NO EARRINGS, JEWELRY, OR METAL HAIR WARE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

V. REFEREES

- A. Referees shall be provided whenever possible. Their decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. They shall verbally explain the infraction called to the offending player. If no referee is available, the coaches should continue the game by designating a substitute referee. **ABUSE OF COACHES/REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

VI. THE START OF THE GAME

- A. The home team shall decide which goal it will attack. The visiting team shall kickoff. The kickoff shall take place at the center of the field. Opponents must be a minimum eight yards from the center mark until the ball is played. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

VII. METHOD OF SCORING

- A. The whole of the ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in, carried into the goal, or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm into the goal.

VIII. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- A. The whole of the ball must cross either the goal lines (end line) or the touch lines (sidelines). The ball is also out of play whenever the referee deems and blows his/her whistle to stop play.

IX. FREE KICKS

- A. All free kicks shall be INDIRECT free kicks. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick. Another participant must play the ball before it enters the goal. The ball does not have to be played by a member of the same team. THERE WILL BE NO PENALTY KICKS. All free kicks in the penalty area shall be indirect. **A KICK OFF IS AN INDIRECT FREE KICK.**

X. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- A. Conform to FIFA Laws. All fouls are awarded an INDIRECT FREE KICK. Opponents must be at least six yards away from the ball. The referee must explain ALL infractions to the offending player and his/her coach. The Head Referee has copies of the FIFA Fouls and Misconduct. Copies can be made available to coaches and/or parents.

XI. OFFSIDES

- A. The offside rule will not be enforced at this age level.

XII. KICK-IN (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the touchline, the game shall be restarted with a kick-in (dribble-in) from the spot nearest where the ball left the field of play.

XIII. CORNER KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the goal line and was last played by a defender, the attacking team shall restart the game by taking a corner kick (dribble-in) at the intersection of the goal line and touchline.

XIV. GOAL KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the goal line and was last played by an attacker, the defending team shall restart the game by taking a kick (dribble-in) from within the goal box (six yard box). Opponents must be a minimum of six yards from the ball and are not allowed inside the goal box.

XV. GOALKEEPER:

- A. The goalkeeper may handle any ball that has been played to him/her by a teammate and/or opponent. The goalkeeper shall have a maximum of six seconds to play the ball by punting, throwing, or dribbling the ball. The goalkeeper must play the ball before leaving the goal box (six yard box). PENALTY: An indirect kick for the attacking team.

XVI. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Players are encouraged to shake hands with opponents before the game. No scores are kept. Every game ends in a tie. No league standings are kept. Publicity of the game and results are strongly discouraged.

XVII. FOUR GOAL LEAD RULE

- A. When a team is losing a game by four or more goals, the losing team's coach has the discretion to add an additional player on the field. The additional player may continue to play until such time as the difference in score is three goals. **COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO RUN UP THE SCORE (SEE PEE WEE SOCCER POLICY).** The coach of a team who is winning by five goals or more should consider imposing restrictions on his players, which will allow the players to improve different skills during the game, such as: players may only score after three consecutive passes, may only score with player's weak foot, may only shoot after all of the team's players have handled the ball, or only player X may score. Use your imagination.

XVIII. NO SMOKING POLICY

- A. Smoking is prohibited on or around the playing fields at all times.

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DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS: U8

I. THE FIELD OF PLAY

A. FIELD DIMENSIONS

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not being more than 80 yards nor less than 60 yards. Field width will be no more than 50 yards nor less than 30 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

B. MARKINGS

Distinctive lines shall outline the field of play. Lines shall be 2-5 inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle shall exist with an eight yard radius. The goal area shall be six yards from each post and six yards into the field of play and be joined by a line parallel to the goal line.

C. SPECTATOR VIEWING

Spectators are welcome to enjoy the game from the bleachers, or bring their own chairs that may be placed no closer than two yards from the touch line (side line). Spectators should sit between the penalty areas, not behind the goal line, the goals or the corners. Spectators may NOT stand on the side lines and “coach” the players on the field. That is the job of the coach.

D. COACHES

NO coaches are permitted on the field when play is in progress. Coaches are NOT permitted in the goal areas while play is in progress. Coaches may NOT physically direct their players. Coaching is limited to the area between the penalty areas.

II. THE BALL

The ball used will be a size four (4) ball.

III. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. The maximum number of players on a team roster shall be nine. The maximum number of players on the field at one time shall be six (unless Rule XVI applies). The minimum number of players shall be four. **ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE A GOALKEEPER.**

B. Substitutions shall be unlimited and shall take place when: your team is in possession of the throw in, by either team before a goal kick, by either team after goals and during breaks in the quarters. All substitutions both on and off the field will be done at the half-way line. Substitutions for injured players can occur after the referee has stopped play. **ALL**

SUBSTITUTIONS NEED THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION WHEN THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS. Substitutions during breaks in the quarters require no permission.

- C. PLAYING TIME shall consist of two 25 minute halves. There shall be a break of five minute at halftime. **EACH PLAYER MUST PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST HALF OF EVERY GAME.**

IV. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Each player will receive a uniform. **SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT SHINGUARDS.** THE SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AGAINST THE SKIN, COMPLETELY COVERED BY THE SOCCER SOCKS. Soccer cleats are recommended, but are not required. A participant may play in tennis shoes. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or to the other participants. **NO EARRINGS, JEWELRY OR METAL HAIR WARE.**

V. REFEREES

Referees shall be provided whenever possible. Their decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. They shall verbally explain the infraction called to the offending player. If no referee is available, the coaches should continue the game by designating a substitute referee. **ABUSE OF REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

VI. THE START OF THE GAME

The team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack. The other team takes the kickoff. Opponents must be 8 yards from the center mark when the place kick (kick off) is in progress. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

VII. METHOD OF SCORING

The whole of the ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in, carried into the goal or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm into the goal.

VIII. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The whole of the ball must cross either the goal lines (end line) or the touch lines (side lines). The ball is also out of play whenever the referee deems and blows his/her whistle to stop play.

IX. FREE KICKS

All free kicks shall be INDIRECT free kicks. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick. It must be played by a participant. The ball does not have to be played by a member of the same team. THERE WILL BE NO PENALTY KICKS. All free kicks in the penalty area shall be indirect. A KICK OFF IS AN INDIRECT FREE KICK.

X. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Conform to FIFA Laws. All fouls are awarded an INDIRECT FREE KICK. Opponents must be at least six yards away from the ball. The referee must explain ALL infractions to the offending player and his/her coach. The Head Referee has copies of the FIFA Fouls and Misconduct. Copies can be made available to coaches and/or parents.

XI. THROW IN

Must conform to FIFA Laws. If a foul throw occurs, the player is allowed to re-throw the ball. The referee will explain the proper technique to the player after a foul throw.

XII. GOAL KICKS AND GOALKEEPERS

Must conform to FIFA Laws. The goal kick may be from any point inside of the goal area. Opponents must be at least six yards from the ball and are not allowed inside of the penalty area. Goalkeepers have six (6) seconds to distribute the ball. The goalkeeper may not pick up a ball passed to him/her from a teammate. Picking up the ball in this manner results in an indirect free kick for the other team.

XIII. CORNER KICK

Must conform to FIFA Laws. May be taken from any point inside of the one yard arc. The defending team must be at least six yards from the ball.

XIV. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Players are encouraged to shake hands with opponents before the game. No scores are kept. Every game ends in a tie. No league standings are kept. Publicity of the game and results are strongly discouraged.

XV. FOUR GOAL LEAD RULE

When a team is losing a game by four or more goals, the losing team's coach has the discretion to add an additional player on the field. The additional player may continue to play until such time as the difference in score is three goals.

COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO RUN UP THE SCORE. The coach of a team who is winning by five goals or more should consider imposing restrictions on his players, which will allow the players to improve different skills during the game, such as: players may only score after three consecutive passes, may only score with player's weak foot, may only shoot after all of the team's players have handled the ball, or only player X may score. Use your imagination.

XVI. NO SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is prohibited on or around the playing fields at all times.

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GENERAL POLICIES

1. All fund raising is the sole responsibility of the Executive Board and all funds raised shall be placed in the "General Fund" of the Club.
2. Registration refund policy. Registration refunds will be granted as follows:
 - A) In full only if a team is disbanded by the Club.
 - B) A \$10 service fee will be assessed for any other reason as long as a refund is requested, in writing, prior to the first scheduled game.
 - C) No refunds will be given to a player who pre-registers for both seasons and only plays in the fall season. Refunds may be given at the discretion of the Executive Board, if requested.

TEAM AFFILIATIONS

1. Any team playing soccer, which is not a registered team with the Western Suburban Soccer League, shall be defined as an affiliated team.
2. Any team requesting recognition by the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club as an affiliated team must submit an application for affiliation to the Executive Board of the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club.
3. A team requesting affiliation and upon acceptance by the Executive Board of the DHSC, an affiliation agreement shall be signed by the team coach and DHSC. The agreement will include 3 parts.
 - A) Conditions to be met by the DHSC.
 - B) Conditions to be met by the affiliated team.
 - C) Terms for discontinuing the agreement.

4. Conditions to be met by the DHSC:
 - A) The DHSC shall allow the affiliated team to use DHSC as a Club for registration purposes, and to obtain player insurance.
 - B) The DHSC shall allow the affiliated team to use the soccer fields assigned to DHSC for scheduled games and practices.
 - C) The DHSC will allow use of the soccer fields for scrimmages only on Fridays or on Saturdays and Sundays after regularly scheduled league games. Scrimmages must have prior approval of the Field Scheduler.
 - D) The DHSC will allow the use of the Club's field equipment, including nets and corner flags.
5. Conditions to be met by the affiliated team:
 - A) All expenditures for registrations with Organizations and the cost of insurance shall be reimbursed by the team.
 - B) The care and maintenance of the DHSC soccer fields shall be shared by the affiliated team, to the same extent as a team registered with the DHSC.
 - C) Any affiliated team using the field equipment of the DHSC shall be responsible for the proper care of the equipment. Any damaged equipment, other than normal wear, shall be replaced by the team.
 - D) In exchange for the use of the DHSC name, fields and equipment, the affiliated team will participate in any and all fund raising activities conducted by the DHSC.
6. Termination of the affiliation agreement:
 - A) The affiliation agreement may be terminated by the DHSC or by the affiliated team. The termination shall be agreed to and signed by both parties (2 Executive Board members and the Coach of the team).
 - B) All termination requests shall be negotiable with the exception of the non-participation in DHSC fun raising activities. **FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BY THE DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB.**

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY

- 1) Under no circumstances is any child, including players or referees, to be left alone at the soccer fields after practices, scrimmages, games, or any other event where children have gathered under the auspices of the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure every child leaves the field with a parent or another adult known to that child.

Effective July 7, 1998

BAD WEATHER POLICY

1. Soccer is a game played in all weather except **LIGHTNING**.
2. Pee Wee:
 - a. At the first sight of lightning, the game will be terminated at that point in time.
 - b. The Dearborn Heights Soccer Club (DHSC) Board reserves the right to cancel any game or group of games due to the weather and/or field conditions. If the coach does not hear from a Board member about the status of the game, show up at the field ready to play.
 - c. Since the score and records are not kept for Pee Wee, the game will not be rescheduled. Coaches may reschedule a game at a mutually agreed upon time, but a referee will not be supplied by the club. Either one of the coaches or another parent shall referee the game. Do not call the scheduler to reschedule a game. Do contact the scheduler if a game will be cancelled in advance so that the referee can be notified.
3. Travel:
 - a. At the first sight of lightning, the game will be terminated at that point in time. If the game is the last game of the day, the referees may be asked to wait for a half hour to see if a restart is possible. The game will only be restarted if there has been no lightning for at least **15 (20, 25, or 30)** minutes.
 - b. The DHSC Board reserves the right to cancel any game or group of games due to the weather and/or field conditions. If the coach does not hear from a Board member about the status of the game, show up at the field ready to play.
 - c. If the game is terminated because of lightning or field conditions, make sure the referee fills out the game report with when and why the game was abandoned. This includes: score, time and half game was abandoned, referees names, coaches' signatures, etc. The home coach is responsible for sending the game report to the appropriate scorekeeper.
 - d. Western Suburban Soccer League shall apply to abandoned games. If abandoned in the first half, game is considered void and to be rescheduled. If abandoned in the second half, game is considered complete and the score stands as is.
 - e. To reschedule games, contact the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club Field Scheduler with three possible dates for rescheduling the game.

Date: April 12, 2002

REFEREE CERTIFICATION REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

1. The referee certification fees vary from year to year. The Board will provide the current certification fee upon written or verbal request.
2. The Dearborn Heights Soccer Club (DHSC) will reimburse referee certification fees if the referee works a minimum of five travel, U8, and/or U7 games. The DHSC will use less experienced certified referees for U8 and U7 games, when possible.
3. To insure that the referee is currently certified, the referee shall submit a copy of their referee certification card and/or certification application to the Travel Field and Referee Scheduler.
4. For reimbursement of the referee certification fee, the referee must submit a copy of the renewed certificate of the amount paid. The Club will only reimburse the actual certification fee.
5. Deadline for the referee re-certification shall be March 1st of the current year. All Referees should be prepared to present an up to date certificate to the club upon request before they can be registered to referee any games. If the referee fails to submit one of these, reimbursement will not occur.
6. If the referee works for other soccer clubs that reimburse referee certification fees, the DHSC shall reimburse an equal portion the fee. Example: The referee works for two clubs, the DHSC will reimburse 50% of the referee certification fees. The Travel Field and Referee Scheduler shall coordinate with other soccer clubs, which referees work for multiple clubs.

Date: August , 2010

REFEREE NO TOLERANCE POLICY

1. The first offense for when a coach/fan verbally abuses a referee, the referee will be instructed to stop the game and talk to the coach. The referee will inform the coach that the game will not continue until the coach/fan is under control. The verbal abuse will make the referee uncomfortable and they will be unable to perform their duties to officiate the game.
2. The second offense of verbal abuse, the referee will be instructed to terminate the game at that point and fill out the game report stating why the game was terminated.
3. The referee will report the verbal abuse to the Dearborn Heights Soccer Club Board (DHSC). Disciplinary actions will follow, as necessary.
4. In travel, if the abuse is from the visiting team, the referee will ask the DHSC coach for help approaching the head coach of the visiting team to correct the problem.
5. The DHSC coach and staff are responsible for their behavior and the behavior of their fans. Remember, most of the Club's referees are children and should be treated with the same respect of an adult.

Pee-Wee Policy of Fair Play

- 1) **No team will at any point during a game be more than 5 goals ahead of another team. You may not score another goal until the other team scores first. This may mean you have to let them score. You can do this by telling your defense not to be so aggressive.**

- 2) **Any coach who does not believe they can stop their players from scoring additional goals should immediately contact any of the Board members who will provide a mentor for your practice to show you how it's done.**

- 3) **Some helpful suggestions include:**
 - **Work on other skills - for example, tell them they must pass the ball to two other teammates within the 18 yd. line before they can score; or they can only score with their non-dominant foot; or they can only score a goal if every player on your team touches the ball first starting with your goalie.** Referees will be instructed that the goal does not count and will be taken as a goal kick if your team scores before the opposing team does. **Be creative in your rules. Make a game out of it for your team.**

 - **Rotate your stronger players off the field more often, and play them in positions where they need to improve their skills. Teach them to hold that position. This age group tends to play "bumblebee" soccer - i.e. chasing the ball all over the field in a swarm.**

 - **Stronger players obviously dominate. They sometimes take the ball from their own teammates and/or the weaker players don't go for the ball if the stronger ones do. Tell them they must pass to a teammate. Make it clear that's all they can do. We're not asking them not to play. We are asking them to be less aggressive, and to be a team player.** Remember, this is only after these players have had their chance to shine and your team is ahead.

 - **The coach sets the tone. If you are negative, the parents and players will pick up on this. Your challenge is to teach them all the skills necessary to play soccer, which involves more than just scoring goals. Teamwork, good sportsmanship, honor, and fairness are some of those skills. Don't come across to the team that they are being punished or "holding back" because they are winning. Tell them "Ok, we've scored a few goals, and that was easy. Now show me just how great a soccer player you are. Won't it be fun if we try using only our left foot (or right foot if the left foot is dominant)?" Or, "Susie hasn't scored any goals yet this season. Everybody needs to help her to score, even if you can take the shot on goal don't, because she needs the help of her teammates, and we want her to know how good it feels to score a goal."**

 - Parents need to support the coach by reflecting the same attitude.

- 4) In a situation where one team does not have enough players to start the game, the opposing team will designate some of its players to play for the team with fewer players so that there is an equal number on each side. If an odd number exists, the team giving up players may keep the extra one. Again, this is a scrimmage. Have those players now playing for the opposing team flip their shirt over. The alternative is the team with fewer players' forfeits, and nobody gets to play. **Your team divides up and scrimmages each other in practice, this isn't any different.** Let the kids play. The coach should not ask for volunteers (most kids won't volunteer, and they expect direction from their coach at this age). Make sure the ones that are chosen know that they were chosen because they are leaders, and now they have a chance to really show everyone just how great a player they can be. It's their turn to "coach" by setting an example for the other players.
- 5) The intent is not to "punish" strong players or strong teams because they play well. They are being taught not to punish other players by stomping them with ridiculous, overblown scores.
- 6) Every player should still play 50% of every game to the best of their abilities. **We do not wish to take away the fun from these players either.** We do want them to expand on those abilities and skills. They will be learning self-control, teamwork, and that being a winner means allowing your opponent to lose with dignity. Let them shine and score a goal or two, then have them stand down and be good sports.

Effective May, 2002

Coach's Responsibilities/Code of Ethics

- ✓ **I agree to attend mandatory coach's meetings(Proposal coaches training session)twice a year once during or before the Spring season and once during or before the Fall season in order to receive my coaches player refund**
- ✓ **I agree to comply with Risk Management.** All of our coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and the Executive Board, must have been screened by the MSYSA risk management committee. This is to ensure that all of our children are safe.
- ✓ **I agree to abide by the WSSL rule regarding the poaching of other players inside and outside the Club. Reference WSSL By Laws regarding this rule.**
http://www.wsslsoccer.org/WSSL_Laws_Fall2010.pdf
- ✓ **I agree to schedule team practices.** The days and times of practices are at the discretion of the coach. For pee-wee players, practices typically are twice a week beginning 3-4 weeks prior to the beginning of the season for one hour. Once the season starts, practices may be reduced to once a week, with a game once a week depending on the needs of the team.
- ✓ **I agree to learn the Club and WSSL rules of play for your team's age group and abide by them.**
- ✓ **I agree to use the information the club provides me with to assist in coaching the players.** Every coach should visit the coach's resources link on the DHSC website. Please utilize this information to better assist you in learning the game and teaching your team. <http://www.dhsoccer.org/coaches/coach%20resources.htm>
- ✓ **I agree to involve the parents of my players. You don't have to do this alone, so ask for volunteers.** Many parents want to help; they just don't know what might be needed of them.
- ✓ **I agree to attend and coach all games.** In the rare event that you cannot coach a game, you're Assistant Coach / Team Manager must be available to coach. Because of Risk Management compliance these are the only other parents authorized to coach a game for you. All other parents shall remain sitting or standing in the designated cheering section between the penalty areas or within the designated areas They will not stand or walk along the sidelines or behind the goal and coach the players.
- ✓ **I agree to coordinate my team's attendance to any banquet held in the Fall Season and any picnic held in the Spring Season.**

- ✓ **I agree to arrange attendance of my team for team pictures in the Spring Season.**
- ✓ **I agree to pick up trophies and distribute them to my team at the end of the season.**
- ✓ **I agree to be supportive of our referees, and abide by our “Zero Tolerance” policy of referee abuse.** Any coach, parent, child, or other attendee at any of our soccer games who yells at or otherwise verbally abuses one of our referee’s is no longer welcome as a member of our Club.
- ✓ **I agree to delegate to my Assistant Coach and Manager.**
- ✓ **If applicable I agree to abide by and enforce the PeeWee Fairness Policy, effective May, 2002.**
- ✓ I agree to remember that players participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- ✓ I agree never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or not winning.
- ✓ I agree to be reasonable in my demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- ✓ I agree to operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach my players to do the same.
- ✓ I agree to ensure that the time players spend with me is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- ✓ I agree to avoid overplaying talented players. All players deserve equal playing and training time, regardless of their ability.
- ✓ I agree to display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with soccer. This includes, but is not limited to, opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. I will encourage my players to do the same.
- ✓ I agree to show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to practice or play.
- ✓ I agree to keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young players.
- ✓ I understand that any physical contact with a player should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's development.
- ✓ I agree to respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- ✓ I believe that my role as a coach is to contribute to the overall success, physical, and athletic growth of the player through participation in soccer.
- ✓ Endeavor to be a good instructor and a positive role model for my players.
- ✓ I agree to remember that my behavior brings credit to myself, the DHSC and the sport of soccer.
- ✓ Believe that referees, just as coaches and players, are attempting to do their best.
- ✓ I understand that my attitude can influence the players, coaches and spectators.

- ✓ I agree to demand a sports environment for my players that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- ✓

Effective August, 2010

Coaches Resolution Committee Policy

The following policy will be immediately implemented:

- 1) The Coaches Resolution Committee (CRC) will consist of at least 3 members, with the DHSC Vice President chairing the committee. The CRC members must be either DHSC coaches, parents, or Executive Board members. Non-DHSC members (WSSL or other soccer club representatives) will not be allowed to participate in the CRC meetings but can be used as a consultant as needed.
- 2) Any parent, player, referee, or any other concerned individual will be required to put into writing (email or letter) their concern with any DHSC Coach. The coach will not harass or impede the concerned person from bringing their issue firstly to any DHSC Executive Board member and then to the CRC members. If no written documentation is available but more than one concerned person contacts a CRC member, then that verbal evidence will be used in place of documentation. {If the concern involves a CRC member, then the concerned person may go directly to another DHSC Executive Board member with their concern}.
- 3) Once the CRC members have received the concern in writing, they will convene within 72 hours to make a decision concerning the behavior of the DHSC coach in question
- 4) Any coach who has been brought forth to the CRC will be allowed to give their side of the story, and any supporting documentation (or supportive parent or asst. coach) will be allowed during a CRC meeting. Any coach who refutes the concern brought to the attention of the CRC must respond immediately in writing.
- 5) Any DHSC coach found in clear violation of a DHSC, WSSL, or other lawful soccer rule (and substantiated in writing within 24 hours) will immediately be contacted by a CRC member and asked to sit out at least one game until the CRC decides what punishment will be imposed on the DHSC coach.
- 6) If an issue exists (that is communicated within 72 hours of the incident to either the President or Vice President) between a DHSC coach and another team or organization, the DHSC coach will be asked to sit out one game until the issue is resolved. Example is a referee giving a Red Card to a DHSC coach and documenting it onto the game report. Given that the report will go to WSSL, the game report will be seen as evidence that an issue existed and requires CRC involvement.
- 7) Once the punishment has been decided upon by the CRC, the affected coach will receive in writing within 72 hours. They must respond verbally or in writing to the letter directly to any CRC member as early as possible or by the next season.
- 8) Even if there was no punishment imposed by the CRC, any affected coach will receive a written letter acknowledging that an issue was brought forth to the CRC at the end of the season.
- 9) If the affected coach does not abide by the CRC's decision, they will not be allowed to be Head or Assistant Coach on any team's roster within DHSC. Attempting to take their child out of a DHSC team will not constitute enough reason for a refund of

DHSC registration costs, and if the affected coach attempts to disband their team, the Registrars will not refund monies to the players' families.

10) Once the coach has been removed, the CRC will contact the team parents within 72 hours about their decision to remove their coach from their team, but will not impede the former coach from participating in practices or games as a spectator.

11) Each DHSC Executive Board members will receive a copy of the CRC letter outlining the decision by no later than the end of the season. Master copy will be maintained for at least 3 years.

The coach sets the tone of the team. If there is poor behavior on the part of the coach, then the players and parents will deem the behavior as commonplace and may not view it as a violation or as a possible safety issue (eg. Playing without proper attire). The challenge that all coaches have is to teach as many skills as necessary to play soccer, and that includes good Sportsmanship.

Every player will be treated fairly, as well as their family members, by the DHSC coaching staff. The CRC does not wish to take away any freedom from the coach and will support any DHSC coach who has been wrongfully accused by a concerned person. Soccer is all about fun, for both the coaches and the players. The CRC will ensure that breaking rules or being "a poor sport" on the part of the coach will NOT become a trend within the DH Soccer Club.

Effective March, 2004

NEW REGISTRATION POLICY

1) Registration will begin twelve (12) weeks prior and end six (6) weeks prior to the first scheduled game. This date will coincide with the WSSL/MSYSA deadline for registration of teams/players.

2) The Referee and Field Scheduler will be provided with a list of teams in each age group including the name of the team and the coach's name no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the first scheduled game. The Travel Registrar and the Peewee Registrar will each provide this information for their respective teams. No teams may be added after this date.

3) The Field and Equipment Manager will be provided with a list of players by name, by team, and by size for every player requiring a uniform for the current session no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the first scheduled game for those players registered at that time. Failure to do so may result in players not having a uniform, and thus be unable to play.

* Note - the board may wish to authorize the Field and Equipment Manager to "stock" additional uniforms in the event that players are added under late registration. This will be difficult and costly as the Manager has no way of anticipating which sizes will be required, and travel uniforms for boys and girls are also different. We currently change uniforms each fall, so costs for stocked uniforms left over in the spring will not be recouped.

4) The Travel Registrar and the Peewee Registrar may continue to add players to existing teams after the deadline of six (6) weeks prior to the first game under the following conditions only:

a) An existing team does not have the minimum number of players required to play and adding players will allow that team to continue. This does not include adding players to teams that do meet the minimum requirement, but have open spots. The intent is not to encourage late registration.

b) A \$35 fee will be collected by the registrar for any late additions of players. \$25 will be forwarded to MSYSA, and \$10 will be retained by the DHSC.

c) The Field and Equipment Manager will be immediately notified of any players added to existing teams in an attempt to provide a uniform for these players by the first game. Parents and coaches will be notified that their child will not be authorized to play until they have a uniform, and thus may not be able to play the entire session. Violations of this policy by coaches who attempt to allow these players to play without the appropriate uniform may result in penalties to the DHSC, and will not be tolerated.

d) No players will be added to any team after the final DHSC deadline of four (4) weeks prior to the first scheduled game by either the Travel or Peewee Registrars. The Treasurer will not process any registration checks after this date.

Effective October, 2003