DUNELAND SOCCER CLUB

# **U-8 RULES**

REVISED Aug 2017

**The Game**

* **Equipment** – ball size #3; gym shoes or soft cleats (no toe cleats) may be worn; all players must wear socks that cover their shin guards. No child may play without shin guards.
* **Number of players** – 6 vs 6, one of which will be a goalie. The goalie must wear a jersey color different from field players.
* **Set up** – Head and Assistant Coaches plus team are on sideline with benches. All parents must remain on opposite sideline for duration of game. Neither coaches or parents are permitted to stand or coach on either goal line.
* **Referee** – Supplied and paid by DSC. Referees are generally middle or high school kids. If you disagree with a call, please talk to them at a break in play. Do not yell at them.
* **Duration of Game** – four (4) ten (10) minute quarters with 2-minute quarter break, 5-minute half time. Referee will keep the official time. The Referee may at his/her discretion shorten the game due to weather conditions or to allow the next scheduled game to start on time.
* **Playing Time** – All players should be given approximately equal time on the field; avoid giving stronger players more playing time. Rotate players into all positions – offense, defense and goalie – and give every player a chance to be a starter in several games.
* **Throw-ins** – Balls that go out-of-bounds will be restarted by throw-ins. A player will be given a second chance if an improper throw-in occurs on the first attempt.
* **Offside** – There will be no offside calls, however, “Cherry Picking” (hanging out by the other team’s goal) will not be allowed.
* **Rough Play** – Slide tackling, pushing, bumping and rough play are not permitted. Referee will stop play.
* **Penalty Kicks** – There will be no penalty kicks.
* **Free Kicks** – All free kicks are indirect which means the ball must touch another player on the kicking team before it can go in the goal.
* **Goal Kicks** – May be taken from any point in the goal area. Opponents must be at least 6 yards away from the goal area.
* **Corner Kicks** – Opponents must be at least 5 yards away from the ball.
* **Heading** – There can be no intentional heading. Do not teach heading or allow this in a game.
* **Substitutions** – Substitutions can only take place when referee has stopped play.
* **Game Cancellations** – Assume you are playing unless you have talked to the other Coach and have agreed to cancel. If you cancel, you must contact the Referee Assignor, Peggy Todd, by phone or text so she can notify the Referee. The Club will notify the Coaches if the Dogwood fields are closed due to poor field conditions. If you want to reschedule a cancelled game during a weeknight, you must contact the Club for field availability.
* Coaches are not permitted on the field of play unless motioned on by the Referee or for an injury. Stay on your half of the sideline and do not cross midfield line.
* If you are concerned about rough play or other on-field behavior, at a break in play point out what you are seeing to the referee or other coach and ask them to watch for it. DO NOT yell at the player, the Coach or the Referee!

**Head Coach Responsibilities**

* Hold a parent meeting at your first practice. Communicate practice times and provide a snack schedule and game schedule to all parents. Determine how you will communicate through the season, e.g., text, phone, email. Let parents know how they can help you throughout the season, e.g., “team mom.”
* Identify an Assistant Coach who can run practice or coach a game when you are not available. We do not reschedule games because a Head Coach can’t make a game.
* Help us maintain the fields and goals at Dogwood. Don’t let players climb in the nets or hang from the goals. Pick up all trash after the game.
* Manage the game! Work with the other Coach to keep the game fair and fun for all players. One team dominating the other can lead to bad feelings for the players and parents. Switch your line-ups, add or remove a player or require players to pass or shoot with the opposite foot to reduce scoring for a dominant team.
* Set a positive example. This is an instructional league with the purpose of introducing the basics of soccer to the kids. We don’t want the focus to be on winning/losing, but making sure the kids have a fun and positive experience. Please remind your parents to be positive and not criticize the play of any player on either team, the referee or the coaches! Parents should not be yelling instructions to players from their sideline. Contact one of the Board members if the behavior of a parent or another Coach is not consistent with this philosophy.