



Swift Current Soccer Association

P.O. Box 2132, Swift Current, Sask. S9H 4V1
Website: www.swiftcurrentsoccer.com



INFORMATION FOR COACHES **Outdoor**

General Introduction

The guiding principles for soccer in Swift Current are to make fun, simple, suitable for the size of the children, and to encourage maximum participation.

To this end the following principles should be adapted by the coach:

- All players should be encouraged to play all positions, including goal keeper, to allow development of all-round soccer skills.
- All players should play as close to equal time as is practical
- All players must be taught to respect the decisions of the referee and to refrain from questioning or arguing with them. All coaches must also respect the decisions of the referee and must refrain from questioning or arguing with them.
- For players under 8, no game results or statistics are kept during regular season. The intention of this is to minimize the possible undesirable effect of the overly competitive situation on the younger player.

Soccer Law Books

Children under 10 play variations on the standard game of soccer, suitable to their age group. Swift Current Soccer provides law books for these age groups to the coaches and assistants. Older children play according to FIFA laws. A simplified law book will be prepared for inexperienced coaches in these older age groups if needed.

Coaches Responsibilities

Coaches must be willing to take a RCMP check if requested by the Association.

Coaches are representing their team and the Association and so must conduct themselves as a professional in their approach to other coaches, referees, players and parents.

Team Equipment

Game sheets are used in the U10 Division and above to track participation, referees and where applicable results. The home team (team first listed on the schedule) is responsible for providing the game sheet at the field.

As game sheets must be filled out by both coaches and handed to the referee before the start of the game. You might consider filling out the team list ahead of time, preferably in the order of the shirt numbers.

Both teams should provide a game ball and, where they are not provided at the field, two corner flags.

Coaches in the U12 Division and above are advised to select a manager from among the parents to look after the keys to the equipment sheds and to organize putting up and taking down the goal nets.

Coaches are responsible for all soccer shirts, balls, and other equipment issued by the Association. The best way to avoid losing balls is to collect and count the balls after warm-up and before the game starts. Do not allow children, especially non-team members, to play with the balls away from the bench area during the game.

At the end of the season, for age group 4 year olds, 5 year olds and U8, coaches must return cones and balls to the Soccer Office during the times listed:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
4 Year Olds			
5 Year Olds			
U8 Year Old			
U10 Year Old			
U12 Year Old			
U14 Year Old			
U16 Year Old			
U18 Year Old			
Seniors			

Game Cancellations or Postponement

Soccer is played in the rain. Teams are expected to turn up for games regardless of the weather. Failure to turn up will result in a game default. In Divisions where referees are used, only the referee can cancel or postpone a game. In U8 and younger groups, **both** coaches must agree to cancel. In cases of extreme weather the Association will cancel all soccer in the city and announce it at schools and over the radio.

Coaches and Parents Conduct Towards the Referee

This year, as in previous years, Swift Current Soccer will be using new and inexperienced referees in the U10 Division and older. These referees are still learning, they will be nervous, and they will make mistakes. However, they will be trying to be fair and unbiased. As in the past, please be tolerant, particularly with the young referees and ask parents of your players to be patient and tolerant also. We don't want to lose a young referee because of verbal abuse from the adult coaches and parents. **Before you shout at the referee, consider whether you would like some adult to speak to YOUR child in that manner.**

If the referee has handled the game badly, please do not try to discuss the problems with the referee afterward. Instead, contact your Division Coordinator. A Referee Assessor will discuss the game with the referee after things have cooled down. An experienced referee will also go to the next game to help sort out any problems the referee might be having.

Substituting Players During a Game

For players U8, substitution is unlimited and at the discretion of the coach.

For Divisions, which have referees, the **only** person that can decide whether to allow a substitution is the referee. Substitution can only be made after the referee has given **explicit** permission. Substitutions without a referee's permission are liable to result in **cautions** (yellow card). In general, substitutions are made from the center line, at a stoppage in play, where that team has possession of the ball. Usually, when the game is stopped to allow a substitution, the other team may substitute also.