

Revolution
Missouri City United Soccer Association
(MCUSA)

COACHES HANDBOOK
U6/U8 – In House Program
HOTLINE: 281-403-2200
www.missouricitysoccer.com

MCUSA Club Philosophy

MCUSA's top priority is to ensure that all of our children have fun learning the game of soccer in a safe, fun, and challenging environment. Through the use of fun and challenging activities, our coaches focus on teaching players sound soccer skills, while focusing on teamwork, sportsmanship, and team spirit.

MCUSA requires that all players play a minimum of 50% of every game. In order for our players to have fun playing soccer while continuing to develop their soccer skills, we encourage coaches to allow players to play every position.

MCUSA coaches are offered opportunities to take club sponsored coaching education and licensing courses. These courses are of great benefit to the coaches and players alike.

MCUSA has a zero tolerance policy towards verbal abuse of any player, coach, league official, committee member, or parent. Such conduct should be reported to the referee, coach, or board member. Any of these individuals has the right to ask the policy violator to leave the MCUSA soccer fields at once and report such conduct to club officials.

All parents must keep in mind that all referees, coaches, and team officials are volunteering their time and effort for the good of all of the children. We all must practice good sportsmanship at all times, and lead by example!

MCUSA appreciates the fact that you volunteered to be a coach. Without volunteers like yourselves, we would not be able to make each season a success.

FORMATION OF TEAMS

All teams are CO-ED and are formed based on player evaluation results, and the number of previous seasons played (listed at registration). Our objective is to form teams that are as evenly talented as possible.

GAME SCHEDULE

Game schedules will be provided to coaches as soon as possible. As an all volunteer club, we depend on all of our coaches to provide us with as much assistance as possible. Please keep all of your team parents involved by having them assist you, whenever possible!

RESPONSIBILITIES/FIRST AID KIT

MCUSA is responsible for ensuring the availability of practice/game fields for all teams. We will provide uniforms, (shirt, shorts, and socks). MCUSA will also supply a First Aid Kit. Parents are responsible for providing their player with a soccer ball, shin guards, cleats, and refreshments for every practice and game.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS

Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all parents fill out a medical release form for their player, prior to carrying out the first practice. The coach must make a team file, which should include the team roster and a copy of the medical release form for every player. **The First Aid Kit and Team File must be present at all practices and games.**

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Coaches are required to select an Assistant Coach and a Team Mom from their team parents. The Coach, Assistant Coach, and Team Mom are required to submit a Kid Safe background check with STYSA. Instructions for this have been posted on the MCUSA web site. There will be a designated Team Mom Coordinator for all levels. Team Moms will be advised of their names and contact information. If team moms have any questions, or need assistance, they may contact the designated coordinators.

FIELD MARKING

Each team coach will be assigned a date for marking the fields on the Friday, prior to the game. This must be done with **NO EXCEPTIONS**. The coach can either mark the field himself or send a representative of their team. The Youth Development Coordinator will send all coaches a schedule prior to the start of the season. If your team is unable to find someone to mark the field at your scheduled time, they may "buy out" their scheduled time at \$10 per occurrence. Failure to show up to mark the field at your scheduled time will cost your team \$10.

REFEREES

All of the referees used for our program are our own club players involved in referee training. These young referees are still learning and need a coach's encouragement, not harassment. Coaches are to let their team parents know this as well. They are of great assistance to coaches, because if it were not for them, coaches would have to referee the games, as well as coaching their respective teams. With this in mind, please introduce yourselves at the start of every game and give the young referee encouragement to take control of the game.

IDEAS/DISAGREEMENTS/COMPLAINTS

If a coach or parent has an idea that will help improve our program, or disagrees with club rules, please email the Youth Development Coordinator. We request that everyone give the coordinator an opportunity to address an issue who will provide you with a response within 48 hours. If the response is not forthcoming or unacceptable, you may forward your request to another Board Member. This information can be found at www.missouricitysoccer.com.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

1. Practice sessions must be held on MCUSA identified practice fields due to insurance coverage reasons
2. Practice games must only be scheduled with other MCUSA teams due to insurance coverage reasons
3. MCUSA guidelines allow for no more than 2 practice sessions per week
4. All players are required to wear shin guards and soccer cleats to every practice
5. Report any unsafe field conditions to Field Coordinator or leave a message at the MCUSA hotline

WEATHER CONDITIONS

All practices and games must be canceled if there is severe weather or lightning is observed. The SAFETY of our children is of most importance! The practice or game must be suspended but may be restarted 30 minutes after the threat passes (if game schedule allows). Call the MCUSA hotline at **281-403-2200** if it is raining prior to going to the fields. The hotline will tell you if the fields are open.

GAME MAKE-UP

If any games are canceled due to weather or field conditions, the games will be rescheduled by the league. Game make up dates and times will be announced by the Program Coordinator.

ALCOHOLIC/TOBACCO

Alcohol is not allowed on the grounds of MCUSA. Drinking alcohol or the use of tobacco is strictly prohibited in the designated spectator and coaching areas.

PLAYER PICK UP

Coaches are not to leave the practice/game field until the parents of your players have picked up their kids. Encourage your parents to pick up their players by the end of practice/game and remind your players to be observant and careful when walking through the parking lot.

Game Guidelines

Rules – U6

Game Date and Time: Check Game Schedule for Dates and Times.

Game Field: Check Game Schedule for Field Assignment

Coaches will ensure that all players are wearing shin guards and soccer shoes prior to the

start of a game. If a player is not wearing either of these items, the player will not be allowed to participate in the game **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Coaches must ensure they have their team file and first aid kit present for all games **NO EXCEPTIONS**

All players must play a minimum of 50% of every game **NO EXCEPTIONS**

All games must begin within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time. A team must have a minimum of 2 players to start a game. Coaches may enter the field of play and give instruction to players.

Playing Time:

1st Quarter: 8 Minutes

Water Break: 2 Minutes

2nd Quarter: 8 Minutes

Half Time: 5 Minutes

3rd Quarter: 8 Minutes

Water Break: 2 Minutes

4th Quarter: 8 Minutes

End of game

Regular season games: If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the game ends in a tie. There are no overtime periods.

All players must form a sportsmanship line to trade congratulations and then have snacks .

*Number of Players inside field of play: 3 v 3 (only 3 Players per team are allowed on the field at a time).

*The most important aspect of coaching kids at this age is that coaches must allow the kids to have fun playing the game while still ensuring that they are learning the basics of playing soccer.

*At this level, coaches may be required to perform the duties of a referee. Therefore, all coaches are required to carry a whistle.

*At the beginning of the game and the start of the second half of the game, the ball must be put in play at the midfield circle. At this age group, a player is allowed to begin the quarter by dribbling the ball toward the opponent's goal.

*At the start of the second and fourth quarters, the ball must be put in play by the team that had possession of the ball, at the end of the first and third quarters.

*During the game, referees or coaches will make sure that ball is kept inside the lines. If the ball is on the line, it's still in play. It's not considered out of bound until it completely crosses the line. All balls that go out on the sidelines (long side of the field) must be put back into to play with a

throw in.

*All balls that go outside of the goal lines (short side of the fields) must be put in play via a corner kick or goal kick depending on which team kicked the ball out of bounds.

*There are no direct kicks. When a foul is committed, all kicks are indirect. This means that the ball must be passed to a teammate prior to kicking into the goal.

*There are no goalies. The ball must cross the goal line completely before it can be called a goal.

***Officially, scores or standings are not kept at this level.**

*Referees will call any holding, fouls, hand fouls, or any dangerous plays.

*Coaches must encourage players not to "Cherry Pick" by planting themselves inside of the scoring box. Coaches are to encourage players to move away from the scorer's box when the ball is being played on the opposite end.

Rules – U8

Game Date and Time: Check Game Schedule for Dates and Times.

Game Field: Check Game Schedule for Field Assignment

Referee will ensure that all players are wearing shin guards and soccer shoes prior to the start of a game. If a player is not wearing either of these items, the player will not be allowed to participate in the game **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Coaches must ensure they have their team file and first aid kit present for all games **NO EXCEPTIONS**

All players must play a minimum of 50% of every game **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Coaches may only give instructions to their players from the sideline. Coaches are not allowed to enter the field of play unless a player is injured.

All games must begin within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time. A team must have a minimum of 5 players to start a game.

Playing Time:

Playing Time:

1st Quarter: 10 Minutes

Water Break: 2 Minutes

2nd Quarter: 10 Minutes

Half Time: 5 Minutes

3rd Quarter: 10 Minutes

Water Break: 2 Minutes
4th Quarter: 10 Minutes
End of game

Regular season games: If the score is tied at the end of regulation time, the game ends in a tie and will be counted accordingly. There are no overtime periods.

Championship Tournament games: If a game ends in a tie, there will be 8 minute overtime periods played. If the tie is broken at the end of the first overtime period, the game is over.

All players must form a Sportsmanship line and then have snacks.

*Number of Players inside field of play: 5 v 5 (only 5 Players per team are allowed to play on the field at a time. One of these five players will be in the position of goalie).

*At the beginning of the game, and the start of the second half of the game, the ball must be put in play at the midfield circle. The ball must be **passed** to a teammate, prior to dribbling or kicking the ball towards the opponent's goal

*During the game, referees or coaches will make sure that ball is kept inside the lines. If the ball is on the line, it's still in play. It's not considered out of bound until it completely crosses the line. All balls that go out on the sidelines (long side of the field) must be put back into to play with a throw in.

*All balls that go outside of the goal lines (short side of the fields) must be put in play via a corner kick or goal kick depending on which team kicked the ball out of bounds.

*There are no direct kicks. When a foul is committed, all kicks are indirect. This means that the ball must be passed to a teammate, prior to kicking into the goal.

*Laws of the Game– FIFA Laws of the Game will be followed with the following exceptions:

-Off Sides: Off sides will not be called as a penalty, but should be taught to all players.

-Penalty kicks: no direct penalty kicks will be taken for the safety of the goalie. Indirect kicks will be used for any infraction of the laws within the penalty area.

-Goalies: at least two(2) different players will be goalie during the game.

*Officially, game scores are not kept at this level. There will be a tournament at the end of the season to determine first and second place.

*Referees will call any holding, fouls, hand fouls, or any dangerous plays.

*Coaches are highly encouraged to teach their players the basics of passing the ball to their teammates.

Rules are supported by HYSA and STYSA.