

Deep River & Area Minor Soccer Club (DRAMSC)

COACHES INFORMATION SHEET

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to the soccer season. This handout contains important information about the Deep River and Area soccer program. **At every age group, the emphasis is on developing soccer skills in a safe and enjoyable way.**

EQUIPMENT: The convenor of your age group will distribute your equipment of the first night of soccer. The bag will include jerseys, practice pinnies if required (U10 and up) as well as balls and pylons. There will be one first aid kit at the pitch for each division with either the convenor or one of the coaches. Please make yourself familiar with the contents of the kit as well as aware of who is responsible for it. Teams that are travelling out of town will be given their own first aid kit. Please ensure that all contents of the bag are returned at the end of the season.

JERSEYS: Each player is issued a numbered jersey for the season. Please record this number before issuing the jersey. The jerseys **MUST** be returned to the coach at the end of the season. A set of jerseys is very expensive, and missing shirts can render the whole set unusable. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure that all jerseys are recovered at the end of the season, then returned to the club.

PLAYER BOOKS: Coaches (U10 and above) will be issued player books. These books are property of the players and are given to the coach for safekeeping. Especially for travelling teams, the coach must ensure that all player books (as well as those of guest players, if any) accompany the team. This is to resolve any issues that may possibly arise during the game that may lead to the referee or the opposing team's coach requesting to see a player's book. Coaches are responsible for the player books as long as they are in his/her possession and are required to return them to the club at the end of the season.

TEAMS: A preliminary division of the players into teams will be made. Some reassignment of players may occur after the first few practices. The intention of this process is to create teams of roughly equal ability.

LOCATION: All home games and practices will be at Grouse Park unless otherwise specified.

CHECKLIST:

- For safety, players are encouraged to wear **soccer shoes** with plastic **cleats**.
- Players **must wear shin guards** on the field for their own protection. A pair of soccer socks will help to hold the shin guards in place. The socks must be long enough to cover the shin guards.
- Always have your players bring a filled **water** bottle. Coaches are not required to supply water and are discouraged to do so as this forms a bad habit with the players.
- Players should be encouraged to bring their own soccer ball. Please insist that their balls are the appropriate size for their age group and that they are properly inflated. Under inflated balls may result in injuries.
- Hats and jewellery are not allowed on the soccer pitch. They must be removed before the game. Prescription glasses are permitted, but not recommended; sports glasses or contact lenses are better.
- Make sure the player's name is on **EVERYTHING** that they bring to soccer.

CANCELLATIONS: If the weather is unusually wet, cold, hot or stormy the practice may be cancelled. Under such circumstances please phone the convenor.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: Parents are encouraged to volunteer and help the coaches in whatever way they can. However, if the parents plan to go on the field, they **MUST** be registered with the club for insurance purposes. This registration process involves only the completion of two forms. The need for the registration is dictated by regulations put in place by the Ontario Soccer Association.

PARENTS' ATTENDANCE: The attendance of parents is encouraged at all age groups, however at the U6/U8 level, it is mandatory that a parent or other responsible adult, remain at the soccer field at all times during the practices and games.

HAZARDS: At the U6, U8 and U10 levels the kids play on mini-soccer fields. As is common practice throughout North America, the goal posts used on the mini-soccer fields are portable and are not normally secured to the ground. Kids enjoy hanging and swinging on the cross bar of these goal posts. This is dangerous! The goal posts are heavy, and in the event that they tip over, serious injury can result. **In the event that you see anybody hanging and swinging on these goal posts, please act to stop this potentially dangerous behaviour.**

PARENTS MEETING: We encourage that all coaches hold a short meeting at the beginning of the season to introduce themselves to the parents.

REFEREES: At the U6 and U8 level, the games will be officiated by one or both of the coaches. At the older ages groups, the games will be officiated by a registered referee. It is the policy of the DRAMSC that coaches, players and parents respect these officials. Many times, coaches and parents intimidate young or inexperienced referees. This is not acceptable in the DRAMSC...the call on the field stands, whether it is right or wrong. Coaches please set a good example for your players and parents! Teach your players to respect the officials. If there is a major problem or concern with the officiating, please **DO NOT** take it up with the referee at the field but rather, report the concern to the DRAMSC head referee (or an executive member who can then forward the concern to the head referee). Remember that in most cases, the referees, although all certified, are young players themselves who are just learning the refereeing aspects of the game and are part of DRAMSC referee development program, and. Treat them as you treat any other player on your team with the respect due to their position.

CONTACTS: We hope that you and your players enjoy the soccer season. Please feel free to contact your convenor or any executive member with any questions or concerns.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND DATES:

- The season starts the week of May 4. For the U4, U6 and U8's, it ends June 24 or 25. U10 will end August 12. The older divisions nominally end the same week, although the league schedules have not yet been set.
- **Picture Days are still being determined and will be communicated to the coaches shortly.** Please cooperate with the photographer.
- There will be a U10 tournament in Renfrew on June 21-20. Please inform the convenor (Naweed Munir) which players and coaches will participate, by end of May.
- Additional tournaments to consider, for U11 to U18, are Kingsport in Pembroke Aug. 15-16 (very competitive), and the MIST tournaments in Carleton Place July 17-19 (girls) and Aug. 14-16 (boys).

Most importantly....**THANK YOU** for volunteering to coach! We appreciate your time and effort.