



Stephenville Soccer Association

P.O. Box 1213, Stephenville, TX 76401

www.stephenvillesoccer.com

Welcome, Coaches!

Thank you for your commitment to the Stephenville Soccer Association and our community. Your role as a coach is vital, and we deeply appreciate the time and energy you invest in our players. This packet is designed to support your success and growth, both as a coach and a mentor.

Coaches serve two essential roles:

1. **Role Models:** You are a symbol of leadership and integrity. Your influence helps shape young athletes into respectful, confident individuals. Winning is secondary to fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth.
2. **Educators:** While this is a recreational league, our goal is to develop players who love this game. Teaching fundamentals, tactics, and fitness is part of your role.

We're here to support you. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your commissioner.



Coach Code of Conduct & Responsibilities

All coaches and assistant coaches must agree to the following:

- Promote a positive environment and game experience.
- Treat referees, opponents, and spectators with respect.
- Abide by the SSA Coach Code of Conduct.
- Avoid foul language, bullying, or abusive behavior.
- Never be ejected for violent conduct or dissent.

Coaching Responsibilities

- **Communication:** Maintain open communication with parents. Create and manage a GroupMe (preferred) or Group Text for team updates.
- **Practice Schedule:** Hold 1-2 practices per week.
- **Background Check & SafeSport:** Required by North Texas Soccer. You may not coach or compete until completed.
- **Sideline Management:** You are responsible for parent behavior. Discuss expectations at your first team practice and have parents sign the Parent Code of Conduct.
- **Equipment:** Coaches must supply their own training gear. Visit the SSA Coaches page for recommended equipment.

Game Day Reminders

- Ensure players bring water and wear shin guards under socks.
- No jewelry or metal hair accessories allowed.
- Encourage early arrival and positive warm-ups.
- Show respect to all participants.

50% Playing Time Rule

Per NTSSA rules, all players must play at least 50% of each game unless there is a medical or disciplinary reason.

Disciplinary Benching:

- Use as a last resort. Speak with the player first, then the parent.
- Notify both the parent and referee if a player is benched.



Sportsmanship & Score Management

Avoid excessive scoring. Recreational soccer is about learning, not domination.

Suggestions to manage scoring:

- Rotate goal scorers.
- Emphasize passing over shooting.
- Require a set number of passes before shooting.
- Limit each player to one goal per game
- Encourage assists and teamwork.

Referee Interactions

If you disagree with a call:

- Reflect on your understanding of the rule.
- Remember, many referees are new and learning.
- Never criticize or confront referees.
- If necessary, ask a parent to find a board member.

Referee Authority:

- Referees may issue up to three warnings before ejecting a coach.
- Coaches may be warned for their own behavior or that of their spectators.
- Only board members can remove spectators.

Post-Game Etiquette:

- Shake hands with referees and thank them.
- Offer praise and encouragement, especially to younger referees.

SSA is committed to growing our referee pool. Coaches play a key role in supporting and mentoring referees.



Weather Policy

Game Cancellations

- Do not assume games are canceled. Wait for official notice from your commissioner.
- If your team does not show up and the game is not canceled, it will result in a forfeit.

Before contacting your commissioner:

- Be patient. Updates will be provided as soon as decisions are made.
- Check SSA's Facebook page and website for updates.

For away games, check the hosting association's website or social media:

- Granbury: granburysoccer.com
- Mineral Wells: mwysa.com
- Azle: azlesoccer.com
- Fort Worth: fwyouthsoccer.org
- Mansfield: mansfieldsoccer.org

Rescheduled Games:

- May be held during the week.
- Coaches are responsible for communicating schedule changes via GroupMe.



Parental Code of Conduct

Parents must review the following and sign and date on the back.

Key expectations:

- Encourage rather than criticize.
- Respect coaches, officials, and opponents.
- Applaud good plays from both teams.
- Avoid questioning officials' integrity.
- Accept game outcomes with grace.
- Remember, the sport is for your child's enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Lead by example.
- Avoid foul language and bullying.
- Support team decisions and strategy.
- If asked to leave by a board member, comply respectfully.

Disciplinary Actions:

- Yellow Card: Coach discretion.
- Red Card: Player must attend the next game but remain on the bench. A sit-out verification form must be signed by the referee.
 - This form can be found on the SSA website.