



## **Stephenville Soccer Association**

254-918-5425

P.O. Box 1213, Stephenville, Tx 76401

[www.stephenvillesoccer.com](http://www.stephenvillesoccer.com)

# ***Welcome Coaches!***

Coaches, thank you so much for your service and your contribution to both our soccer association and to the community at large. As a soccer coach here at SSA, we value your time and energy and hope we can help carry that commitment with you. This document is designed with intention to serve your needs as a coach and help foster your growth and the growth of your players.

Coaches have two functions on our fields.

- 1) First and foremost, coaches are role-models and symbols of authority for our children. Coaches should help encourage our children to be the best versions of themselves and to provide a fun activity of teamwork and sportsmanship to our players. Winning and losing should not have any bearing on our endeavor to raise and encourage all of the children who play on our fields.
- 2) Secondly, coaches should attempt to help teach our children how to play soccer. Tactics, techniques, fitness, etc. are all incorporated into producing soccer players. Yes, this is a recreational league, but our aim is to help produce soccer players who love the game.... As you are here to help support your players, we are here to help support you! On these pages we hope to provide additional support, information, and structure that can help you be a functional and successful coach (which in turn helps your players and parents have a better experience too).

As thoughts, concerns, and needs arise, please don't hesitate to reach out to your commissioner for assistance. We want to support you however we can.



## Communication

We want to know if you have concerns, thoughts or needs. When issues arise:

**1. FIRST, contact your Commissioner. He/She is your first point of contact.**

Your commissioner will reach out to you before the season begins. Our commissioners use GroupMe when communicating to coaches. Please make sure you have this app and have notifications turned on.

**Commissioners:**

<b>Julie Mendoza</b>	<i>Tots</i>	mendozajp9186@gmail.com
<b>Camile Harrison</b>	<i>U5/U6 Boys</i>	912-432-1435   camileharrison4@gmail.com
<b>Jarred Walker</b>	<i>U5/U6 Girls</i>	jwalk3307@gmail.com
<b>Jamie Jones</b>	<i>U7/U8</i>	432-238-7367   jbraggster@gmail.com
<b>Ruurd Stoker</b>	<i>U7/U8</i>	254-595-0281   ruurdstoker1990@gmail.com
<b>Steven Rains</b>	<i>U9/U10</i>	254-485-0308   stevenrains13@gmail.com
<b>Chase Barnes</b>	<i>Upper Level</i>	cbarnes52@hotmail.com

**2. Contact our Coaching Director:** Andres Betancur 254-977-2876

**3. LAST, reach out to our SSA President or a Board Member.**



## SSA Board Members

<b>Flipper Taylor</b>	<i>President</i>	254-485-5704 flipper.taylor6@gmail.com
<b>Ricky Zarate</b>	<i>Vice President</i>	ricky.zarate@schreiberfoods.com
<b>Ruth Briseño</b>	<i>Secretary</i>	254-485-8037 ruth_vasquez90@hotmail.com
<b>Antonio Patlan</b>	<i>Referee Assignor</i>	antoniopatlan6@gmail.com
<b>Audie Davis</b>	<i>Asst. Referee Assignment</i>	audiedvs@yahoo.com
<b>Andres Betancur</b>	<i>Coaching Director</i>	254-977-2876 a_betancur@yahoo.com
<b>Ruurd Stoker</b>	<i>Adult League Director</i>	254-595-0281 ruurdstoker1990@gmail.com
<b>Chase Barnes</b>	<i>Upper-Level Commissioner</i>	cbarnes52@hotmail.com
<b>Steven Rains</b>	<i>9/U10 Commissioner</i>	254-485-0308 stevenrains13@gmail.com
<b>Jamie Jones</b>	<i>U7/U8 Commissioner</i>	432-238-7367 jbraggster@gmail.com
<b>Camile Harrison</b>	<i>U5/U6 Boys Commissioner</i>	912-432-1435 camileharrison4@gmail.com
<b>Jarred Walker</b>	<i>U5/U6 Girls Commissioner</i>	jwalk3307@gmail.com
<b>Julie Mendoza</b>	<i>Tot Commissioner</i>	mendozajp9186@gmail.com
<b>Ingrid Carlson</b>	<i>Registration &amp; Uniforms</i>	254-434-3918 ingrid_carlson@outlook.com
<b>Todd McEvoy</b>	<i>Fundraising</i>	254-485-7690 toddmcevoy@gmail.com
<b>Lauren Betancur</b>	<i>Website &amp; Communications</i>	806-341-6232 lauren@beta-marketing.com
<b>Sarah Rains</b>	<i>Event Coordinator</i>	254-485-9427 sarahrains13@gmail.com
<b>Jordon Boyd</b>		254-595-2166 jordondenise1@gmail.com
<b>Amber Ferguson</b>		254-485-3579 ferguson0622@gmail.com



## Game Schedules

All team schedules are set two weeks before the season begins. At our pre-season Coaches Meeting, you will have the opportunity to request Blackout Dates prior to the team schedules being made. Once the schedules have been set, you will have a second opportunity to review your team schedule and reply to your commissioner within one week to request any further changes. After the season begins, we ask that you request a schedule change only for an emergency. Each team will be allowed one schedule change in the middle of the season. All other conflicts will result in a forfeit.

### ***Blackout Dates***

Head Coaches are allowed to request 2 blackout dates per season. You may do so at the pre-season Coaches Meeting or by submitting the form on our website:

**[stephenvillesoccer.com](http://stephenvillesoccer.com)**

Go to the COACHES page and fill out the  
**BLACKOUT DATE REQUEST FORM**

This form will only be active before the season schedule has been made.

You may fill out this form if:

- 1) You are coaching more than one SSA team
- 2) You are aware of a date you are unable to coach a game

### ***Mid-Season Schedule Changes***

We understand conflicts arise during the season and you may need to request a game schedule change. We ask that you reserve submitting a request for emergencies only.

Each coach will be allowed 1 schedule change per season. Visit our website:

**[stephenvillesoccer.com](http://stephenvillesoccer.com)**

Go to the COACHES page and fill out the  
**SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST FORM**

We try to accommodate all of our coaches schedule requests but due to the number of teams we have this is not always possible.



## Coaches Code of Conduct & Responsibilities

All coaches and assistant coaches must agree to the following:

- I will contribute to a positive environment and game experience
- I will treat all game officials with respect
- I will show all my opponents respect
- As a coach, I will abide by the Coach Code of Conduct
- As a coach, I will not be “ejected” from a match for violent conduct or referee abuse/ dissent
- I will never use foul language or bullying of any kind

### ***Coaching Responsibilities***

- ***Communication with Parents*** - You are the point of contact for your parents and representative for the league. Please contact your players and families at the beginning of each season and maintain open lines of communication throughout the season. Coaches must create and maintain GroupMe for team communication.
- ***Set your practice schedule*** - 1 to 2 practices per week
- ***Complete a Background Check & Safe Sport*** - Per North Texas rules and regulations, you may not hold practices and will forfeit games until these have been completed.
- ***Control your sideline during games*** - As a coach YOU are responsible for your Parents on your sideline. Make sure you talk about this at your first team meeting and have all of your Parents sign the Parent’s Code of Conduct. Yelling at a referee, opposing players and opposing parents is not allowed and will not be tolerated.
- ***Supply your own training/coaching/practice equipment*** - SSA does not supply equipment for coaches. A list of helpful links and equipment can be found on our website on the COACHES page.



## Game Days

Things to remember for Game Day:

- All players need water
- All players are wearing shin guards under socks
- No jewelry of any kind including watches, necklaces, earrings, etc.
- No hair barrettes with metal can be worn
- Encourage players to arrive early
- Keep warm up exercises positive and easy
- Be respectful to players, referees and spectators, especially the other team

### ***50% Playing Rule***

According to NTSSA Bylaws and Rules, all players are required to play 50% of the game, unless a player has a medical or disciplinary reason.

#### **For disciplinary reasons:**

- A coach may bench a player if the player is out of line
- Benching a player for disciplinary reasons should be a last resort. First, talk to the kid and if the problem persists, then talk to the parent.
- If you choose to bench a player for disciplinary reasons, you must inform the parent and the referee.

### ***Avoid Running up the Score***

No one likes losing.... ***especially 10 to 0!*** One way to treat opposing teams with respect is to limit the number of goals scored. Remember Recreational soccer is a learning experience and should never be a bloodbath!

#### **What can I do as a coach to affect play on the field?**

- Change your tactics? Remove your main goal scorer. Don't allow your team to dribble, they can only move the ball by passing.
- Have players focus on passing instead of scoring; require X number of consecutive passes before players are allowed to shoot on goal.
- Have players focus on helping a designated player score. Limit each player to only be able to score one goal per game. Encourage "assisting" their teammates.



## Referee Interactions

### What to do if you do not agree with the calls the referee is making:

- Remember, referees have a different viewpoint of the game than you or your parents.
- First, question yourself - Am I sure I understand the soccer rule?
- Many referees are new and still inexperienced (this is recreational soccer); do not discourage them from improving.
- Under NO circumstances should you tell the referee they are doing a bad job.
- You may send a parent to find a board member to come watch the game if the issue persists.
- Keep in mind that many referees are children of other soccer coaches, board members or parents with other players. They are learning and doing their best.

### ***Referee Warnings & Ejections***

- The referee has the authority to eject a coach from a game after 3 warnings.
- The referee may give a coach a warning for the actions of the coach or that team's spectators.
- The referee can not eject a spectator or parent. If a parent is out of hand, please find a board member of that field's association. Board members can ask spectators to leave.

***\*\*After each game be sure to shake the referees' hand and let them know you appreciate their time. If they did a good job, tell them! Often these are young referees who need the confidence boost. Praise helps them feel more secure; Insecurity makes them feel like quitting.***

Moving forward SSA will be making concerted efforts to grow our referee pool and attract more referees. Both coaches and referees have a role to play at our fields and we need both groups to run a functional and successful league. Let's work on building bridges between referees and coaches and getting better together. If you are a coach and "know a lot" about the game, let's work on helping these young referees grow and get better. Help to build them up, not beat them down.



## Bad Weather

### How do I know when a game is canceled due to bad weather?

- First, do not assume games are canceled! We will notify you through your commissioner as soon as games are called.
- If your team decides to not show up due to the weather and your game has not been canceled, you forfeit the game. (Remember you are also affecting players, parents and coaches of the other team)

### ***Before contacting your Commissioner:***

- Be patient. We are aware of the weather and realize your parents are looking to you for answers. Your commissioner will reach out to you when games are canceled.
- Check our Facebook Page! Game cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on Facebook and you can also view FB posts on our website home page.
- If your game is away, check the other Soccer Association's websites:
  - Granbury: [granburysoccer.com](http://granburysoccer.com)
  - Mineral Wells: [mwysa.com](http://mwysa.com)
  - Weatherford: [weatherfordsoccer.org](http://weatherfordsoccer.org)

*If games are canceled due to bad weather, they will be rescheduled for a later date. Be aware that any rescheduled games may be scheduled during the week during practice times. It is your responsibility as a coach to keep up with your team's schedule and relay all changes to parents via your GroupMe chat.*





## Stephenville Soccer Association Parental Code of Conduct

Please review the following and sign and date on the back. Return to your Team Coach.

- Children have more need for encouragement than criticism. Attempt to relieve the pressure of the competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences.
- Be kind to your child's coach and the officials. The coach is a volunteer, giving of personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child.
- The opponents are necessary friends; without them your child could not participate.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship.
- Your Team's Coach is responsible for your behavior on the sidelines. Be Respectful! A Referee can send-off your Coach due to your behavior.
- Should I be asked to leave the field by an Association Board Member (Home or Away) due to my behavior, I agree to leave.
- Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
- Remember your child is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, NOT YOURS!
- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- Remember that your child learns by example. Children mimic what their parents say. Criticism of the coach, officials, teammates, and/or opponents fosters bad attitudes and can only lead to a negative experience for your child.
- Parents should remember that a coach has an entire team of players to consider when making decisions regarding position, playing time, substitutions, and strategy. The team does not revolve around one player.
- Foul language is NOT tolerated by SSA.
- Bullying between players is NOT tolerated by SSA.
- If your player receives a Yellow Card during a game, it is up to the Coach how to proceed.
- If your player receives a Red Card during a game, the player will be required to dress out and attend the following game, but remain on the bench as an unused player. A sit-out verification form must be signed by the Referee. This is to demonstrate support for their Team. The player will not be allowed to play until they attend a game and sit-out.



## U4 Playing Rules Overview

- One Center Referee
- Ball Size: #3
- 1 weekly practice (30 minutes); 1 Saturday game (30 minutes)
- 4 quarters (5 minutes each) with short half-time
- Each quarter starts with kick-off from the center circle. Teams will alternate who takes the kick.
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored
- No heading allowed
- No offside calls
- No penalty kicks
- No slide tackles
- Players are not allowed inside the Goal Box area when active play is on their side of the field
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Coach allowed on the field for all games, not participating. Parents are discouraged from being on field with players during games.

## U5 Playing Rules Overview

- One Center Referee
- Ball Size: #3
- Number of players: 4 v 4
- No Goalkeeper
- 4 quarters of 10 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored
- No heading allowed
- No offside calls
- No penalty kicks
- No slide tackles
- Players are not allowed inside the Goal Box area when active play is on their side of the field
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Coach allowed on the field for all games, not participating.



## U6 Playing Rules Overview

- One Center Referee
- Ball Size: #3
- Number of players: 4 v 4
- No Goalkeeper
- 4 quarters of 10 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored (Center Referee must give permission before substitutions can be made)
- No heading allowed
- No offside calls
- No penalty kicks
- No slide tackles
- Players are not allowed inside the Goal Box area when active play is on their side of the field
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Coach can be on the field for first 3 game weekends, not participating

## U7 & U8 Playing Rules Overview

- One Center Referee
- Ball Size: #3
- Number of players: 4 v 4
- Teams now have GoalKeepers
- 4 quarters of 10 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored (Center Referee must give permission before substitutions can be made)
- No heading allowed
- No offside calls
- No penalty kicks
- No slide tackles
- Free Kicks: All Indirect Free kicks
- Players should be behind midfield on goal kicks
- Coach can NOT be on the field during games.



## **U9 & U10 Playing Rules Overview**

- One Center Referee and 2 Assistant Referees
- Ball Size: #4
- Number of players: 7 v 7
- Goalkeeper, no drop kicks or punting allowed
- 2 halves of 25 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored (Center Referee must give permission before substitutions can be made)
- No heading allowed
- Offside calls between build-out line and defending goal line
- Penalty kicks per FIFA guidelines
- Free Kicks: per FIFA guidelines
- Coach can NOT be on the field

## **U11 & U12 Playing Rules Overview**

- One Center Referee and 2 Assistant Referees
- Ball Size: #4
- Number of players: 9 v 9
- Goalkeeper, drop kicks or punting allowed
- 2 halves of 30 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored (Center Referee must give permission before substitutions can be made)
- No heading allowed
- Offside calls per FIFA guidelines
- Penalty kicks per FIFA guidelines
- Free Kicks: per FIFA guidelines
- Coach can NOT be on the field



## U13 & U14 Playing Rules

- One Center Referee and 2 Assistant Referees
- Ball Size: #5
- Number of players: 11 v 11
- Goalkeeper, drop kicks or punting allowed
- 2 halves of 35 minutes each
- Substitute: own throw-in, either team's goal kick, or after a goal is scored (Center Referee must give permission before substitutions can be made)
- Heading allowed
- Offside calls per FIFA guidelines
- Penalty kicks per FIFA guidelines
- Free Kicks: per FIFA guidelines
- Coach can NOT be on the field