



ST. WALTER'S FALL SOCCER LEAGUE COACHES GUIDELINES

ST. WALTER'S FALL SOCCER LEAGUE IS PRIMARILY AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE. THE OVERALL EXPECTATION OF THE LEAGUE IS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS TO ENJOY THEIR EXPERIENCE ON THE FIELD.

Be A Good Role Model. To a large degree, your players & parents will follow your lead. Be a good sport & don't yell at the referees or at the other team. After the game, seek out the referees and shake their hand and thank them, as well as the opposing team coaches & players.

Strictly Prohibited. Coaches may not come on the field (or step on the lines) during the game except with the referee's permission or as allowed by the K-2 rules.

- There should be no yelling or conversation between a coach and the other team during the game.
- Coaches & spectators must stand on the sidelines & cannot stand behind the goal or end lines.

General Do's and Don'ts.

- Positive encouragement and instruction of your players from the sidelines (the coach's box) is allowed. Negative criticism, hostility, abuse or anger are things you should not do. You must set the example of good sportsmanship and insist upon it from your team.
- No coach or parent may stand behind or beside the goal. Spectators should remain on the sidelines; it is the coaches responsibility to ensure that all comments from the sidelines are positive.
- Never criticize the referee. It is a tough job. If an appealable mistake is made, talk to the referee and if needed, contact the Field Manager after the game.
- You should stay 2 steps back from the sideline during games so you don't block the Assistant Referee's view of the line.
- Don't run up the score. It's not good for either team if the game is a mismatch, but sometimes it happens. If your team gets 5 goals ahead, you should be a good sport & instead use the time for additional instructional to weaker players, for example:
 - ✓ Put your weakest scorers up front (use this as an opportunity to let them be forwards).
 - ✓ Try someone new in goal & at fullback
 - ✓ Direct your players to complete 5 consecutive passes before shooting

Equipment / Safety Check, before the match begins:

- Players' equipment; all players are required to have matching uniforms (shirt, shorts, socks) and must have shin guards (socks must be worn on the outside, entirely covering the shin guard).
- Shoes: No metal cleats or toe cleats; tennis shoes are fine. No sandals.
- Safety: No player may wear equipment dangerous to himself or others. This includes casts, metal braces, and jewelry. Earrings are specifically prohibited, including posts for pierced ears.
- The home team provides the game ball; appropriate size for grade level is applicable.
- Be sure your players have a water or sports drink and are well hydrated before and during the game.

Team Rosters: Completed team rosters as supplied by the league must be submitted at the beginning of the season for ALL teams in each grade level; K-2 can be revised as needed throughout the season. Grades 3rd - 8th must have a final team roster submitted with no changes permitted after September 14th.

Playing Time: All players must play at least 50% of each match.

- a. Substitutions occur at a throw-in (team taking the throw-in), at quarter or half time breaks, and after a goal.
- b. A coach may substitute a player who is injured, or who has lost contact with the game, with the permission of the referee. No substitution may occur unless the ball is out of play.

Field: All field markings and goal widths will be clearly defined on the field. Coaches may not make adjustments. In the event that markings have faded, Coaches may call a Field Manager for marking paint.

Rainouts: The assumption must be that the fields are open until informed otherwise. Check the website www.stwaltersports.com for up-to-date news on cancellations. Game cancellations will be decided 1.5 hours before game time. Depending on weather, games may also be cancelled at the field by Staff notification.

"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have." - Vince Lombardi



From the St. Walter's Athletic Association, Board of Directors.

09/13/12

BE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Please respect our neighbors and their property. There are areas marked "NO SOCCER PARKING" specifically on the west side of Oakley. These areas are expected to stay free of vehicles not authorized to park. While it can get quite congested, street parking is available as well as parking in the St. Walter School parking lot. We also ask that everyone do their part and pick-up trash, water bottles, etc, after your game and DO NOT LITTER. There are plenty of trash bins throughout the field and near the concession stand.

CONDUCT ON THE FIELD

St. Walter's Fall Soccer League is an instructional league K-8. While it can become competitive, it should never result in parents & family members arguing and showing obnoxious behavior to our children. If you have a situation that requires League attention, locate a staff member. DO NOT YELL OBSENITIES or become BILIGERENT on the field. Arguing with Coaches, Referees or families of the opposing team is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Anyone displaying this type of behavior will be subject to ejection from the field for the remainder of the season. In addition, it will place risk on the team from being suspended from the league altogether. We are to set a good example to our student athletes showing them good sportsmanship and, responsible conflict resolutions.

CONDUCT TOWARD REFEREES

There is a critical shortage of qualified youth soccer referees. Why? Referees cite repeatedly that they quit refereeing because of the abuse they take from parents, coaches and players. Many teenagers quickly discontinue refereeing youth soccer games because it is not worth what they are paid to be yelled at, insulted, belittled and threatened. *It does not matter whether you are a coach, a parent, a player or a disinterested fan: we do not tolerate a climate that allows yelling at or abusing the referee.* Guidelines:

- Support the referee's decisions. Refereeing soccer, like playing soccer, looks easier from the sidelines than it is on the field. The field is large, there are a number of players moving both with and away from the ball, and the referee cannot see everything from all angles.
- Understand the laws of the game. FIFA rules give soccer referees a great deal of discretion. They are not required to call every single breach of soccer's laws. Reasonable humans often disagree whether conduct resulted in a breach (depending, of course on whether the breach helps or harms their team). Under FIFA rules only the referee's opinion counts; if the referee didn't call it, it is not a foul.
- Inquire about calls respectfully. If coaches do not understand or disagree with a call they should discuss it one-on-one, quietly and rationally, with the referee at half-time or after the game. If parents disagree with a call they should ask the coach to explain it. **Parents should not question referees directly under any circumstances. PERIOD.**
- That referee is your neighbor's child. Quite often youth soccer referees are teenagers. Treat them, whether or not you agree with their calls, as you would want other adults to treat your child should he or she be in the same position. Treat them as you would want to be treated if you were performing a difficult job in a fluid, fast-paced game.
- Look at the big picture. Soccer is a GAME. If you cannot watch the game without losing control, stay home.



FALL 2015 SEASON

AGE RANGE BY DIVISION, 9/1/2015 CUT-OFF:

- U6 - Children who are 4 and 5 years old.
- U8 - Children between 6 and 7 years old.
- U10 - Children between 8 and 9 years old.
- U12 - Children between 10 and 11 years old.
- U14 - Children between 12 and 13 years old.

FIELDS

Fields A thru I are dedicated to U6 and U8

Fields 1 thru 5 are dedicated to U10 and U12; Fields 6 & 7 are dedicated to U14

SIDELINE POLICY

Spectators and parents should be on the opposite side from the players and coaches. Please be reminded that after the game the players and spectators should leave the sidelines so that the next game's teams can use it. Areas should be cleaned and free of trash i.e., water bottles, etc. Trash bins are available in various areas of the park and near the concession stand. Teams will be fined \$25 per game if sidelines have to be cleaned after a game. Multiple occurrences may lead to increased fines or additional infractions.



SEASON & GAMES

The regular season is six weeks, beginning on Tuesday, September 8th and concluding the week of October 12th. Divisions U6 through U14 typically play ten regular season game, eight games minimum; divisions U10 and above also play in a single-elimination tournament post-season. 1st, 2nd and, 3rd place tournament winners will receive player participation medals and a team trophy.

GAME DAYS AND START TIMES

U6 & U8 will typically play on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

U10 will typically play on Tuesdays & Saturdays.

U12 will typically play on Wednesdays & Saturdays.

U14 will typically play on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

START TIMES:

Weekday games will begin at 5:30pm, on & after October 6th, games will begin at 5:15pm

Saturday games can begin as early as 8:30am and as late as 1:00pm

**Make up games, if needed to make the minimum games played per team, will be scheduled, at the discretion of the league and coaches, possibly on off-days and coaches will be informed directly via email.

PARKING

Parking is available in the St. Walter School parking lot and throughout the surrounding street area of the park. There are some street parking areas that require resident parking permits and there are many driveways prohibiting parking. Parking in the permit parking or blocking driveways is prohibited. Please be kind to our neighbors and adhere to parking signs and do not block driveways. Chicago Police have informed us that they will ticket and tow offenders.

LAWS OF THE GAME - DIVISION RULES OF PLAY

SWFSL in general follows the international football laws as set by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). We do, however, have some modifications as provided in the complete set of rules for the specific division. In general, the following table shows some of the modifications for each of the divisions:

Age Group	Ball Size	Players on Field**	Length Of Half*	Length Of Breaks	Goalies, Defend Goal	Offsides, Penalty Kicks	Corner Kicks, Throw-Ins
U-06	3	7 v 7	(4)-10 min. Quarters	3 min/qtr 5 min/half	N	N	Y
U-08	4	7 v 7	(4)-10 min. Quarters	3 min/qtr 5 min/half	Y	N	Y
U-10	4	10 v 10	25	5 min/half	Y	Y	Y
U-12	5	10 v 10	25	5 min/half	Y	Y	Y
U-14	5	10 v 10	25	5 min/half	Y	Y	Y

* SWFSL game rules allow for a substitution break at approximately halfway through each half. The referee will blow the whistle at an appropriate break in the play (not necessarily at the exact half-of-half time on the clock) in order for the substitutions to take place. This is not intended as a team break, but rather a quick swap of those players that are being substituted.

**Total players on field are inclusive of the goalie. No goalie for U6.

TEAM ROSTERS

All team rosters must be completed on the provided forms and submitted prior to the season beginning, by or no later than September 1st. Roster modifications will be accepted through September 19th. After this date, rosters will be final and no changes will be accepted. Only the official SWFSL Team Roster form will be accepted. All team rosters will be kept by the league. A roster discrepancy is a SWFSL violation that will result in a forfeit of the game. SWFSL reserves the right to conduct roster verifications. Player's can be on only one (1) roster for the duration of the regular & post-season.

Rosters require the School Principal or Pastor signature for acceptance. Teams not affiliated with a school or parish must submit copies of birth certificates for each player on the roster. Teams are co-ed and minimum gender count will apply.



LEAGUE SIZE

Field availability limits the amount of teams the SWFSL will accept for the 2015 season.

DIVISION	FIELD AVAILABILITY	PROJ.# TEAMS 2015
U6	3	12
U8	6	12
U10	4	10
U12	4	10
U14	2	10

SCHEDULE

Each team will be scheduled to play appx. 10 games; 8 games minimum. Schedules will be available at the start of the season and posted online on the St. Walter Athletic Association website, www.stwaltersporst.com. Games must start on-time and are played at Prairie Park, across from St. Walter's parish office - 1 block east of Western Ave at 118th Street & Oakley. Rainout dates and tournament games may be scheduled on "off" nights/days. Teams must be ready to play at game time. Coaches for u6 & u8 divisions are responsible for starting games as scheduled; these division games must conclude no later than 1 hour from scheduled start time regardless if the game started on-time.

u10-u14 divisions will be governed by the referee. Players must be in position and goals must be secured and tied down. Referees will give coaches a 3-minute warning, then a 1-minute warning before game time. If, after 3 minutes, a team is not yet ready for play, the referee will instruct the opposing team to take a penalty shot. If a goalie is not present, the penalty shot will proceed. This process will repeat every 3 minutes thereafter. Games/play time will be adjusted accordingly.

TOURNAMENT

All teams in u10-u14 will have the opportunity to play in a single elimination post-season tournament. The tournament is seeded based on regular season standings. Standings are determined as follows: 3 pts per win, 1 point for tie, 0 point for loss; head-to-head tie breaker or if needed, coin-toss tie breaker. "Bye" round games may be necessary. Player participation medals will be given to the first, second and third place tournament winners. Awards are not issued for regular season performance.

COMMUNICATIONS / RAINOUTS

Each team should be encouraged to develop a phone tree for parents. The league will send emails to coaches directly for game changes or cancellations. In the event of inclement weather, the website www.StWalterSports.com will be updated by 4:00 p.m. However, games will play in all but a heavy rain.

REFEREES

The league will provide at least one referee for games played in u10-u14 divisions. The referees will be mostly high school students with knowledge of soccer rules and regulations, certified when possible. Referees will govern the game and we expect that their authority be respected at all times. Conflicts that require additional assistance will be obtained by Field Manager(s). Please note that Referees will be instructed to get the winning coach's signature on a "game sheet". Coaches and referees must verify the final score. This "game sheet" will be used to tally the game results and for posting team standings.

UNIFORMS

All teams will be required to have the same color jersey/shirts. Goalies may wear multi-colored or a different colored jersey. A school gym t-shirt can be used as a uniform. Same color shorts/pants and socks are not mandatory. All players at all levels must wear shin guards, no exceptions. Shin guards must be secured with socks placed over them. Players without shin guards will not be allowed to participate in any portion of the game. Soccer cleats are recommended but not a requirement. Football or baseball cleats cannot be used in place of Soccer cleats. Cleats specific for any other sport that have a spike on the "toe" are strictly prohibited. Jewelry i.e., necklaces, bracelets or hair accessories that are not flush to the head are prohibited for safety reasons. Referees may conduct checks for proper uniform at the start of the game; coaches for u6 & u8 are encouraged to conduct uniform checks prior to starting all games.



EQUIPMENT

Each team will be required to provide two goal flags and two corner cones for each game. Each team must also have at least one appropriately sized ball for game use. Home team provides game ball.

- We will use 6' x 18' goals for u12-u14 division games.
- Each team (u12-u14) is responsible for setting up and returning 1 goal on game nights. Before the start of the season, each team will be issued an ample amount of net ties and goal anchors. Teams should keep these with their team equipment and return them to the SWAA League at the end of the season. Additional ties and anchors will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

SAFETY

A small first aid kit containing bandages, ice packs, etc., will be available at the concession stand. We will not have nor distribute any medications whatsoever. A cell phone will also be available at the concession stand. In the event of an emergency, parents are encouraged to use the phone to call 9-1-1. Phone numbers to local hospitals, fire departments and police departments will also be available at the concession stand.

In the event of inclement weather, we will use air horns to indicate a stoppage of play. One horn sound will signify a suspension in play. Players should seek shelter anticipating a return to the field within minutes. Two horn sounds will signify game cancellation; players should leave the park.

LEAGUE RULES

A copy of the league rules by division will be provided after team registration is complete. Please be aware that revisions are likely in an effort to facilitate a better learning and more enjoyable experience for the players. Adhering to the rules by school representatives, including players, coaches and, parents, is expected. Only league officials can make a revision to a rule if appropriate. Coaches, parents, etc., are prohibited from making any changes and will be subject to an immediate forfeit if a violation occurs. Violations include, changing game fields, revising player count or gender count during play without prior authorization.

PINK RIBBON WEEK

Pink Ribbon Week is held in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness the week of October 5th. Teams are encouraged to wear "pink" however still within league guidelines. Proceeds for pink ribbons and/or other "pink" items sold at concession during this week will benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation.