

LOWER MERION SOCCER CLUB

SPRING INTRAMURAL PROGRAM – LEVEL 1 GAME RULES

There are 17 Laws in the game of soccer, the following is a modified version of these laws which will be used for our youngest divisions (those playing at Penn Wynne Park in the spring). The rules have been designed to allow the players optimum enjoyment of the game.

The primary objective of each division is ENJOYMENT OF THE GAME OF SOCCER. The rules are to be interpreted with this objective in mind.

LAW I -- THE FIELD

- Approximately 30 yards long and 25 yards wide.
- A midfield line will be drawn.
- A “goal kick line” drawn about 10 yards from each goal line. The line is about four yards wide. This is where goal kicks are to be taken from.

LAW II -- THE BALL

- Size 3 ball

LAW III -- NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- Each team will have four players on the field at one time.
- No goalies
- Small sided games will minimize the "swarming" around the ball and maximize the amount of involvement each child has while playing.
- If needed, games can be played 3v3. Games should not be played 5v5 as the field will get too crowded.
- **If a game is played without substitutes, regular water breaks should be given.** When games are played with substitutes, there should not be a water break since players can get a rest and get water when they are off the field.

LAW IV -- PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Players are to bring their red LMSC jersey each week.
- Coaches will randomly give half of the players a blue pinnie to wear for that game. Coaches and referees must collect the pinnies at the end of the session.
- For safety reasons, soccer cleats are strongly preferred over sneakers since players are more likely to slip when wearing sneakers.
- **Shinguards are mandatory.** If a player does not have shin guards, he may buy a pair at the registration table
- Players may not wear jewelry.
- Players should **NOT** play in long pants. Sweat pants are acceptable.
- Baseball hats and other types of hats are NOT to be worn for safety reasons. Be sure that players wearing baseball hats remove them promptly.

LAW V -- THE REFEREE

- The primary job of the referee is player safety
- Referees are also responsible for ensuring the players have a fun time
- The referee shall only call:
 - out of bounds
 - dangerous play
 - MAJOR rule violations
- Referees do NOT keep time in these games. If prompted by the coaches, the referee will stop play for a water break.
- The referee will BRIEFLY (15 words or less) explain each call he / she makes
- If a referee is not available to do the game, a parent or coach must referee the game

LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES

- There are no assistant referees (linesman) for these age groups.

LAW VII -- DURATION OF THE GAME

- The program directors will signal when the games should end.
- If the coaches feel that the players are too tired to continue, they may end the game early.
- Coaches may ask the referee to call for a water break when needed

LAW VIII -- THE START OF PLAY

- Play starts with a kickoff from the midfield line.
- Play MUST start with a pass to a teammate. The player starting the game may not simply kick the ball down the field.

LAW IX -- BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- The ball must be **ENTIRELY** over the line to be considered out of play.
- The referee may let play continue if the ball goes over the line and immediately comes back into play.
- Play continues unless the referee blows his whistle.

LAW X -- METHOD OF SCORING

- The ball must go **COMPLETELY** over the goal line and through the goal posts.
- Coaches and referees are asked to discourage players from shooting behind the midfield spot. Encourage players to work the ball up the field (dribbling or passing) before shooting.
- Coaches and referees are asked to NOT keep score during the game
- If the teams are lopsided, play should stop so that the coaches can change the teams to make them even

LAW XI -- OFFSIDES

- There is no offsidess rule in the younger age groups.
- Coaches and referees are to instruct players to NOT hang out around the other team's goal waiting for the ball. All players are required to play both offense and defense.

LAW XII -- FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- **Only major or deliberate fouls will be called.** There are three fouls that will be **strictly enforced**:
 - dangerous play (to ensure each child's safety)
 - intentional hand balls (not accidental and never called when a player is protecting himself)
 - sliding tackles (illegal in ALL LMSC intramural divisions)
- The idea of rule enforcement is to let the kids enjoy and experience the game. They are too young to understand most rules. Referees are to let all 'minor' fouls go uncalled.
- Referees are to briefly explain to the players why each foul was called.
- **New for 2016: U.S. Soccer has mandated that players age 10 and under not head a ball.** Coaches and referees must make sure that players do not try to head the ball.

LAW XIII -- FREE KICKS

- All restarts will be "indirect" meaning that a goal may NOT result directly from the free kick.
- Coaches and referees are to instruct the player taking the free kick to **pass** the ball to a teammate. This will help players understand the concept of teammates.
- If a free kick is awarded to a team in front of their goal, the kick is to be brought out to the goal kick line

LAW XIV -- PENALTY KICKS

- Penalty kicks will **NOT** be called under any circumstances.

LAW XV -- THROW-INS

- These divisions do not have throw-ins. If the ball goes out of play, the other team will restart play with a **pass** from the sideline.
- The restart **MUST** be an attempted pass.
- Opponents must be at least five yards from the ball on the pass-in.

LAW XVI -- GOAL KICKS

- A goal kick is taken to restart play after the offensive team has kicked the ball over the goal line.
- **Goal kicks will be taken by the defensive team from anywhere along their team's "goal kick line."**
- **All members of the opposing team must be behind the midfield line on a goal kick.**
- The player taking the goal kick must **pass** the ball to a teammate. This will be a great "first opportunity" for players to understand the concept of passing the ball (sharing the ball with a teammate).

LAW XVII -- CORNER KICKS

- A corner kick is taken to restart play after the defensive team has kicked the ball over the goal line. The kick will be taken by the offensive team from the corner of the field.
- Referees and coaches are asked to tell the players to attempt a pass to a teammate.

LAW XVIII -- COMMON SENSE (an addition to the regular 17 laws).

When in doubt about what to do, use common sense and improvise.