

HOWELL SOCCER CLUB POLICY

FALL 2008

I OBJECTIVES

The Intramural program is designed to meet the Howell Soccer Club (HSC) objective, "to promote interest in and provide the opportunity for all youths", irrespective of skill, by providing a program conducted on the Club's fields concentrating on skills' development, game strategy and techniques, good sportsmanship and fun. Primary emphasis is on recreation and player development, within an appropriate context of team play and recreation.

II STRUCTURE

Players will be organized into teams by age groups for each Division, each with an assigned Commissioner for that Division. Each team will have an assigned coach and, where possible, up to two assistant coaches. The Commissioners and coaches are organized under the direction of the Director of Commissioners.

A. COACHES

The coaches are responsible for all team administrative functions. Any questions concerning specific team responsibilities are to be addressed to the Division Commissioner. Coaches will co-operate closely with club programs and/or guidelines to ensure consistency in developing players' skills. The goals to which the coaches are to strive toward in player development are outlined below in Section 3, Rules of Play. By the end of each season, each coach is to evaluate each player, using the skill levels as a basis. **Coaches and Assistant Coaches are expected to attend all General Membership meetings.**

B. TEAM PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The following is a list of team support activities needed by each team:

- Team Photos
- Practice schedule change notification
- Game schedule change notification
- Half-time Refreshments
- Re-line fields and goal assembly

C. CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

All registrations require the selection of a volunteer activity for each family or a \$30 fee. Activities include:

- Club Picture Day (SPRING)
- Hot Dog Day (Spring)
- Field Prep
- Team Parent
- Assistant Coach
- Coach
- Commissioner
- Administrative

For additional information on volunteering, please refer to the HSC website volunteer page:

<http://www.howellsoccerclub.com/Volunteers.html>

D. REFEREES

Referees will be selected and assigned by the Referee Coordinator. Referees will be asked to meet minimum standards and participate as necessary in meetings and clinics. The assigned referee will have control of all matters involving the conduct of play in each game as to:

- Game Ball
- Official time
- Official Score
- Names of Players Carded to Division Commissioner
- Sideline Activities
- Discussion of Play with Coaches Only (half-time & end of game)

No referee will be assigned to officiate games in which a relative is a participant, barring any unforeseen occurrence. Refs should not officiate a game in their own Division where they may be a coach or a player. In the event a problem occurs with a ref, coach, player or parent the matter must be brought to the Division Commissioner's attention. Do not take the matter into your own hands.

In the Instructional Divisions, each coach will be responsible for requesting one parent to volunteer for side line duty provided a Jr.

Referee is not present. Coaches are responsible for the behavior and actions of the parents/relatives/visitors associated with his/her team.

III RULES OF PLAY

The following Rules of Play shall apply unless amended by the Executive Board prior to the start of the season. The amended rules will apply for that season only.

A. GAME TIME

Each game must start no later than ten (10) minutes past the scheduled starting time of play, and must conclude five (5) minutes before the next scheduled game on that field. Delayed starts may therefore mean shorter playing time. Within these restrictions, the intended playing times are as follows:

1. INSTRUCTIONAL - Two Twenty (20) Minute Halves
2. PEE WEE - Two Twenty-five (25) Minute Halves
3. NOVICE - Two Thirty (30) Minute Halves
4. ADVANCED - Two Thirty (30) Minute Halves

After ten (10) minutes past the scheduled starting time, a team must be able to field at least seven (7) players to begin/continue play. In such situations, the teams will play with an even number of players. If seven (7) players are not available the game is forfeited. The teams are encouraged to play a not-for-the-record scrimmage game for recreation purposes.

Note: The aforementioned criterion does not pertain to TURBO BALL.

B. PLAYING TIME AND SUBSTITUTIONS

It is the responsibility of the coaches to see that all players are present each week to play, at least the equivalent, of half the game in accumulated playing time. The ability of the player or closeness of the game score are "**not**" excuses for violations of this rule. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed on kick-off, goal kicks, and for the possession of the ball on throw-ins. In the event that a player is injured and is substituted for, the opposing team will be allowed equal substitutions while play is out. Players being substituted should be brought to the sidelines before replacements are sent onto the field.

C. FIFA

Except for unlimited substitutions, FIFA youth soccer rules will govern play.

IV PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Parents and other spectators are encouraged to attend the games and support their children and their teammates. The children will get more out of the program if the parents are supportive and set good examples of sportsmanship.

V INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather, the Fields Director or (delegates) will make a decision on playing by eight (8:00) a.m. They will notify the appropriate Division Commissioners and Referee Coordinator. The Commissioners will then notify all coaches, who in turn, can notify all players or ask players to refer to the main page of the website http://www.howellsoccerclub.com/HSC_Home_Page.html, which will be updated every week with a status of game play/field conditions. The Referee Coordinator will notify all referees. When possible, all canceled games will be made up at a future date.

VI Safety Information

PRACTICES:

1. Meet the parent or guardian responsible for transportation to and from practice.
2. Let parents know when practices end. Make arrangements in case they are late.
3. The coach may not leave any player, regardless of age, at practice. ALL players must have transportation. If a child rides his/her bike or walks to/from practices a written note must be provided that they are aware of the arrangements.
4. If you are coaching a team of the opposite sex, have a parent of that sex on the team stay for the duration of the practice.

GAMES: Follow the same guidelines for practices. In addition:

1. Designate a meeting spot for your team to meet prior to game time and where to meet the parents following the game.

2. Have parents designate a spot to meet with their family in the event they get separated while at the park.
3. Tell all players not to go into the woods while at the park.
4. Report any suspicious characters hanging around.
5. Drive slowly entering and leaving the park.
6. Allow plenty of time to park. Don't rush in and out of the park. Do not have players wear their name on the back of their shirt.
7. If a player or sibling gets separated from their family, have them go to the concession stand.