



LEAGUE POLICIES

Revised: 06/22/2022

About

This document contains the policies for Stoughton Youth Soccer League (SYSL). These policies were created and will be revised to meet the requirements for Article V of the Stoughton Youth Soccer League By-Laws. They will also serve as a guideline for all members of our organization to follow and maintain a structured and honest league.

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INTRO TO STOUGHTON YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE (SYSL) POLICIES

The policies listed and defined in this document shall be followed and maintained by our Board of Directors. Any revisions to this document will need to pass a majority vote by our Board of Directors. If a policy contains multiple sub items within it, it should be made into its own category (Team Creation Policies for example).



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES

Section 1: “Give the Ref a Break”

All players, coaches and their spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the coaches, the referee(s) and the spectators. Stoughton Youth Soccer League (SYSL), in conjunction with The South Shore Soccer League (SSSL), has adopted the following rule:

No Coach or Spectator is to address the referee during the game.

A. Exceptions for Coaches and Managers during a game:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Making substitutions
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

B. Exceptions for Coaches and Managers at half time or at the end of the game:

- Ask a referee to explain a rule(s), in a polite and constructive way
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to the referee administrator. There is absolutely no sarcasm, harassment or intimidation allowed. If the administrator is not at the field, please send them an e-mail; all Board members are listed on the web site.

Penalties for those that violate items A and B:

1st Minor Infraction - Warn coach they will be ejected for next infraction

1st Serious infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

2nd Minor Infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

C. Exception for Spectators during the game:

- Referee initiating a communication
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues



Penalties for those that violate item C:

1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the spectator

2nd Infraction - Referee should stop the game and give a verbal warning to the coach that the next infraction by the spectator will result in the spectator being ejected

3rd Infraction - Referee should stop the game and instruct the coach to have the spectator leave the field. If the spectator does not leave the field, the referee should abandon the game

If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report and (for SSSL games) the SSSL may impose a forfeit for the spectator's team. For SYSL games the referee will notify the Board member on duty or the referee administrator.

Referees, especially young and inexperienced ones, are like your players and coaches, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments.

If you have a complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the referee coordinator, and/or a League Board member. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.

Let the referees do their job. The next time the players or coaches have a mistake-free game, it will be their first. Instead of complaining about the referee, become one yourself.



Section 2: “Protecting the Players”

All spectators shall be respectful to the players on our fields. Our number one goal is to provide a safe and fun environment for our children to play and learn the game of soccer. We love when you cheer for your children and their team. Please try to keep your cheering positive and encouraging. Shouting negative comments to children can have a profound negative effect on their emotions and lives. Stoughton Youth Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

No spectator may harass or taunt players before, during, or after the game.

Penalties:

1st Minor Infraction - Ejection from our fields

1st Serious infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

2nd Minor Infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

We ask that you follow this same rule when visiting other towns. Let's lead by example and demonstrate good sportsmanship to others in our league.



Section 3: “Be a Fan for Your Child”

Spectators shall be respectful to each other. We know games get exciting at times. We love when fans are vocal and cheer for our players. Let’s remember that we are here for our children. To give them our full support, and to let them play, learn and enjoy soccer. Stoughton Youth Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

No spectator may engage in an altercation with other spectators.

Penalties:

1st Minor Infraction - Ejection from our fields

1st Serious infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

2nd Minor Infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

We ask that you follow this same rule when visiting other towns.



Section 4: “Bullying”

Bullying in any form will NOT be tolerated. We will adopt the same type of policy that would be found in schools. Stoughton Youth Soccer League has adopted the following rule:

No player, coach, parent, or spectator will be allowed to bully any players.

Penalties:

1st Minor Infraction - Ejection from our fields

1st Serious infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors

2nd Minor Infraction - Ejection and review by Board of Directors



TEAM CREATION POLICIES

Section 1: Travel Teams

1. The Board of Directors will vote and select Division Coordinators. Division Coordinators will select coaches for the division they are responsible for. The Board of Directors will vote to approve the coach selections.
2. The division coordinator will meet with the selected coaches to form the teams, based on field evaluations, coach evaluations, personal knowledge, and previous evaluations.
3. Coaches will select their teams. Coach for Team 1 will select players for their team from the pool of available players. Team 2 will then select players for their team from the pool of available players and so on until all teams are formed. Team selections will then be reviewed by Board before becoming final.
4. No travel coach may rank their own child during on-field evaluations. Head coaches and assistant coaches will submit end of the season team evaluations.
5. Travel coaches will be informed of their teams when the Board meets and determines a date to announce results to all teams.
6. Travel head coaches will have the opportunity to select their assistant coaches pending Board approval.
7. If a coach misses 25% or more of their games, they may not be allowed to coach the following season.
8. An adult may have a youth assistant coach provided the youth is at least two (2) age groups older than the team's age group (High school age and 2 age groups older).
9. Coordinators report news of their respective divisions back to the Board of Directors. Any roster or coaching changes in an age group will go through the coordinator who will then bring to the Board of Directors for approval.
10. All Players are to play in their designated age group in accordance with South Shore Soccer League and Mass Youth Soccer Policies.



Players may play up in an older age group if all the following criteria are met:

- Player must be recommended by the Division Coordinator. The coordinator will evaluate the player and raise the request with the Board.
- The movement of the player doesn't conflict with any South Shore Soccer League policies or rules regarding player movement, registration, and rosters.
- The movement of the player doesn't conflict with any Mass Youth Soccer policies or rules regarding player movement, registration, and rosters.
- Both the player and his or her family must desire to play up. SYSL will not force any player to play in a different age group.
- Player may be asked to attend evaluations for their current age group as well as the older age group.
- To earn a position on an older age level team, the player must rank within the top 10 field players of the older age evaluation or be the #1 goalkeeper.
- No older age player will be cut to make room on a team for a younger player.
- The Board will vote and have final say on whether the player can play in an older age group or not.
- The Board can allow players to play in older age levels to help create additional teams and avoid cutting players from the program. Since this would be bypassing the evaluation process, it is expected that these players would play on the bottom team.

11. Players who register after the deadline run the risk of not being placed on a team. Players will only be placed on a team if there is room in that age group, and it is approved by the Board. Late registration may be subject to additional fees.



Section 2: In-House Teams

1. The Board of Directors will select in-house coaches from the list of registered volunteers.
2. Division coordinators will create teams based on past season coach evaluations and personal knowledge.
3. Players will be placed on teams that are sponsored by a parent, family member or request of the sponsor.



MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

1. Board meeting minutes are posted on website, except for executive session items
2. Coach suspensions for violation of league policies and rules are for a period of one (1) year. The suspended coach will be notified of the suspension by the SYSL President.
3. Pre-K, KG, and Grades 3-4 divisions should receive trophies/medals in the Fall and Spring.
4. Age divisions shall be 2-year age groups, except for the Pre-K and KG divisions, where physical and emotional development requires single age group divisions.
5. Mass Youth 2-year age group guidelines will be used to determine SYSL age guidelines, except the Pre-K and KG age groups, will use the one-year Mass Youth age groups
6. Refunds will not be given after the date specified by current registration rules. (Exception: medical reason prior to the start of the season).
7. Registration fee assistance requests are reviewed and voted on by the 5-member Executive Board.
8. The following precedence order shall be used to resolve field conflicts:
 - a. Games take precedence over practice
 - b. Fields should be divided evenly amongst the number of teams that show up for practice.
9. Coaches are responsible for paying referee fees for scrimmages

