

DARLINGTON SOCCER CLUB INC. YOUTH OPERATING RULES AND REGULATIONS – 2023



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These rules are intended to provide a framework for the operation of the Darlington Soccer Club Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “DSCI”). They have been established as a measure to minimize misunderstandings and potential disputes between members of DSCI.

The goal of this club is to provide an environment for our youth to learn and play quality soccer. These rules are designed to ensure the enjoyment, fairness and equality of all participants.

DSCI uses the Laws of the Game as established and recognized by FIFA except as shall be ordered and allowed by the Ontario Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as “OSA”) or overridden by the rules below.

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1. **PLAYERS PER TEAM**

A team that is unable to field the minimum number of players for a game shall lose the game by default. If both teams cannot field the minimum number of players for a game, they shall both lose by default. If coaches know ahead of time that the game will not be played, notify the DSCI office as early as possible to cancel the referee.

More than the maximum per team requires DSCI approval.

PLAYERS PER TEAM	
(All numbers include goalie)	
U5/6 mini soccer is played 3v3 no keepers	Mini Soccer U5, U5/U6, U6
a) Registration at the commencement of season	
Minimum	6
Maximum	10
b) Number of players dressed for a game	
Minimum	3
Maximum	10
c) Number of players on the field at one time	3 per team

2. **DSCI MODIFICATION TO STANDARD OR PAST SOCCER PLAYING RULES**

Mini Game Soccer

- Sliding tackles as well as sliding or lunging challenges for the ball when the ball is in close proximity to an opponent are not allowed and will be sanctioned as "Playing in a Dangerous Manner". Any infraction will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- No penalty kicks will be awarded. A direct free kick from the top edge of the penalty area will be awarded instead of a penalty kick.
- Goal kicks will be taken from the top edge of the penalty area.
- On all kicks (kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, free kick) opposing players must be no closer than six (6) yards.
- There will be no "offside" in mini soccer.

U5 & U6 - 3v3 Game Format Rules

Darlington Soccer Club has implemented a new set of rules for the U5 and U6 House League age groups to ensure players get more touches on the ball that helps with developing their soccer skills and making sure they are involved in the play at all times while the games are being played. See below for a summary of the rules:

- ☐ 3v3 format (no goalkeepers)
- ☐ Use of smaller fields (two games playing on one mini field)
- ☐ Substitutes made on the fly
- ☐ Two 20-minute halves with 5-minute half time
- ☐ Main goal is to keep ball moving with parent-volunteers who run the game
- ☐ Play kick ins with goal kicks only (no corner kicks)
- ☐ Retreat lines at the half way mark to ensure team gets possession after goal kick
- ☐ Smaller fields result in more touches on the ball and better skill development among players

3. **LEAGUE SCHEDULES**

Schedules will be prepared each year, one for the regular season (12 games). Schedules will be played (weather permitting) May through end of August.

The regular season schedule will be provided as soon as possible, but no later than one week prior to the season commencement. The End-of Year festival schedule will be provided no later than August 1st, 2023, so families can prepare accordingly.

4. **GAME SHEETS**

Triplicate Game Sheets

Each home field coach is expected to provide the game sheet for the game. After completing his/her list of players, the home coach will present the game sheet to the away team coach, so that he/she may complete his/her side of the game sheet. The game sheet will then be presented to the referee at half-time, no later. The second half will not be started until the game sheet has been given to the ref. If a team withholds the game sheet, then that team loses by default. The referee will complete the game sheet and give each coach a signed copy of it at the game's completion. Each coach must keep a copy of the sheet and be able to make it available to the DSCI office, if asked to do so.

Coaches shall be notified by the DSCI Discipline Committee of any player on his/her team that has incurred a suspension(s) as a result of play. The coach shall be specifically informed of the game number and game date(s) for which the suspended player is not permitted to play. For each game that the player is suspended from play the coach shall note that player's number and full name on the game sheet indicating that he/she is a suspended player and a record of how many games have been served and how many were set out in the original suspension issued by DSCI.

5. **GAME STARTS**

All games must be started promptly. Coaches are not obliged to start a game later than 15 minutes after the scheduled game time (in the case it pushes back a game meant to begin at 7pm).

- a. A team that does not show for a game by the end of the 15-minute "Grace Period" is liable to lose the game by default.

6. **WEATHER AND ABANDONED GAMES**

Games shall not be started during an electrical storm.

Rule: If you hear thunder clear it, if you see lightning flee it

Once a game has been started, deteriorating weather conditions may require that it be abandoned. Electrical storms and deteriorating conditions are defined as any lightning seen by the referee or coaches/players. Play is automatically suspended and parents/players are asked to leave the field.

A game will be abandoned, **if in the opinion of the Referee/Coaches**, the game cannot be completed due to darkness, or if the safety of the players, or the quality of the field is in jeopardy.

- a. The decision to cancel or abandon a game must be made by the Coaches at the field. He/she shall advise the coach/manager of each team before leaving the field and record an explanation on the game sheet and give a copy to both coaches.
- b. Any game that is abandoned for legitimate reasons, and was abandoned after the full first half has been played, will be considered complete.

- c. The Referee/Coaches will notify the DSCI office about the abandoned game. Where warranted, the game will be rescheduled. The Office Administrator will contact appropriate parties (i.e., community convenors), and notify them of the re-scheduled game. The rescheduled game will take place before the end of regular season play.

Only the Darlington office will reschedule games. If a team cannot attend the reschedule date, they will forfeit the game.

Either DSCI or the Municipality of Clarington may, at its discretion, at any time close a field due to weather and/or field conditions.

- d. Games called due to weather after August 1 will be rescheduled by the Darlington office, with the reschedule taking place on a weekday evening, including possible Fridays.

7. PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

Player Substitution Mini Game Soccer

Substitutions may take place at any time during the game. Substitutions must be made when players are closely located to the Coaches benches to ensure a safe transition.

8. COACHES ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

- a. Coaches are allowed on the field of play during a game for the U5 and U6 divisions only. Coaches in all other age groups must coach from the sidelines near their player's bench or in the immediate vicinity of centre field.

9. PLAYOFFS

Mini Soccer

In lieu of Playoffs and in accordance with the OSA's Long Term Player Development initiative, all DSCI Mini Soccer teams (age groups U5-U8) will participate in a Festival Fun Day at the end of their season.

10. **REQUIRED DUTIES OF A COACH/MANAGER**

- a. In the spirit of house league play, ensure that all players are given the same opportunity to participate during each game for which they are dressed, unless by player's choice. Keep all players informed of game and practice schedules.
- b. Home team Coaches provide the Away team Coaches with a completed game sheet by half time.
- c. Ensure the safety of the players before, during and after a game if necessary.
- d. Both coaches must hold on to their copy of the triplicate game sheet and they must be made available at any time.
- e. Ensure that all players on his/her team are registered with the DSCI. If a player is not registered and he/she is injured, or causes an injury that results in a claim or lawsuit, the coach is solely responsible. If a player is not registered and the coach allows he/she to play, DSCI, Durham Regional Soccer Association (hereinafter refereed to as "DRSA"), or the OSA are **NOT RESPONSIBLE**.
- f. If a coach allows a non-registered player to play, the coach will be subject to discipline as per OSA Discipline Policies.
- g. If a conflict should arise concerning colours of uniforms, then the **home team** must change/put on pinnies supplied by the Community Convenor for which your son/daughter have registered.

11. **Summary at a Glance**

Player Category	Age Group**	Registered Players per Team	Minimum # of Players To start game.	Ball Size	Game Duration
U-5	5 yrs	Min 3 - Max 10	3 players	3	20 min. halves
U-6	5 & 6 yrs	Min - 3, Max 10	3 players	3	20 min. halves
U-7	7 yrs	Min - 6, Max 12	4 players	4	25 min. halves
U-8	7 & 8 yrs	Min - 6, Max 12	4 players	4	25 min. halves
U-9	9 yrs	Min - 6, Max 12	4 players	4	25 min. halves
U-10	9 & 10 yrs	Min - 6, Max -12	4 players	4	30 min. halves
U-11	11 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	4	30 min. halves
U-12	11 & 12 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	4	35 min. halves
U-14	13 & 14 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	5	40 min. halves
U-16	15 & 16 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	5	*45 min. halves
U19, U21	17, 18 & 19 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	5	*45 min. halves
U23	20, 21 & 22 yrs	Min - 11, Max - 18	7 players	5	*45 min. halves

*** U-16 and up – All double header games will be 40-minute halves.**

**** Age groups are based on registration by year of birth as of January 1st.**

Any matter not covered in this document shall be judged in accordance with the Policies and Procedures and Published Rules of Durham Region Soccer Association, Ontario Soccer Association, Canadian Soccer Association and FIFA.