



SSA RECREATION PROGRAM - FAQ

ADMINISTRATIVE

When is Picture Day?

Picture Day is only scheduled during the Spring Rec. Session and will be communicated from SSA to all families.

EQUIPMENT AND JERSEY

What equipment does a player need?

Jersey (Purchased at registration time but may be purchased later too)

Ball (Please mark it with the name of the player)

Shin guards

Cleats (optional)

What size soccer ball does SSA use in Rec?

Toddler Soccer (ages 2-3) – Size 3

Rec (PreK-5th grade) - Size 4

Jr High Soccer (6th-8th grade) - Size 5

When will I get my jersey?

SSA will communicate how we will distribute the jerseys that were purchased during registration. Typically, the coach or an SSA representative will deliver them to your field.

Which team wears the red side of the jersey?

SSA uses reversible black and red jerseys in the Rec. Program. The HOME team listed on the game schedule, wears RED.



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WEATHER

When does SSA stop playing due to weather

SSA follows the Twin Cities Soccer League (TCSL) weather guidelines which suspends play at 35 and 105 degrees (wind chill\feels like)

Are there makeup games if canceled for weather or other reasons?

We do not plan for makeup games due to families\coaches schedules and field availability.

How does SSA communicate to coaches and families?

SSA uses Twitter to communicate field closures and game cancellations. We also use Facebook, www.shakopeesoccer.com, and email to communicate with our families and coaches. Twitter is the first and quickest way to communicate urgent notifications.

COACHING

How do you choose coaches?

Coaches are volunteers, typically parents but can be anyone over the age of 16.

Do you need to have soccer or coaching experience?

No, you do not have to have coaching or soccer experience. We primarily want coaches to keep the kids organized, safe and have fun.

May I coach a Rec Team with another person?



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Yes, you may co-coach with more than one coach. We ask that you notify the Rec Coaching Director so that they may be in communication with the additional coaches.

Do you provide coach training?

Yes, we provide coaches training in three ways:

1. Preseason coaches' meetings
2. Videos of age-specific activities, which include instructions, tips, and coaching points
3. On-field instructions – The coaching directors may provide instruction or suggestions, to players and coaches, during games and practices.

If I coach a Rec Team, will those hours count as my volunteer hours in the Competitive Program?

Yes, being the Head-coach of a Rec Team will completely fulfill your volunteer hours. If you are co-coaching a Rec team, hours will be awarded at the discretion of the Rec Coaching Director and Rec Director.

GAME-RELATED\RULES

Do we keep score in the Rec Program?

We do not keep scores or team standings in the Rec Program. The Rec Program is all about developing a love for the game of soccer, learning, and improving soccer skills and having fun.

How many players are on the field?

Rec is flexible based on number of players available, weather, etc. but suggested guidelines are:

PreK through 1st grade – 3 v 3, no goalkeeper

2nd through 5 grade – 6 v 6 with a goalkeeper (7 total)



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Do we use Goal Keepers (Goalies)?

SSA uses goal keepers starting at 2nd grade.

All players should be rotated through the position unless the coach feels it may be a safety issue.

Where can a goalkeeper use his\her hands?

Goalkeepers are only allowed to use their hands inside the box in front of the goal (the 18-yard box.)

Do we call offsides?

We do not call offsides in the Rec program. Offsides is difficult to enforce with one referee and most players don't understand the rule. We want the game to flow and the kids to focus on having fun.

Where can players go on the field?

All players, including defenders and goalkeepers, can go anywhere on the field. Goalkeepers can only use their hands inside the 18-yard box.

Does SSA allow Heading?

United States Soccer Federation (USSF) guidelines suggest no heading until age 13. For that reason, we strongly discourage heading but do not penalize a team if it happens.

Does SSA allow punting by the goalkeeper?

Punting can lead directly to heading so for that reason we discourage it. We encourage goalkeepers to distribute the ball by rolling (like a bowling) or throwing.

Are there referees?

SSA attempts to have referees at all games 2nd grade and higher. They are not guaranteed and if there is no referee on the field, then the coaches share the responsibilities.



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When does SSA use throw-ins?

Throw-ins are used at 2nd grade and up. We encourage referees to allow players to do the throw-in over if done improperly the first time. Referees should instruct players on what needs to be corrected.

PreK – 1st grade should use kick-ins from the sidelines.

When is the ball out of bounds or a goal?

The ball must COMPLETELY cross the goal line or the touch line.

Do we have penalties in Rec?

There are no penalties awarded in Rec. All fouls, including those inside “the box”, are INDIRECT free kicks. Someone, besides the kicker, must touch the ball before a goal can be scored.