



Niagara Falls SC House League Program: Rules, Standards, and Expectations



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Introduction

Welcome to **Niagara Falls SC House League Program!** We are excited to have you and your child join our soccer family. At the house league level, our primary focus is on **fun, participation, and fostering a love for the game.** We believe that soccer is more than just a sport—it's an opportunity for children to learn important life skills, make new friends, and grow both on and off the field.

This document outlines the **rules, standards, and expectations** for players, parents, and coaches within our house league program. These guidelines are designed to create a positive, safe, and enjoyable environment where every child can thrive. While we emphasize fun and participation, we also maintain high standards to ensure that our players develop good habits, respect for others, and a strong foundation in soccer.

At Niagara Falls SC, we measure success not by wins and losses, but by the **progress and improvement** we see in our players. Our goal is to help each child build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop a lifelong passion for soccer. We encourage parents and guardians to support this journey by embracing our club's values and working together with coaches and staff.

Thank you for being part of the Niagara Falls SC family. Let's work together to create a memorable and rewarding experience for your child!



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Our Philosophy

- Our primary focus is on **fun, participation, and individual development**.
- Winning is not the measurement of success. Instead, we measure success by the **progress and improvement shown from game to game**.
- We aim to help children build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop a strong foundation in soccer—both on and off the field.
- Our goal is for every player to leave the program with a smile on their face, new friends, and a passion for the game.

Training and Game Attendance

- Regular attendance at training sessions and games is encouraged to help players develop their skills and build team cohesion.
- While we understand that young players may occasionally miss sessions due to other commitments, we encourage open communication with coaches about absences.
- Consistent attendance ensures that players get the most out of the program and contribute to their team's success.

Training and Game Attire

- Players must wear **shin pads and appropriate soccer attire** (e.g., cleats, socks, and shorts) to all sessions and games.
- On game days, players should arrive in their **team uniform** or designated club attire.
- This helps create a sense of team spirit and prepares players for the game.

Respect and Greetings

- Players are encouraged to greet coaches and staff with a **handshake, fist bump, or high-five** upon arrival and departure.
- If a coach is speaking with someone, players should also greet that person.
- This simple act of respect helps build good habits and fosters a positive, inclusive environment.

Respect for Referees

- Referees play a vital role in ensuring fair play and maintaining the integrity of the game. All players, parents, and coaches are expected to treat referees with **respect and courtesy** at all times.
- **Players:** Do not argue with referees or question their decisions. Focus on playing the game and let the coaches handle any concerns.
- **Parents and Spectators:** Avoid making negative comments or gestures toward referees. Instead, encourage the players and respect the referee's role in the game.
- **Coaches:** Set an example by showing respect for referees and addressing any concerns calmly and professionally after the game.
- **Remember:** At this level, many referees are also learning and gaining experience. Mistakes are part of the learning process for everyone, including referees. Let's support them as they develop their skills, just as we support our players.

Sideline Conduct

- Spectators are asked to **cheer, encourage, and support** the players but avoid giving on-field instructions (e.g., "pass," "shoot," "run").
- Allowing players to make their own decisions—even if they result in mistakes—is a key part of their development.
- Coaches will provide guidance and feedback during games, and sideline instructions can create confusion.
- Remember, the goal is to let the kids play, learn, and have fun!

Parent Interaction with Coaches

- The "**Rule of 2**" applies to all conversations between parents and coaches. A manager or staff member will be present during discussions.
- **Serious Matters:** Parents must wait **48 hours** before requesting a meeting with the coach. This ensures that conversations are calm and productive.
- **Non-Urgent Matters:** All non-urgent questions or concerns should be directed to the **team manager**, who will consult with the coach if needed.
- This process helps maintain clear and respectful communication.

Player Development

- Our house league program is designed to help players develop their skills in a fun and supportive environment.
- Coaches will focus on teaching the basics of soccer, including dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork.
- Players will be encouraged to try new things, make mistakes, and learn from their experiences. Coaches will provide **positive feedback** to help players grow and build confidence.
- Our goal is to create a safe and encouraging space where every player feels valued and supported.

Tournament and Event Participation (If Applicable)

- Participation in tournaments and events is **optional** at the house league level.
- These opportunities are a great way for players to experience different levels of competition, build teamwork, and have fun. They also provide opportunities for players to experience new challenges and grow in a supportive setting.
- Details about upcoming events will be shared by the team manager.

Raising Standards

- While we prioritize fun and development, we also aim to maintain high standards for behavior, effort, and respect.
- We believe that these values help create a positive environment where every player can thrive.
- By working together, we can ensure that our house league program is a place where children grow, learn, and fall in love with soccer.

Conclusion

At **Niagara Falls SC House League Program**, we are dedicated to creating a welcoming, fun, and development-focused environment for every player. Our goal is to help children fall in love with the game, build confidence, and develop important life skills like teamwork and respect. By following these rules and standards, we can ensure that our young athletes have a positive and memorable experience that sets the foundation for a lifelong passion for soccer.

Our vision is to create a program where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to grow—both on and off the field. Thank you for being part of our soccer family. Together, let's make this season a joyful and rewarding journey for every child!



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