

Magic Soccer Club Guidelines

Magic Soccer is a club that prides itself on providing a development bridge between recreational soccer and competitive soccer and developing players to their full potential. We think it's important that we do this in a fun, family-oriented environment! That being said, please take the time to go over the information included in this booklet. We ask that ALL players and parents read this information, sign and return the LAST PAGE ONLY to your child's coach.

Do you know the number one reason children leave the sport of soccer?

They simply decided they weren't having fun anymore. At Magic Soccer Club, we will do everything we can to make sure your child learns how to play great soccer while having fun!

Everyone gets an opportunity at Magic Soccer.

Here at Magic Soccer we give an opportunity to every kid to become a great soccer player. One of our main goals is to have every player and family remember Magic Soccer has one of the best experience in their life.

Winning or Learning?

What makes a good youth coach? One that says, "I don't care about winning, I want my players to develop footskills and have fun." The problem is that we as parents often put pressure on coaches and players to win. We look at scores, records and points at much too young of an age. Let's face the TRUTH; winning is fun and losing stinks. However, both are equally valuable to the maturing child (and parent)! Here at Magic Soccer the main focus for youth players is:

- 1- Have fun and build a love for the game.
- 2- Improve and mature as an individual and grow their soccer skills.
- 3- It's not about winning or losing. The questions should be: Did we learn from it?

We have to miss a game or a practice.

There is a lot more to life than soccer. If you have an important family matter simply call, text or email the coach and let them know in ADVANCE. Spending an hour on lineups and then having to rework them at game time is not fun. Please try and let them know several days in advance.

Are we late again?

Please try and have your child to practices and games at least on time, if not early. Coaches spend a great deal of time prepping for practices and games. While they won't say it, being late kind of shows them you really don't appreciate their work. Showing up late also makes everyone else stop while drills are rearranged. Thanks for being on time.

Do you have the right equipment?

Let's face it, kids are kids. Many simply don't prepare and forget simple things that make a big difference. (Shin guards, water bottles, socks, balls, layers when it's cold, etc.) Please remember to check the gear and make sure they have it all. We highly recommend you teach your child to do this and make it their responsibility. A final check before leaving the house is a good idea.

Those are some crazy parents!

We've all seen them, the parents who get so worked up during the game that it's almost embarrassing to watch! We expect Magic Soccer families to be respectful and supportive during games and practices. Magic parents are expected to cheer for and support the entire team, not just the "star player" on your own children. It is also unacceptable to say derogatory remarks about a player and their skill level. We strive to maintain a positive learning environment for our kids. Nothing brings a smile to kids face after a tough game more than having another parents say something positive about their play. They expect their own parents to think they are awesome, but they appreciate it even more when you do too!

Sideline coaching?

One of the key elements of a youth player developing is their ability to make decisions on the field. This means making good choices and bad ones too. Players should NEVER listen to any one during the match except 3 people.

- 1- Their coach.
- 2- The referee.
- 3- Their teammates.

Parental coaching or "side line coaching" should be ignored by players on the field. Also realize that there are other parents sitting quietly on the sides trying to enjoy the game. Sitting next to the "loud parent" is a horrible experience and takes away from the beauty of our game.

Parents should...

Offer praise and applause for good plays and good behavior for their team.

Offer praise and applause for good plays and good behavior for the OTHER team.

They are all kids and trying their best. Let them know you appreciate it.

What is said after the game?

Please make sure that you ALWAYS keep a positive attitude after the game. (Both in the car and at home.) It's a GAME, silly. Like goes on, so enjoy it. Ignore the negative and talk about the positive. If a child starts speaking negatively, ask them to make 2 positive comments about the game. ("It is over" is not a positive comment.) Always point out positive performance issues and not the result of a match.

"That stupid Ref!"

Did you know that most youth referees are learning just like your child? Never, and we mean never, criticize a ref for making mistakes or bad calls. Guess what? There is a good chance that the ref's parents or even wife and children are sitting next to you. Speak at though the ref's 8 year old child is sitting next to you. Our sport is losing more and more referees every year because of parental comments, criticism and shouting. If you can't stop complaining about the ref's, we suggest that you become one. You will never shout out a negative comment again if you do. If there is a complaint about a referee let the coach of the team or director of the program handle it.

Thank the other team.

We often encourage our children to show good sportsmanship and at the end of the match shake hands with the other team. Not a bad idea to pass on to the ADULTS as well. Make sure you thank the other parents and coaches. As players leave the field, congratulate the other team's players too. If any negative comments are made from the opponent's parents or coaches, simply BITE YOUR TONGUE and offer a smile. Remember, it's only a game and there are too many other issues in life to deal with. If this happens we recommend you email a copy of this booklet to the other teams coach or program.

Did you know that a hand ball is legal?

Many parents shout out infractions they think the ref is missing. The problem? Many parents do not know the rules of the game. As an example...

Many "hand balls" in youth soccer are not intentional and therefore not called. Children simply turn away from shots and the shot strikes their arm or hand. This is not a handball. There needs to be some intent to stop or deflect the ball. Simply protecting your "face" is not intent to change the play. Youth refs understand this and allow many such calls to go. "Let them play", should be the rule. Spend some time learning the rules and understand that in youth soccer there is always a little flexibility.

Will all players play equal time?

Our coaches will try their best to have all kids play equal time. But when a game is very even the coach knows that this is a competitive game and will try to compete.

My kid is an amazing forward!

She/he may be, but the coach might need her/he in another position! The only person who will decide the position your child plays is the coach. That means when your child complains about playing a position they might not be comfortable in, it is up to you to encourage your child to try it out. Part of being a team player is sacrificing for the team. Every kid wants to score goals, but without amazing defenders to protect our goalies, we don't stand a chance! When your child understands that, they will truly be part of the team! Our coaches are experienced and knowledgeable - there is a reason they assign each player to a position. Teach your child to trust their coach's judgement by supporting the position the coach chooses for them. But remember here at Magic we encourage coaches to give players the opportunity to play other positions.

Can I stand on the sideline?

The sideline or touchline is the long side of the field border. Many youth fields now have a separate "spectator line" which is about 6 feet away from the sideline. This is for safety. If your fields do not have a "spectator line" please stay 6 feet away from the sideline at all times. Please make sure objects such as chairs and coolers are also this distance away as they can cause serious injury. (Note: Parents are not allowed on the coaching side of the field.)

Can I stand on the coaching side of the field?

Absolutely, positively, no! The only people allowed on the coaching side of the field are players and coaches. Nobody else, even if you happen to be the team manager, is allowed on the coaching side of the field. This is not only a Magic Soccer Club rule, it is also a Lake Country rule.

A player got hurt!

Nothing "yanks at the heart" like a child getting hurt during a game. However, there are some rules to follow.

- 1- Never run onto the field if your child or another is hurt. The ref will address the situation and if needed the next action is to call out the coach to field. The injury will be reviewed by the coach and if additional care is needed he will make sure it is handled.
- 2- Any injury during a game should be reported to the coach. He should file an injury report to the league or administration.
- 3- If your child has any medical conditions please make sure you let everyone know.
- 4- If your child has an injury before a game or practice, please make the coach aware of it.

They are coaches, not babysitters!

It is common for parents to drop off kids at practice and then pick them up afterwards. Please make sure you are on time to pick them up. While the coaches care about ALL the kids, constantly staying late waiting on THAT parent gets old. Don't be THAT parent. Our coaches have families too, and want to get home to spend time with them after a long day of working AND coaching. On the similar issue, a coach should never leave a child alone during or after practice. Children should not be allowed to leave practice unless the parent is there to pick them up. If an emergency comes up, please let the coach know.

Behavior issues?

Coaches have a tough role. Not only do they have to deal with their players, they have to deal with parents, league administrators, refs and other coaches. (Not to mention their kids, spouse, job, etc.) From time to time coaches need to deal with behavior issues. This is often done between player and coach directly, but don't be offended or shocked if the coach asks you to get involved in dealing with your child. It's simply a part of growing up and makes the coach's job a little easier.

I have a problem. Should I talk to the coach?

If there is ever a problem with a child, parent or anyone around the fields, please feel free to talk to the coach. That is the right place to start. If you have a problem with the coach, do not address it with other parents or players. Talk to the coach about in private later that week.

Soccer homework?

Most youth soccer coaches agree. We wish we had more practice time. We encourage all parents to spend time with their child at home working on basic skills such as dribbling, passing, juggling, and just getting the feel of the ball on their feet. This "soccer homework" not only helps the player improve, but also creates a great bonding growth between parent and child. ALWAYS keep these sessions fun and never demand it or use it as punishment.

Please visit our site www.sgfmagicsoccer.com and view our Magic Foot Skills Video to understand the basic touches of soccer.

How long is a soccer year?

A soccer year goes from Fall to Spring and we expect players to participate in both. It is not a requirement but a coach needs to work at least with a team for a year to make an impact. Winter is optional. Please always communicate in advance to coaches and managers if your son/daughter won't be able to participate in a season.

Did you know that Magic Soccer has a Scholarship Program?

For the last couple of years Magic Soccer has helped hundreds of families in need by offering financial assistance. To meet all or a portion of the Club's required training fee, the Club has established a Scholarship Fund to assist such players. The program offers scholarships to ensure equal opportunity to players regardless of gender, race, or economic conditions. A player's current yearly training fee ranges from \$360 (younger age and just two seasons) to \$850 (older ages and including winter league and winter and summer camps). Last year, the Club was able to provide scholarships to over sixty- five players. Your donation into the Scholarship Fund can make an immediate impact on a child's life today. To donate to the

scholarship program please see your child's coach or Mariana Marquez. To apply for a scholarship please see Mariana Marquez. You can speak with her at practice or email her at mymagicsoccerclub@gmail.com

How can I pay my club dues?

You have several options! You can give the cash or check to your child's coach, the team manager, or club administrator Mariana Marquez. You can also mail a check to Magic Soccer 5646 S. Jefferson Ave. Springfield MO 65810.

Can I split the payments in parts?

Absolutely! Please see Mariana Marquez for a Payment Agreement Form.

We hope you learn to love the game as much as we do.

If you have ANY questions, always ask.