

Thank You for Attending – Coaches Meeting Notes

Dear Coaches,

Thank you for attending last night's coaches meeting and for your continued dedication to our players and program. Below are the meeting notes for your reference.

1. Safety

- Player safety is always our top priority. Please review the following guidelines carefully and keep them in mind throughout the season:
- Lightning: Follow the '30-30 rule.' If you see lightning, clear the field immediately. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash before resuming activities.
- Supervision: Always keep an eye on players during practices and games. Be aware of their well-being, including signs of injury, dehydration, or distress.
- Bathroom Breaks: Players must have permission before leaving the group. Ideally, send them in pairs and ensure an adult is aware of their location.
- Never Alone with a Child: Always maintain two-adult supervision when possible. Avoid situations where you are one-on-one with a player in an enclosed space.
- Physical Safety: Ensure the field and equipment are safe before each practice or game. Remove hazards such as debris, broken goals, or uneven playing surfaces.
- Player Well-being: Be observant of changes in behavior, mood, or participation. If you notice anything concerning, report it to league leadership promptly.
- Positive Feedback: Encourage players through constructive, age-appropriate feedback. Keep communication positive and supportive.
- Emergency Preparedness: Know where the nearest first aid kit and AED are located. Have emergency contacts for each player readily accessible.

2. Practice Schedule

- Please reach out to all parents to share your practice day and time as soon as possible. Some families are eager to get organized, and early communication helps set the tone for the season.
- We understand that the schedule may need adjustments as the season progresses—fields, weather, and availability can all change. Please be respectful and patient with parents during this process, and encourage them to extend the same courtesy to you.
- If another team or group is occupying your assigned field during practice time, please text us or come to the Allen Creeks Office so we can resolve the situation quickly.

3. Game Schedule

- The game schedule will be released soon. Please do your best not to request rescheduling unless absolutely necessary. There are a lot of moving pieces involved in scheduling games, and changes can create ripple effects across multiple teams and divisions.

4. Rosters

- Please make sure you have the most up-to-date roster for your team. This ensures you are contacting the correct players and families, and that all new additions or changes are reflected. If you are unsure, please confirm your roster with the office before your next practice or game.

5. Goal Differential – Game Play Rule

- To promote sportsmanship and fair play:
- If a team leads by 5 or more goals, coaches must begin adjusting play (rotate players, pass requirements, weaker foot shooting, etc.).
- If a team reaches a 6-goal lead, the leading team must remove one player from the field until the lead drops to 5 or less.
- Excessive scoring or celebration will not be allowed.
- Our goal is to ensure all players enjoy and learn from the game.

6. The Importance of Recreational Soccer

- Our recreational program is the foundation for player development and community involvement. We recruit players, help them grow, and celebrate their progress—not just their wins.
- Player Development: When a player improves through the rec program, recognize their growth and continue to nurture it. Don't be greedy—remember, our goal is to support their journey, whether they stay in rec or move on to higher levels.
- Coach Development: We also aim to develop coaches by providing guidance, experience, and opportunities to learn.
- The 'L' Rule: Always keep the spirit of the game in mind—focus on learning over losing or winning. Every 'L' should be a lesson, helping both players and coaches grow.

7. Uniforms

- Uniforms are mandatory for all players. This policy not only ensures a professional and consistent appearance but also allows us to verify that only registered players who meet the correct age requirements are participating.
- Players without the proper uniform will not be allowed to play.

All rules and information can be found here:

<https://www.lsasharks.com/copy-of-recreational>

Sincerely,

Lanier Soccer