



## Brunswick Youth Soccer League

### First Grade Rules and Roles

Teams meet on Saturday for 60 minutes. There is a 30-minute instructional practice followed by a 30-minute game. The game consists of two halves and a short half-time. The season begins with four field players and a goalie on each side. The game ball will be a size three. Coaches may be on the field during the games to referee and instruct players on positioning, throw-ins, goal kicks, and free kicks. No direct kicks or penalty kicks will be awarded. Offside will not be called. Absolutely no slide tackles in BYSL. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children during practice. Parental involvement at this level ensures the success of each child by maintaining their interest in the skills and the game.

As the season progresses and the children demonstrate proficiency in the four-on-four game, additional players may be added, one at a time, to a maximum of six players per team on the field at a time. Both coaches must agree upon added players.

The young players of Division 1 enjoy the simplicity of this modified game and it allows the development of skills appropriate to this age level. It keeps children on various developmental levels interested in the game because it provides a great deal of “ball touch”.

The major objectives of Division 1 are ball control, team concept, passing, rule comprehension, introduction of positions, and defense.

**All players MUST wear shin guards with socks covering the full shin guard. Players should not wear jewelry, hooded sweatshirts or hard hair clips to either practices or games.**

Games are played unless there is a heavy rain. Postponement will be announced by a phone call from your coach, at least 1/2 hour before game time. If you do not receive a call, then assume the game is to be played. Cancellations will be placed on the Brunswick Parks and Recreation Department Cancellation Hotline at 725-6656.

BYSL strongly discourages you from bringing your dog to games and practices. Under no circumstances should a dog be on the players bench, or unleashed.

#### **PARENTS' ROLE**

BYSL parents have the greatest influence on each child's level of enjoyment. Your child, his/her teammates, and opponents should hear only encouragement from the sidelines. The coach should be the only one “coaching” during the game. Encouraging your child and his teammates after the game is very important for young children. Teaching good sportsmanship in victory and defeat is an important skill that can begin at home. Practice and preach commitment and the idea that soccer is a team sport in which one relies on the others.

The league goal is that participants have fun and that everyone participates. If your child is not having fun, please speak to the coach or one of the league officials.

All parents are asked to volunteer when possible, to become familiar with league rules and to join in the fun. Parents are also asked to transport their child to practices and games on time and notify coaches when an absence is anticipated. You should check with the coach about his/her policy for parents leaving children at practices and games. ***It is your responsibility*** to be on time to pick up your child.