

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Soccer is played in almost all weather conditions. Cancellations usually result from thunder or lightning in the vicinity or dangerously heavy rainstorms. Games are generally not rescheduled due to our relatively short playing season and the large number of scheduled games. No portion of registration fees is refundable as a result of inclement weather.

On Saturday mornings, DSL officials monitor the weather continuously to determine the need to cancel games. (At all other times, referees have this responsibility.) In the event of cancellations, DSL officials will attempt to contact coaches in time to relay the message to their players. When possible, we will post weather related messages on our website at [DublinSoccerLeague.com](http://DublinSoccerLeague.com) as well as change our voicemail message; however, the phone system has limited capacity for incoming calls. At the fields, referees may be informed directly or by sounding an air-powered horn to suspend play and clear the area.

When in doubt as to whether a game is on or not – SHOW UP. Do not assume that because earlier games were canceled, your game will be.

But safety is still *priority one*. While league officials may suspend or cancel games, in any situation: **Do not hesitate to remove your child from any weather condition you feel is unsafe or inappropriate.** You will not be penalized for any actions you deem necessary.

## GOALPOST DANGERS

Injuries and deaths have occurred from falling goalposts. They may fall due to high winds or as a result of misuse, such as children climbing or hanging on the structure or nets.

**DO NOT MOVE GOALS!**

**Check that goals are secure before use.**

# WELCOME TO THE DUBLIN SOCCER LEAGUE



## PARENT'S GUIDE



For more information, visit:

**[www.DublinSoccerLeague.com](http://www.DublinSoccerLeague.com)**

Mail: PO Box 501, Dublin, OH 43017  
Office: 37 W Bridge St, Dublin, OH 43017  
Phone numbers: 614-793-8320 voice  
614-793-9626 fax

DSL *Program Handbook* available online

# ONCE YOU'RE REGISTERED

The Dublin Soccer League (DSL) is the community provider of recreational soccer programming within the Dublin municipal and Dublin City School district boundaries.

After the registration process is completed, the DSL forms teams by grouping your child with others, primarily by age group and gender. Factors such as available coaches, geographic locale, etc., may have a bearing on team placement.

Most games are scheduled on the eight Saturdays (following Labor Day) of September and October during the fall and seven weekends of April and May preceding Memorial Day weekend during the spring. The coach determines practice days and times. The DSL office does not maintain practice information.

Coaches customarily contact their players two to three weeks prior to the start of the season. Uniforms (used for fall and spring seasons) are generally distributed by coaches at a practice.

The DSL requires that coaches ensure that each player receive 50% playing time for each game attended (except where an injury has occurred), significant experience at all positions, and equal opportunities to start games for each player.

Registering your child for both fall and spring sessions at the same time will ensure they remain on the same team for a seasonal year and avoid the problem of forgetting to re-register.

Recreational programs are offered starting from U-5 through U-19. The "U" stands for under that particular age, using August 1<sup>st</sup> as the determining cutoff date recognized by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

A recreation league has teams in which the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited.

The DSL is primarily a volunteer organization, governed by an elected board of directors. Its greatest asset is the many volunteer coaches who donate their time and talent to the league.

## GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

To make your experience more enjoyable:

- Commit to transporting your child to and from practices and games on time.
- Notify the DSL office of change in status (decided not to play, change of address, email or phone, age or school correction).
- Dress your child appropriately for games and practices:
  1. Shinguards are required at all times, covered completely by soccer socks.
  2. No jewelry, i.e. earrings, watches, necklaces, or rings. Subject to referee discretion.
  3. Shoes (soccer or tennis-type) without sharp toe cleats (baseball shoes are usually not acceptable).
  4. In cold weather, wear warm clothing UNDER the team jersey with a coat available when sitting out a period. Knit caps are allowed; hard brimmed hats are not.
  5. Long pants are **not** acceptable except when very cold (under 50°). They are cumbersome and prevent the referee from judging plays by sock color.
- Bring a soccer ball. Size 3 for U-5, 6 and 7s; size 4 for U-8s through U-12; size 5 for U-13s and up.

- While at the game:
  1. Watch from the side of the field OPPOSITE the team, away from the goal area, and at least one yard from the touch (side) line.
  2. Do not stand behind the goal line or goalie.
  3. Do not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
  4. Never argue with a referee, especially a youth referee.
  5. Shout only positive comments and encouragement. No noisemakers.
  6. Pick up your trash as you leave.
  7. Leave your pets at home.
  8. Park only in designated areas.
  9. Refrain from smoking at the field.

If in the opinion of the referee, a spectator is deemed to be unruly, the referee is empowered to demand they leave the area of the field before the game resumes.

The referee uses yellow and red cards to indicate a caution (warning) or send-off (ejection) to players or coaches for specific offenses. Red cards include a minimum one game suspension from playing or coaching.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The DSL participates in a risk management program as a second line of defense for recognizing and addressing sexual abuse and exploitation in youth sports.

Any serious concerns of possible physical abuse should be brought to the immediate attention of the Risk Management Program Coordinator for the Dublin Soccer League, John Muir, at 614-793-8320.