

Good afternoon soccer coaches,

You should have received a message a few days ago from me, regarding the 2016 soccer season. In that message, which was sent to all the parents of players in our program who have email addresses attached to their Si Play accounts; I gave information regarding the need for all players and coaches to have CYC ID cards at all games, etc.

This message is more specific to you, as coaches, and as the mentors of the kids playing in the CYC soccer program. Some of this message may be long and wordy, my apologies for that. I'm just trying to get the information to you that you may need to have a successful season. While you may not want to read the entire message, please keep in mind as coaches, you will be expected to know and understand the content of this message. This message will also be posted on the St. Charles CYC District web page under the soccer coaches heading. Those of you who attended the district soccer coach meeting in August will have already heard most of this stuff.

**Regarding rosters, you must have a copy of your approved "formal" CYC roster with you at every one of your games.** An electronic copy of your approved "formal" CYC roster is ok, but we prefer the paper copy for the referees to use while checking your players before each game. If you don't have a copy of your formal roster, send your parish coordinator or me a message and we will email it to you. As of this moment, there are only 9 soccer rosters that have not been approved. Hopefully, those 9 will be taken care of by Friday (9/9) morning. Rosters are approved based off of the information that is entered into the Si Play registration system by the player's parents and parish coordinators. If the information given to us is later found to be inaccurate, the approval status of a roster will be nullified. Therefore, it is important that the correct information regarding a player's school, parish of registration (where they attend weekly mass), parish of residence and open/closed status is listed correctly on the roster.

**Regarding CYC ID cards, every one of your players must have their CYC ID card there with them at every game, or they will not be permitted to play.** An exception to this would be if you have an electronic copy or even a paper copy of the actual CYC ID card there to show the referee before the game. Also, if a player has applied for an ID card, and they have the receipt/waiver for that ID card, it will be sufficient until the ID card arrives or the waiver expires.

**Every adult that participates as a coach or an assistant coach must be listed on the approved "formal" roster AND must have their CYC Coaching ID card with them.** If the Coaching ID card is an old one that doesn't have a picture of them on it, they must have a CYC ID card (with picture) to go with the old CYC coaching card. Of course, an electronic copy or paper copy of the coaching card is acceptable.

Regarding the electronic copies of rosters and electronic or paper copies of ID cards, once the District playoffs or Archdiocesan playoffs start for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older teams, only hard copies of rosters and the actual ID cards will be accepted.

**The referees are supposed to check rosters and ID cards before each and every game – from Pre-K through high school level games. If they don't check your roster and ID cards, please let us know.**

**Regarding the game cards that you should each have been given. It is your responsibility to fill in the information on the game cards, including the game location, date, time, home team, away team and especially each of the player's last name and jersey number.** This should be done before the game starts so that you can give the game card to the referees before the game starts. After the game ends,

the referees are supposed to have written the final score on the game cards, then have you sign the game card. You are signing the game card to acknowledge that the final score is correctly noted. Please do not write comments on the game card regarding your opinion of the referee's performance. If you are protesting the game, make sure that you do that properly. See the rules and by-laws for proper protest procedures.

**Regarding player uniforms and jewelry...** There is a new CYC rule this year in which players are to wear similar colored shorts and socks. There is no penalty this season for players that do not have the same colored shorts or socks. For the Archdiocesan playoffs, I would imagine that there will be a penalty though. Jerseys must be the same or similar color though, and they need to be properly numbered (NO DUPLICATE JERSEY NUMBERS). Players must have shin guards on and the shin guards must be under the player's socks and completely covered. Softball/baseball cleats are not allowed, nor are steel/metal studded shoes. The only jewelry players are allowed to wear would be religious medallions or medical bracelets/necklaces, which are to be taped to the skin and covered. Absolutely no earrings are allowed, not even when covered by tape or a bandage.

Please review the CYC soccer rule book, the St. Charles CYC supplemental soccer rule book and both the CYC and St. Charles CYC constitution and by-law documents; so that you are aware of the rules and policies. These documents can be found on the St. Charles CYC and the Archdiocesan CYC web pages.

We expect that you won't agree with every decision or non-decision that the referees make during your team's games. Please remember that this is a "church" league and that nobody on this planet of ours is perfect. Yelling and screaming at the referees or telling them how horrible they are is not likely going to change things for you or your team during that game; it will more likely make it worse. After the game, go home and think about it, then send a message to your parish soccer coordinator or even me about the situation. If a referee needs some constructive counseling to do a better job for us, we will attempt to do that in a positive manner. As a side note, I am asking the referees to let us know about unruly coaches and spectators, even if they don't issue a caution or ejection.

Regarding player, coach and spectator behavior, we expect that since we run a sport league, folks will get amped up while cheering for their friends and family members who are out there on the pitch playing the game. That doesn't mean that it's ok to treat opponents poorly, cheer negatively or berate the officials. As noted in the message that was sent out to all of the player's parents, the CYC sport leagues are about more than winning the games. Good sportsmanship and learning how to win and lose games with dignity and honor should be the number one priority. We expect that to be the case. Players who display poor sportsmanship should be subbed out and counseled by their respective coaches before the game officials are forced to caution or eject those players. Coaches and assistant coaches that display poor sportsmanship or that are berating the game officials should be calmed down by their fellow team coaches before the game officials get to the point where they feel the need to caution or eject a coach. Spectators are expected to cheer in a positive manner for those playing the game. Unfortunately, the coaches are held responsible for the behavior of the spectators rooting for their team. As a coach, if a spectator associated with your team is acting in an unsporting manner, try to be proactive and calm them down before the referees have to ask you to deal with it. IF the referees do ask you to deal with it, deal with it. Not dealing with it will result in a caution or ejection for the coach. A coach that does everything that he/she can to get a spectator to calm down or leave the area should get a break instead of getting a caution or ejection for themselves.

Players and coaches that receive two yellow cards within 30 days are required to sit out the next scheduled game for that team. Players and coaches who receive a red card are required to sit out the next scheduled game for that team. Some red cards will result in multiple game suspensions. Spectators who are asked to leave a site for unsporting behavior will likely be banned from one or more of the team's future games. These situations are not the fun part of administering a sport league, but a necessary function.

Regarding game scores, the scores for Pre-K and K games will be recorded on the district web site as 0-0 ties, after the games have been played. The scores for all other grade levels will be posted as they are sent in to us. Let's keep the scores reasonable folks. There is no reason for a team to win a game by a huge margin, without some steps having been taken by the winning team to take it a little easier on the losing team. Some examples of this would be to move the kid who is scoring multiple goals to a defensive position, taking a player or two off of the field and playing short, allowing the other team to add an extra player, requiring your team to take shots on goal with their non-dominant foot, no shots being allowed within the penalty area. If I see a blowout score, I will likely call the losing team's coach to see how the game went; so please be nice to each other. Remember – "church league."

More about game scores...if you see that one of your game scores hasn't been recorded, or is recorded incorrectly, please send me a message about it, with the correct score. If the game score is not correct, but the score indicated on the web site still has the correct team winning, don't worry about that. The standings for our leagues are dependent on team record and team record alone. The goals for and goals against columns listed in the standings don't mean anything to us. At the end of the season, if two teams are tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, they are considered co-champions. If we need to have a winner determined for playoff purposes, a game will be played to make that determination.

Regarding trophies – in our soccer leagues, the division winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older divisions get a team trophy from the St. Charles CYC. (1 trophy per team). If there are co-champions, both of those teams get a trophy. Individual player trophies for teams are the responsibility of the parish with whom that team is affiliated.

At the end of the regular season, the Archdiocesan playoffs for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older teams begin. There are two divisions for each grade level and gender, "open" and "closed". Open teams have at least one player listed on their roster who plays on another outdoor soccer team during the CYC regular season and during the Archdiocesan playoffs. Closed teams have only players that play on that CYC team. To determine which St. Charles CYC District teams will advance to the Archdiocesan playoffs, we look at the division standings at the end of the season. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place "open" teams will play a District "play-in" game to determine which team will advance. The same thing will happen with the "closed" teams in each division. The District Soccer Chairperson sets the schedule for these games. While we try to place these games on neutral fields, that doesn't always occur. The referees scheduled to officiate these games are selected from across the District by the Soccer Chairperson too.

Continuing on with the District "play-in" games, if we have a three-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, or a clear 1<sup>st</sup> place and then a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, more than one district "play-in" games will be required. Once again, won/loss records are the only thing that matters; goal differentials are immaterial.

In the CYC soccer rule book, the dates are listed for the Archdiocesan soccer pre-playoff meetings and the actual playoff dates. Other playoff information is listed there too, so make yourself familiar with that, if your team is looking to advance to the playoffs.

That there is a lot of information, and I'd be willing to be that something was overlooked. This document will be posted on the St. Charles CYC website, so that you can refer to it throughout the season. We hope that you will all have a rewarding experience working with your team's players. As issues come up, please feel free to contact your parish soccer coordinator or me and we will try to help you out. You are the backbone of our organization, and we thank you for the time and talents that you share with our children.

Thank you,

Mike