

Danbury Youth Soccer Club, Inc. In-House Guidelines



'Serving the Youth of Danbury Since 1977'
www.DanburyYouthSoccer.org
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Danbury Youth Soccer Club, Inc. (DYSC) is a non-profit, 501c3, volunteer organization, *Serving the Youth of Danbury*

DYSC Mission Statement

To promote and develop the sport of Soccer for the youth of Danbury, by providing avenues of participation at various skill levels that meets the needs of our membership. To continue encouragement of all young people to participate in the game, while having fun and learning to develop their own skills.

Purpose of In-House Program

The purpose of the DYSC In-House Program is to promote and develop the game of soccer in the Danbury area, as described in this In-House Guideline. We will provide our young people the opportunity to learn, develop and refine their soccer skills and have fun while doing so. Because we are dealing with a child's self-confidence, self-esteem, and development as a player, it is important to never be critical, harsh or discouraging of the child's performance during a game or on a practice field. Winning is not a priority in the In-House program, our focus is safety, player development, equal participation and fun.

TOPSoccer

DYSC is very proud of our TOPSoccer program (see **Attachment A**). TOPSoccer, a program developed for children with special needs, began in Spring 2008 is a wonderful program and a priority for DYSC and our volunteers. Please try to support this program any way possible.

Governing Bodies

The DYSC In-House program is governed by the DYSC Board of Directors as outlined in its By-Laws. DYSC is also a member of and operates under the guidelines of the following:

- Southwest District and Northwest District of CJSA, which are members of
- CJSA (Connecticut Junior Soccer Association), which is a member of
- USYSO (United States Youth Soccer Organization), which is a member of
- US Soccer, which is a member of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), which is the governing body for soccer in the United States and the World. These soccer organizations follow the "Laws of the Game" (go to www.fifa.com) as defined by FIFA, which are modified for the younger ages.

Organizational Structure and Responsibilities

Within the DYSC Organization, responsibilities are divided as follows:

- DYSC Board of Directors - Responsible for all DYSC programs and activities.
- DYSC Board Officers – Hold positions needed to administer our programs
- Recreational Director – Responsible for all In-House programs.
- Division Coordinators – Responsible for team rosters and schedules of a given Division
- Coaches - Responsible for the welfare, education and activities of their team.
- Assistant Coaches - Responsible for assisting the Coach.
- Players - Participate in the program and have fun.
- Parents - Support the program, children and assist whenever possible.

Description of In-House

The DYSC In-House program (meaning “within Danbury”) is a recreational league open to any child age 4 through High School, who is interested in learning to play the game of soccer. The In-House program will consist of various Divisions based upon the number of children registered, Coaches available and volunteers to administrate them. The In-House Divisions are designed to promote player safety and player development and to be fun rather than competitive. DYSC does not maintain standings for the In-House divisions and does not declare winners.

Description of In-House Divisions

Dinomites – for players that are 4 years old

U7 – Means ‘Under 7’ when the season starts and pertains to Boys and Girls, which are in kindergarten and first grade.

G9 – Means Girls under 9 who are in second grade and third grade

G12 – Means Girls under 12 who are in fourth grade, fifth grade and sixth grade.

G15 – Means Girls under 15 who are in 7th & 8th grade (9th graders do not generally participate)

B9 – Means Boys under 9 who are in second grade and third grade

B12 – Means Boys under 12 who are in fourth grade, fifth grade and sixth grade.

B15 – Means Boys under 15 who are in 7th & 8th grade (9th graders do not generally participate)

TOPSoccer – Means ‘The Outreach Program for Soccer’ This program is for all ages 5 and above and is for children of special physical or mental needs – See attachment A.

DYSC Season

Danbury Youth Soccer Club defines a soccer season as a Fall Session plus a Spring Session or September through June. The actual dates of one season are from August 1, 2016 to the following July 31, 2017. This example would be called the 2016-2017 Season. There will be eight (8) scheduled Saturday games during the Fall Session typically starting the first Saturday after Labor Day weekend and eight (8) scheduled Saturday games in the Spring Session typically starting the first Saturday in April. Since games will be cancelled if there is poor weather, we will try to allow time for two makeup weeks to be available each Session. If we have more rainouts than we can make up, there are no refunds and the games missed will not be played. We play on Columbus Day Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend. We do not play on Easter weekend.

In-House Registration

Coaches cannot allow any child to play or practice unless they are properly registered with the Danbury Youth Soccer Registrar. Coaches that do this will be subject to disciplinary actions, including dismals and personal liability. Coaches may distribute registration forms as directed by the Division Coordinators or the Club Registrar, but Coaches cannot collect forms. Coaches must make parents seek out the proper channels for registering their children. Mail to address of the form or attend any scheduled registration time scheduled by Registrar. The forms must be submitted to the Registrar before they can play or practice so we have the proper insurance coverage. Coaches violating this rule put the entire organization at jeopardy and will be subjected to a disciplinary review by the Board of Directors. We do offer full scholarships to any parent that cannot afford our annual fee. If a Coach is approached about financial aid, they should refer the parents to the In-House Commissioner.

Age Policy

The DYSC In-House age policy is based upon the year the child was born. Therefore, a child born in 2007 is considered 10 years old for the entire 2016-2017 season. This is the same policy used by United States Soccer Federation for all travel and premier players as well.

Playing Up: We will make allowance for a child of exceptional ability to play up a Division bracket with written approval from the In-House Commissioner. If requested by the parents, Danbury Youth Soccer will assign non-biased Coaches to assess the child's ability. Our assessment is based upon a review of the child's skill level as compared against their peers. Safety is our primary concern. Coaches' children will be afforded extra consideration.

Playing Down: We will make allowance for a child to play down a Division bracket with written approval from the In-House Commissioner. If requested by the parents, Danbury Youth Soccer will assign non-biased Coaches to assess the child's ability to receive DYSC Board approval. Our assessment is based upon a review of the child's skill level as compared against their peers. Safety is our primary concern. Coaches' children will be afforded extra consideration.

In-House Division Formation

The number of children that register to play and the number of parents that volunteer to Coach in any given season, determine the number and size of teams of In-House Divisions. However, the following guidelines will be followed when possible: **See Attachment B.**

5 & 6, Boys and Girls can play on the same teams and they play micro soccer (4 v 4) with micro goals on small fields. We do offer a girl's only option, if we have enough players register.

At age 7 and up, Boys and Girls always play in separate Divisions and it will be our goal to limit age differences within a Division to two years. Teams within a division play against each other.

Typical Divisions are:

- **'U7 Boys and Girls'** (5&6 years old) – Each time flight at Union Carbide should try to be limited to 100 players. The 8AM and 10 AM are Co-ed, the 12 PM time slot for Girls only.
- **G9 'U9 Girls'** (7&8 years old) – **B9 'U9 Boys'** (7&8 years old) - **G12 'U12 Girls'** (9&10 years old) etc. For the U8 and older Divisions, the priority should be to make each team have between 20 and 25 players so that they can play an A and a B squad on game days. Two Coaches per team is ideal, but more are welcome. An A&B squad allows for the better players to advance and the players that are not that good to be competitive and still have fun without being frustrated. There are also safety reasons for this due to size and speed differences, especially in a Division that may contain a 3 year age differential.

In-House Team Formation

Each Division must have an even number of teams, so each Saturday all teams have a game and will target to have 10-13 players per team. If the Division has an A & B squad we will target 20-25 players for each team. For 8v8 play, 10-13 players per team is ideal. The Division Coordinator working with Recreational Director is responsible for the placement of players on teams. The Recreational Director will maintain a player database to assist in creating team rosters. An effort is made to accommodate the requests of player's parents for car pools, practice nights and to keep children together on the same team whenever possible.

Soccer Equipment and Uniforms

DYSC provides all soccer equipment and Uniforms needed for all teams.

- DYSC will establish what soccer uniforms are appropriate for all In-House players and they will be purchased with the funds collected from registration fees. Coaches or parents cannot purchase their own uniforms for individual teams.
- 5 & 6 equipment for the Union Carbide fields is kept at Union Carbide at all times. Since this group does not practice during the week, there is no need for coaches to keep the equipment with them. Each team is provided T-Shirt of the same color with DYSC logo and numbers.
- B9, G9, B12, G12, B15 & G15 Coaches will be given soccer balls, soccer balls bag, cones, pinnies, whistle, clipboard and training materials at the start the season, in Fall and can keep them with them through the Spring season, so they can bring them to their weekly practice sessions. Division coordinators will handle equipment distribution and collection at the end of the year. Each team is provided T-Shirt of the same color with DYSC logo and numbers.
- TOPSoccer – Since this group does not practice there is no need for Coaches to have to keep the assigned equipment, which can be kept in the Kenosia shed. Each player will be given a T-Shirt and so will each volunteer.

Soccer Fields and Safety

DYSC In-Houses U6 games are played at Union Carbide School and all other ages are played at Kenosia. U6 play 4 v 4 on small fields approximately 30 X 40 yards, with small portable Pugg goals. At Kenosia 8 v 8 games on half fields 70 x 50 with 6' X 12' goals and 11 v 11 play on full size fields with full size goals. Make sure all goals at Kenosia are anchored or have sand bags on them for safety. Fields should be free of debris and check for potential trip areas. If unsafe conditions exist, please notify or Division Coordinators or Director of Fields.

Trophies and Awards

Spring Trophies: Each In-House Player at the end of the Spring Season (usually on the field either the last or second to last week) will be given a trophy. U6 typically get the smallest trophy or medallion and each successive division by age get a larger trophy. There should be no difference between boys and girls other than gender of statue when appropriate.

Scott Kass Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded in Fall season. One child from each team Boys and Girls 7&8 years old and older will be recognized for Sportsmanship. (See Attachment J)

TOPSoccer Trophies: For every child in the TOPSoccer program, trophies will be handed out at the end of the Fall season and at the end of the Spring season.

Games and Game Day – “Rules of the Game”

The Recreational Director and the Division Coordinators will determine all games times, fields locations and opponents. All In-House Games will be scheduled for Saturdays. The 5&6 year olds currently play at Union Carbide School (See Attachment C) and 7 and older Boys and Girls play at Kenosia Park Soccer Fields (See Attachment D). Coaches may not schedule extra games, scrimmages or practices without approval from the Recreational Director.

Competition Guidelines

As stated in our Purpose, Winning is not the priority. Win Loss records are NOT officially maintained or recognized by the league. Statistics on goals for and goals against are not recorded and goals scored and saves made are not recognized. We realize a few individual Coaches do use winning as reward, but Coaches are not just responsible for their team, they are responsible for the all of our players. To help further ensure Fair levels of competition the following guidelines apply for ALL G9, B9, G12, B12, G15, B15:

5 Goal rule – No team can win a game by more than 5 goals.

8 win season – No team should play to win all 8 games.

8 loss season – No division should have a team lose all 8 games.

5 Goal Rule – Needs to be coached with finesse. There will be teams significantly better than another teams, based on skill level or player availability on any given day, therefore, we do not want to have one team dominate another. Here are guidelines

- If one team is up 3 goals during the game – remove one player from the field or have the other team add a player, if both teams have ample subs. (If one team is up 2 goals in the first 10 minutes make the change then) Do not make it obvious to either team the change has been made. Do it with a sub, put 3 players on and take four off, the kids will not notice. Do not yell out, ‘we are playing down a man because we are winning’
- If the score differential continues to grow, move best players around or sub them off the field to allow the other team a chance to score. Do not coach for a shutout, regardless of how well you coach your kids to have the right attitude about sportsmanship, kids equate scoring a goal with success, so all teams should score goals every game.
- If you have to make the player differential be 6 v 8 or 7 v 9 or even 6 v 9, make the change. Both teams will be better off playing competitive soccer.

Chasing an 8 win season – Every now and then, Coaches get concerned about the ‘perfect season’ going ‘undefeated’ or going 16-0 for Fall and Spring. This should not be the focus or goal of any In-House team and when if it is, the players on the team sometimes do not play all the positions and only learn one thing well, but do not develop their total soccer ability.

In-House Player Evaluation

The primary goal is to have each Division balanced with Teams of equal ability. To assist in this process, an In-House Player Evaluation (**See Attachment F**) will be performed by each Coach for each player in the 7 & up age groups, at the end of each Fall and Spring Session. These evaluations will be kept confidential; however, DYSC will use them to identify potential Travel players also.

Travel Programs

For children interested in a higher level of competition, DYSC participates in CJSA Travel, Developmental and Premier programs for children U9 and older depending upon the availability of qualified children and Coaches.

Programs	Age of Children
In-House	5 yrs. old through High School
Travel League Divisions A, B and C	U9 through High School U19

CJSA Developmental – no leagues	U9 through U12
CJSA Premier Divisions 1, 2 and qualify	U13 through High School U19

All In-House Coaches should expect Travel Coaches to scout and recruit In-House players, throughout the regular season. There are no restrictions on this activity as all players and parents should be given the choice on which program they would like to participate in. As part of our In-House evaluations, all In-House Coaches should encourage the best players to tryout for our travel program. Any player identified as a potential Travel player should be brought to the attention of the In-House Commissioner or Division Coordinator, who will make sure the Travel Coordinator is aware of the player. For children U18 or younger, all Travel Coaches are expected to communicate directly with the parents or legal guardian regarding the details of the Travel program. For Travel Teams, communication will be made with In-House players so they know when the seasonal tryouts will be. Premier has no tryout window restrictions for recruiting IH players.

Note: Participation in In-House games by Travel Players is permitted, however, it is not recommended. Also, Travel players cannot play In-House in any division that is full or has a waiting list. The Division Coordinator must be made aware of this situation. Travel players must be evenly distributed throughout the Division and must attend practice on a regular basis. Travel players may not be added to a roster after the fourth game of a Fall or Spring Session. Premier players U13 and above cannot play In-House.

Coaching

All DYSC Coaches are responsible to adhere to all DYSC, NW District, CJSA and USYSO, rules and regulations. Lack of knowledge of the rules is not an excuse. Coaches and Assistant Coaches represent the entire DYSC Organization and shall conduct themselves in the spirit of the Mission Statement and in accordance with the following guidelines based on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America’s Code of Ethics and Conduct (www.nscac.com) and the CJSA’s Coaches Code.

Preamble

The following ethical standards and code of conduct outline a philosophy that is paramount to the game of soccer and must be emphasized in combination with skill development and style of play. Soccer is a sport, which belongs to the players. It is a game, which offers physical challenges, emotional satisfaction and lifelong values and experiences for those who play.

Within this context, coaches should prioritize the welfare of their players and dedicate themselves to upholding the highest standards of professional conduct and competence. Sportsmanship and ethical values highlighting respect, fairness, civility, honesty, integrity and accountability are a foundation for the sport. Men and women who enter the soccer coaching profession either on a professional or volunteer basis should advocate these standards and supplement the NSCAA's ethical framework with their own moral conduct and behavior. In this way, coaches preserve the stability of the soccer community and promote a positive reputation for the coaching profession.

Coaches' ethical behavior is demonstrated in relationships with athletes, colleagues, officials, parents, administrators, clients and communities. Coaches are ambassadors for the sport of soccer, their programs, clubs, association and/or DYSC. They are role models and must understand the

tremendous influence their words and actions have on the players who comprise their teams. For this reason, coaches should consider their primary responsibility the continuance of moral values and ethical conduct, which advance the spirit of the game and adhere to established rules.

Responsibilities to Players

- The importance of winning must never supersede the players' safety and welfare. Winning is the result of preparation and discipline with considerable emphasis on the highest societal ideals and character traits. These values are not sacrificed for prestige or personal gain.
- Coaches shall play each player a minimum of 50% of every game, in accordance with CJSA Guidelines. A Coach may make a decision not to allow a player to play or reduce his/her playing time if:
 - 1) The player's physical condition limits playing ability.
 - 2) The player possesses an attitude that is detrimental to the team or the opposing team.These situations should be discussed with the child's Parents/Guardians and Division Coordinator.
- Requirements for participation on a soccer team must not impede a player's opportunity for achieving academic success. The student-athlete's education must be of foremost concern and actively promoted by each Coach.
- Coaches must adhere to the rules of the game. They must not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior or accepting illegal gains over an opponent.
- The demands Coaches place on their players must be consistent with the guidelines established by DYSC. Coaches shall not place undue pressure on a player to lessen a commitment to another activity (i.e. other sports, band, Church, Scouting, etc.). It is the goal of DYSC to peacefully coexist in the Danbury community with other youth organizations.
- The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and coaches must defer to the proper medical personnel without interference. Coaches must follow the directives of appropriate medical authorities and when present, the player's parents.
- Coaches must report any injury that occurs to players during practices or games, within 48 hours, to their Division Coordinator who will notify the Recreational Director.
- Coaches must not promote the use of anabolic agents or stimulants for the purpose of gaining athletic advantage. Medications and drugs are prescribed and authorized only by physicians.
- Coaches must take an active role in the prevention and treatment of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.
- Coaches must never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.

Responsibilities to DYSC

- Coaches must promote the educational goals and missions of DYSC and behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity and dignity of DYSC are not compromised.
- In-House Coaches are encouraged to take advantage of any "Coaches Clinics" conducted by DYSC, Director of Education/Training or others as available. It is recommended that all Danbury Youth Soccer Travel Coaches become certified/licensed for their appropriate age group within two years of entering the Danbury Youth Soccer Club program (as clinics are available). Certification or licensing clinics approved by DYSC/CJSA **will be reimbursed by DYSC**.

Travel Coaching Certificate Recommendations

Children’s Age	9-10	11-12	13-14	15 +
Certificate	U-10	U-12	E	D/C

- Coaches must assure their programs are being conducted and promoted ethically and also be aware of any DYSC activities, which may affect their programs' performance and reputation.
- Coaches must discuss problems with their Division Coordinator in a professional manner and then support the Board’s decisions concerning policies, rules and regulations relating to soccer.
- Coaches must notify their Division Coordinator of any situation that violates DYSC rules.

Rules of the Game

- Coaches must thoroughly acquaint themselves with the rules of soccer. They are also responsible for assuring their players understand the intent and application of the rules. **Attachment F** is a copy of the "Laws of The Game" as defined by FIFA. DYSC follows FIFA “Laws of The Game” with various exceptions for each age bracket as outlined in the attached section.
- Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the game's rules and not circumvent the rules to gain an advantage.
- Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and their coaching staff and spectators before, during and immediately after the game. Unsportsmanlike tactics (i.e., the intent to injure opposing players), illegal substitutions, taunting, deliberate faking of injuries and "professional fouls" are considered unethical.
- Fair play must be encouraged and emphasized within the training sessions and competitions.

Referees - Officials (See Attachment G)

- DYSC is very proud of our program to train and develop In-House Referees from within our program. In-House Coaches must remember that these children are learning how to be Referees and should be encouraged and given positive reinforcement.
- Impartial, competent officials are essential for the success of any competition. Coaches must not criticize officials publicly or privately and must follow these DYSC rules dealing with comments on officiating.
- Coaches are encouraged to attend as many referee’s rules meetings as possible to learn the laws of the game.
- The following points outline game day conduct:
 - a) Treat officials with respect;
 - b) If criticism is going to be leveled against officials, complaints must be made in writing to the Division Coordinator. There is a “Zero-Tolerance” CJSA and NW District and DYSC policy.
 - c) Coaches and teams must not address the referee before, during or after the game in a demeaning way. The Zero-Tolerance policy says first time offences of Referee Abuse goes to Disciplinary Committee for review and action, which can include suspension from league.
 - d) Coaches must not incite players or spectators against referees.
 - e) Coaches shall ensure that spectators, coaches, and players do not interfere with the game.

Parents/Guardians and Public Relations (See Parents Handout Attachment H)

- In many situations, the game of soccer requires significant explanation to Parents and spectators. Public relations become part of the job description for many coaches. Parents must be treated with respect, courtesy and honesty.
- Coaches must not make derogatory or misleading comments to Parents, opposing teams and Coaches or spectators.
- At Kenosia, Coaches are to keep spectators and parents on opposite side of the field from players and not behind end lines. Between the fields is only for Coaches and Players.
- Coaches, to the best of their ability, are responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of team Parents, assistant Coaches and spectators before, during and directly after the game.
- At the start of both the Fall and Spring Sessions, Coaches shall explain to parents or guardians of their respective players the commitment (practices, games, conduct, etc.) that the team and organization expect of them and their child. Maintain an open dialogue with Parents, players, other Coaches, Division Coordinator, etc.
- Coaches can arrange a communication network to notify parents/guardians of scheduling changes (practice and games) and arrange for refreshments (water, oranges, etc.) for the entire team for games and practices.
- Coaches must be certain to have all debris cleaned up after all games and practices.
- Coaches must remind Parents that Parents shouting instructions to a player from the sidelines can confuse the child and should not be permitted. The referee may bring this situation to the attention of the Coach. Positive encouragement is recommended.
- Coaches must not use Parents as a forum to reveal unethical practices or rule violations by opposing teams and colleagues. Such matters need to be addressed administratively. Also, Parents must be informed of their right to make comments to the Division Coordinator or DYSC Board.
- Coaches must copy and distribute the attached Parent Handout.

Recruiting

- In-House Coaches are not allowed to recruit players from other teams. Players are brought into our program through the registration process, however, Coaches can encourage children to register. In-House Coaches should assist in finding potential players for our Travel Program.

Other Rules and Regulations

- The mid-field handshake at the end of each game is mandatory for all team players and coaches shall see that it is conducted in an orderly fashion.
- Coaches must avoid any conduct, which is construed as physically or verbally abusive.
- Coaches must avoid verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach's bench or referees.
- Coaches must perform their duties on the basis of careful preparation, ensuring their instruction is current and accurate.
- Coaches should remain current on health, safety and training developments relevant to the sport of soccer. Coaches are encouraged to seek advice from peers and colleagues whenever such consultation is in the best interest of the student-athletes.
- A Coach must not solicit or engage in sexual relations with any minor. Any sexual harassment issues brought to the attention of the DYSC Board will be address by a selected Review Committee, which will investigate and bring a recommendation to the Board for approval.

- A Coach's behavior and values must bring credit to his/her Team, DYSC and the sport of soccer.
- Be organized at all times and ensure the equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Although soccer is regarded as a players' game it is also to be enjoyed by non-players, i.e., Coaches, referees and spectators; show your enthusiasm to the players.
- Be sporting to your opponents and referee both in victory and defeat.
- Allow your own personality to be reflected at practice and at games; do not copy anyone else.
- Prepare your practice sessions to meet the realistic challenges of the game; give your players the chance to make decisions.

Coach Selection

Anyone interested in a coaching vacancy must inform the Division Coordinator or DYSC Board prior to In-House team assignment for each season. If an In-House coach is interested in coaching a Travel team, they must notify the league Travel Coordinator in writing by May 15th for the Fall and October 15th for the Spring season. Refer to Travel Team Guidelines for additional requirements. (Note: a criminal investigation check may be performed on any DYSC Coach or applicant based upon the discretion of the DYSC Board.)

1. Notification of selection/approval should be made prior to the seasonal Recreational Director's Coaches and Division Coordinator's meeting.
2. In the case of more than one candidate, the Division Coordinator will consult with the DYSC Board of Directors, as necessary, so that all qualifications can be reviewed prior to selection.
3. Existing Coaches in good standing will be given first priority.

Discipline Guidelines

From time to time, despite all of our best efforts we will be faced with inappropriate behavior from Board members, coaches, parents or players both deliberate and unintentional that must be dealt with corrective actions. The following guidelines do not address all possibilities but should be helpful should such incidents arise.

Discipline Committee (DC)

DYSC will maintain a Chairman of the Discipline Committee that will be activated and a committee of at least three members will be assigned on a case by case basis to fully investigate any reported activity and the Committee will make recommendations to Board for a final vote. Each Committee member will have one vote as will each Board member. Any Board member that is involved in the incident or related to the person under review is excused from participating or voting.

Criminal Activity

Any member that is arrested for criminal activity is immediately dismissed from all duties and responsibilities and will not be allowed to participate in any activities pending the outcome of the legal system and reinstatement will be based on DC review and recommendation.

Coach Removal

Any serious action that is in conflict with these In-House Guidelines, DYSC Bylaws, CJSA Rules/Regulations, and general philosophy of our organization are grounds for expulsion.

When this process is considered necessary the following process is to be followed:

1. Report the incident or incidents in question immediately to appropriate Division Coordinator who will chair an investigation. If a conflict of interest exists, then the complaint must be presented to the DYSC Board. Note: The incident must be supplied in writing.
2. Initially an appeals committee will convene and meet with the following parties (either together or separately at the discretion of the Coordinator):
 - The Party or Parties filing the complaint
 - The Division Coordinator
 - The Respective Coach(es)
 - It is highly recommended that players not be present at these discussions.
3. Issues will be presented and debated within this forum.
4. The Division Coordinator will formally present the recommended course of action to the DYSC Board for approval or revision.
5. An appeal may be brought to the Commissioner of the DYSC after a decision has been rendered.
6. At the Commissioner's discretion, the matter can be elevated to the full board. The DYSC Board decisions are final.
7. The DYSC Board will formally advise the Police Activities League of the Case and the outcome of the investigation, as appropriate.

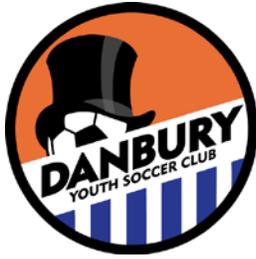
Miscellaneous

- **DYSC Board Meeting:** The DYSC Board meets monthly, typically the first Sunday or Monday of each month at Ethan Allen. All board meetings are open to the public. Coaches and Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend. The Board of Directors meets with the intent of continuous growth through soccer.
- **Recreational Director's Coaches Meeting:** Each Coach is expected to attend the Recreational Directors seasonal kick-off Coaches Meeting to ensure league uniformity and In-House soccer rules. Additional meetings may be scheduled as appropriate, especially during roster and registration periods at the discretion of the Division Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the Coach to attend all meetings or send a team representative.
- **Practice Fields:** Practice fields will be assigned at the Coaches Meeting by the Field Director based on the field availability issued to the club from Danbury Parks and Recreation Department. Travel teams pick first and after special conflicts are resolved, the rest of the In-House teams chose by a Lottery system. Field space is limited and there will be no make ups for rained out practice sessions.
- **Uniforms:** Each team will be given a T-Shirt of the same color that has a unique number on the back and has the DYSC logo on the front.
- **Equipment:** Each team shall receive one ball for each child assigned to its team. Coaches should contact their Division Coordinator for balls and other training equipment as they are made available. The first aid kit should be restocked each calendar year. At the end of each soccer season, the coach is responsible for turning in all DYSC equipment, upon request of the Equipment Manager.

- **Financial:** Registration fees are used to cover referee's fees, balls, insurance, uniforms, field maintenance, training and clinics, administrative costs and equipment for In-House play.
- **Changes to these Guidelines:** Changes, deletions or additions to these guidelines can be proposed periodically by any Coach /Parent involved in the program. The request must be put in writing then will be reviewed by the In-House Commissioner and brought to a DYSC Board Meeting for approval and implementation.
- **Photo Day:** Every Spring session there will be photo day organized for all In-House players. (See Attachment I)

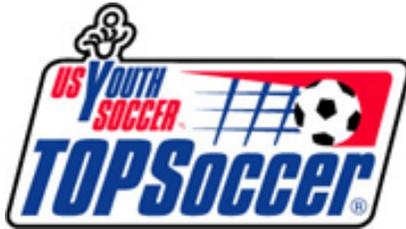
References and Revisions – please forward your comments or suggestions to make our program better.

- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) - www.fifa.com
- United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) - www.usysa.com
- Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) - www.cjsa.org
- National Soccer Coaches Association of America's (NSCAA) - www.nscaa.com
- Previous DYSC By-Laws and Guidelines
- Written and Compiled by Michael F. Diker, Vice-Commissioner DPS – March 1999
- Revision 1-16 updated periodically by Michael F. Diker, President DYSC
- REVISION 16 – April 2016



DYSC TOPSoccer (Attachment A) Soccer Program For Children with Special Needs

Danbury Youth Soccer Club's TOPSoccer program is returning this Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 after a GREAT Spring 2009 season.



What is US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer?

DYSC is a member CT Junior Soccer Association (CJSA.org) and US Youth Soccer (usyouthsoccer.org). The US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with mental and physical disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl who has a mental or physical disability. Our goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the US Youth Soccer family.

How will the program be run?

Starting Saturday, after Labor Day, TOPSoccer will meet once a week, for 8 weeks, at Kenosia Soccer Park at 4 PM for 90 minutes. Children, ages 5 to 19, will be introduced to soccer games, skills, drills and friendly scrimmage with players of similar abilities. Parents will be asked to be available during the sessions to assist our volunteers. Each player will receive a soccer ball, soccer T-shirt and a soccer trophy for participation.

What can I do to help the program be successful?

Please help by getting involved. Spread the word and join us on Saturdays. We expect another great turn out this Fall. Last Spring we had over 45 children participate.

How do I participate?

Fill out the registration form on the back and mail to address. If you have any questions, please contact Danbury Children First at (203) 797-8088 or DYSC's TOPSoccer Coordinators, Lauren Ziegler at 743-9628 or Vicky Ceylan at 748-3726, for information. Registration forms are also available on-line at our Danbury Youth Soccer Club website, www.DYSC.US on the TOPSoccer page.

DYSC is proud to offer this program FREE of charge. If you would like to help support the DYSC TOPSoccer program, please include a check with registration.

www.DYSC.US

Attachment B

DYSC – In-House Registration Information

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

Tentative Division Formation: Division age brackets are based on the number of Children that register and Parents that volunteer.

Season Start Date: Saturday, September 6, 2008 – Kick-Off Day

Birth Year	Divisions	Game Time	Game Location
2003 2002	U6 - Boys 5&6 Girls 5&6	8 AM Coed 10 AM Coed 12 PM Girls	Union Carbide School
2001 & 2000	B9 - Boys 7&8	10:00 AM	Kenosia
2001 & 2000	G9 - Girls 7&8	11:30 AM	Kenosia
1999, 98, 97	B12- Boys 9-11	8:30 AM	Kenosia
1999, 98, 97	G12- Girls 9-11	1:00 PM	Kenosia
1996, 95, 94	B15- Boys 12-14	8:30 AM	Kenosia
1996, 95, 94	G15- Girls 12-14	1:00 PM	Kenosia
All ages	TOPSoccer	4:00 PM	Kenosia 1

- Children born in 2003 and 2002 meet once a week: practice and games session together
- Children born in 1999 or earlier have practice during the week and a game day on Saturday. Coaches will call you with place and time of your practice session.
- Please note any preference i.e., Coach, team, carpool or night you can't practice. We do our best to make accommodations.
- Depending on registrations numbers, 11 year old Boys and Girls can be placed with either the 9 & 10 year olds OR the 12 and 13/14 year olds.

Attachment C

U-6 Rules of the Game

Philosophy: The philosophy for this age group is to introduce soccer to the children as a game that is fun to play. We do not keep score or declare winners at this level.

Game and Practice Session

This age group is scheduled to meet on eight Saturdays in the Fall session and eight Saturdays in the Spring session. There are no additional practices sessions during the week. Each Saturday meeting will last 90 minutes as follows:

Warm up - Games - Drills	45 minutes with breaks in between
Game time - 4 v 4	45 minutes with breaks in between

Games are played at Union Carbide School on small fields using micro goals. (Pugg large)

Soccer Development Targets

The goal for soccer development for this age group is minimal. All play is with a #3 soccer ball.

- Movement with the ball under control.
- Run and kicking a moving ball.
- Team and field direction and awareness.
- Stationary Pass and trap of the ball. (10-15 yards apart)

Advanced Soccer development.

- Active passing to team mates during a game.
- Positional awareness on the field.
- Running to open space for ball possession.

Warm up: 5 - 7 minutes

All children must warm up prior to activity to help minimize injuries. Either have them do a lap(s) with the ball around your field or do calisthenics such as; neck roll, shoulders lifts, waist bends, leg stretches (no bouncing), and then end with 10-15 jumping jacks.

Practice - Fun Games/Drills: 35 - 40 minutes

Use soccer games that are also drills and plan for at least two water breaks and one more at the end of Practice just before you split into teams for the game session. Get parents to help out.

Follow the Leader: Coach is the leader the kids follow in a line. Put the better players in front, but passing is allowed to keep up. Call out the skill: Dribble, left foot only, right foot only, etc. Keep moving in a curvy line all around the entire field. This game makes the children move with the ball and forces them to look up and be aware of where they have to go.

Red Light - Green Light: Line the children on one end of the field. Blow whistle. Green light means GO! Red light means stop with your foot on top of the ball without moving. Blue light means reverse the ball and go forwards in the opposite direction. Yellow light means slow motion

Chinese Checkers: Divide team into four groups, they do not have to be even numbers, set up 4 sets of cones closely spaced on four corners of the field. Have each player with a ball stand near a cone and like Chinese Checkers have them dribble from one side of the field to the other side and place their ball near the cones on the opposite side. The first team to get all of their players and balls to the opposite sides gets a point. By standing in the middle, a Coach with some parent helpers, can ensure team gets to win a point by slowing down the other groups. This drills helps teaches to keep the ball close and under control and to play with their head up.

Have Fun – make up your own games!!

Attachment C (Continued)

U-6 Rules of the Game

Game Session - 45 minutes

- Play 4 v 4 or smaller teams. Extra children are used as substitutes. If both teams have two substitutes you can play without a half time. Do NOT play 5 v 5 or more regardless of the number of children you have. The 4 v 4 game allows each child the opportunity to “touch” the ball during the run of play. Playing 3 v 3 is also recommended at this level.
- The Coaches and Parents serve as referees in this league. For each group of four children, have only one Coach or Parent on the field to help direct their actions.
- Everyone gets to play equally. There are no starters. Rotate substitutes.
- Teams can substitute at any time during play. At this age 5 to 8 minute shifts are good.
- Split the teams by ability into A - B - C squads. Depending on the number of children available. If the Blue team has 11 kids and the Red team has 19 kids, have four volunteers from the Red team to play with the Blue team. This would give an ideal 4 v 4 on all three fields with one sub for each side.
- THERE IS NO GOALIE and DO NOT allow a defender to stand directly in the goal mouth.
- It is OK if the opponent scores, however, if an extremely lopsided game occurs, at half time change teams around or play with only 3 against the 4.
- Do not allow heading or slide tackles at this level for the safety of the children.
- Stop play immediately for an injury. Also, use caution when children fall near the action, if they do not get up quickly, stop play.
- Do not call corner kicks; just allow all balls that go over the end line to be goal kicks for the defending team, regardless of who knocked it out.
- Call Throw-ins normally and teach the children to properly throw the ball into play do not penalize illegal throw-ins.
- You should try to orient your four players so two play forward and two play back. Switch positions with each substitution. Have them understand that they are forming a box and that they should pass the ball to each other to progress the ball. Try to avoid swarm ball. Kids do get hurt in the packs of kicking feet.
- Substitute at any time during the game. Action does not have to stop. You can allow a child to run off the field and than have another child run on.
- Do not keep score. Keep it safe and just encourage the children to have fun. There should be no pressure to have them win.
- Really cheer on the pass that sets up a goal not just the goal.
- After the game, players and Coaches conduct a “**Good Game**” handshake.

Attachment D

U8 to U12 Rules of the Game

In these age groups DYSC separates the Girls and Boys into different Divisions.

Games: All games are played at Kenosia Fields.

Ball: At these ages DYSC uses #4 size soccer ball:

Age Bracket	Practice per weeks	Practice Duration Hours	Type of Practice	Game Length Minutes	Max. # Players	Field size Yards	Goal ft high x yd wide
7 & 8	1/wk	1 - 1 ½	Games & Drills	40-50	8 v 8	40 x 70	6 x 6
9 & 10	1/wk	1 ½ - 1 ¾	Drills & Lessons	45-55	8 v 8	40 x 70	6 x 6
11 & 12	1-2/wk	1 ½ - 2	Drills & Lessons	55-60	11 v 11	55-75 x 100-120	8 x 8

Training

Training sessions should be fun, upbeat, encouraging and stimulating. Plan many short water breaks and use that time to "teach" and explain the game. Short demonstrations are very useful and encourage lots of player participation. Please note that player development is enhanced through practice and organized play, but players must be encouraged to practice on their own with a ball (Soccer Homework).

Activities should emphasize technical and tactical development and should be explained prior to beginning a new training drill. Allow the players to know what the purpose of the drills is and what are the expectations. Remember that the emphasis on technical and tactical aspects in training will vary greatly between ages. Most importantly we want the children to have fun!

Other Coaching Ideas

- Improve only ONE technique each practice and only ONE tip on improvement at a time.
- Encourage questions and discussion about the game and its rules.
- Permit players to make mistakes and to learn from their mistakes.
- Avoid comparisons with others - concentrate on their self-improvement.
- Let them know about their improvement.
- Relate technique and knowledge to the total picture – teach all positions to all kids.
- Respect your players interest level - they will continue to participate if they are having fun.
- Do not make your goals for them too high.

7-12 Year old Additional Rules

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed and players can return after being substituted for.
- Goalies can use their hands for pass backs situations. This should not be taught, but allowed.
- Goalies can take unlimited steps with the ball to the top of their box to kick or throw it.

7- 8 year old Game Rules Changes

- Goal kicks will be taken from the 18-yard line with the opposition 10 yards away.
- Have illegal throw-ins retaken by same person the correct way at start of season.
- Do not teach or practice heading.
- Slide tackles are NOT allowed and will be called as fouls, due to concerns for safety.

Attachment E

Excel player's Evaluation sheet

Players are evaluated in four categories Speed, Stamina, Skills and Tactical

Speed	1	There is no one really that much faster
	2	Average
	3	Below average
Stamina	1	Can Run all game
	2	Average
	3	Below average - cannot run for 10 minutes
Skills	1	Pass & trap - dribble with control - shoot with accuracy
	2	Average
	3	Can't pass or trap consistently
Tactical	1	Pass and run to space - Calls and makes plays
	2	Average
	3	Creates swarm ball - runs at his own man

Attachment F

FIFA Laws of the Game

Go to www.fifa.com for the rules of the game

17 laws

Attachment G

In-House Referee Guide

FIFA’s Laws of the Game apply with the following modifications

Modifications for Boys 7&8 and Girls 7&8

1. Goalies can use more than 6 seconds.
2. Goalies can use their hands for **all pass backs** situations. Do not encourage this.
3. Goal kicks will be taken from the **14-yard line** with the opposition 10 yards away.
4. Have illegal throw-ins retaken by same person the correct way.
5. Slide tackles are NOT allowed and will be called as fouls, due to concerns for safety.
6. Do not issue Yellow or Red cards. Stop play for serious fouls as normal, but the Coaches are instructed to remove players when needed.
7. Do not call handballs when the player is protecting himself or herself.
8. Unlimited substitutions can be made. Players can return after being substituted for. Coaches may ask for substitutions to stop play on **ALL** Corner kicks, Goal kicks and any team’s Throw-ins.
9. Coaches and Referees should coordinate the time of halves or (quarters on hot days) so that the **maximum** amount of soccer can be played in the 90 minutes.

Modification for Boys 9-11 and Girls 9-12

1. Goalies can use more than 6 seconds.
2. Goalies can use their hands for all pass backs situations without penalty, however, they can be warned to stop this if they are doing it intentionally.
3. Unlimited substitutions are allowed and players can return after being substituted for. Coaches may ask for substitutions to stop play on **ALL** Corner kicks, Goal kicks and any team’s Throw-ins.
4. Do not show Yellow or Red cards. Stop play for serious fouls as normal, but the Coaches are instructed to remove players when needed.
5. Do not call handballs when the player is protecting himself or herself.
6. Penalize a bad throw-in with a loss of throw-in
7. Coaches and Referees should coordinate the time of halves or (quarters on hot days) so that the **maximum** amount of soccer can be played in the 90 minutes.

Attachment H

Parent/Guardian and Player Handout

Parents/guardians shall conduct themselves in an acceptable manner by acting in accordance with the paragraphs that follow:

1. DYSC adheres to the CJSA and NW District “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding physical or verbal abuse against any DYSC member, referee, opponent or other spectator.
2. Exhibit a sincere interest in youth soccer by supporting the rules and regulations as set forth by the Board of Directors. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in soccer.
3. Do not leave children unattended at practices or games. Be prompt to pick up your children and never drop off children without the Coach or adult supervision.
4. The games are to be enjoyed by all, show your sportsmanship.
5. Encourage your child to play by the rules.
6. Do not publicly question the official’s judgment or integrity. DYSC is proud of our program to develop Referees from within our program.
7. Avoid coaching from the sidelines, your comments will confuse the child and/or conflict with the coaches instructions.

• **At Kenosia, Parents must be on the opposite side of the field from the Team and Coach.**

• Recognize the value and importance of referees and volunteer coaches. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

• Provide Coaches with support to make each player’s experience an enjoyable one.

1. Actively participate in your child’s practice both at home and during regular practices. (3-4 children/1 Adult is an ideal match)

2. Teach your child that an honest effort is more important than a victory so that a loss is accepted without undue disappointment.

3. Turn defeat into victory by helping your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.

4. Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

5. Applaud good play by your team and opponents; children learn by example.

• Notify Coordinators and/or Coaches of any concerns or incidents, which should be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.

• Ensure that players are properly dressed for practice and in-full uniform for all games.

• Put forward a maximum effort to have players attend all games and practices.

• Notify respective coaches of a player’s nonattendance as far in advance as possible.

Players: A level of commitment is expected from the boys and girls playing soccer.

• Players will be responsible for being committed to other team members and maintaining a positive attitude in accordance with the paragraphs that follow:

1. Attend all scheduled practices and games during the Spring and Fall sessions.

2. Notify the Coach of nonattendance for practices or games, as soon as possible.

3. Players will not be allowed to participate in a game if they are not wearing shin guards.

4. Players shall not wear any jewelry for practice or games.

5. Conduct him/herself in an orderly manner in both practice and game situations.

6. Bring water to all games and practices.

7. Conduct unbecoming a player will be reported to the appropriate Division Coordinator and/or the Board of Directors and may result in warning, suspension or expulsion as decided by the Board or Division Coordinator. The Division Coordinator will notify the coach and the player’s parents/guardians of the Board's decision.

Attachment I – Typical Photo day schedule

KENOSIA PHOTO DAY

Saturday June date

PLEASE BE ON TIME !!

Parents should prepare paper work prior to Team's photo time. Photos will be taken in the Kenosia Park Lake area. Rain Date

PLEASE NOTE: Danbury Youth Soccer Club WILL NOT provide a free team photo. Thank-you for your cooperation!!

Photo Time	Division	Field – Teams	Comments
All B12 Teams must be at Kenosia by 8:30			
8:30	Boys 9-11	Field 1 – 2v5	Before game
9:00	Boys 9-11	Field 2 – 3v1	Half time break
9:40	Boys 9-11	Field 3 – 6v4	After game
All B9 Teams must be at Kenosia by 10:00			
10:00	Boys 7&8	Field 1 – 2v5	Before game
10:40	Boys 7&8	Field 2 – 3v1	Half time break
11:15	Boys 7&8	Field 3 – 6v4	After game
G12 and G9 Teams			
11:30	Girls 7&8	Field 1 - 1v2	Before game
12:00	Girls 9-11	Field 2A – 5v6	Half time break
12:15	Girls 9-11	Field 2B – 3v4	Half time break
12:45	Girls 9-11	Field 3A – 1v2	After game
1:00	Girls 9-11	Field 3B – 7v8	After game
1:15	Girls 7&8	Field 1 – 3v4	Half time break

Team	B12	B9	G12	G9
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Note: (Average # of children per team)

Attachment J – Scott Kass Sportsmanship Award

Scott Kass Memorial Sportsmanship Award

The Scott Kass Memorial Sportsmanship Award was established in 1997 by the family of Scott Kass and Danbury Youth Soccer Club to honor Scott's memory as boy that loved the game of soccer and played for the enjoyment of the game. Scott served as an example for all of us of what the word Sportsmanship is all about.



This is an In-House award for one child of each of our In-House teams Boys and Girls that are 7 years old and older. The award is to be presented each Fall Season. Each In-House Coach must select one child per team that represents the best in Sportsmanship. We know this can be difficult, because so many of our young players are good sports and they are there to just play the game and have fun. Occasionally, some children get upset that they did not get a trophy when someone else did, but we make our selections the best we can.

All the Awards should be handed out the same weekend so that a photo of all the recipients can be taken at the Dedication Bench on Field 2. However, if the player you have selected cannot be there that weekend, don't give the award to someone else; we'll try to take another photo the following week. It is important to recognize these players and we always submit the photo for publication in the Neighbor section of the Danbury News-Times and post the photo on our DYSC website.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us.

Michael Diker,
 President, DYSC

Danbury Youth Soccer Club, Inc. In-House Guidelines



www.dysc.us

(203) 746 – 1789