

INTRODUCTION

The Oshkosh United Soccer Club was established in 1983. This select soccer club was formed in order to provide players access to competition against teams affiliated with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) and United States Soccer Federation (USSF) primarily within the East Central Region of the WYSA. The East Central Region encompasses teams in an area roughly from Green Bay to Fond du Lac.

It is the mission of Oshkosh United Soccer Club to:

1. Avail players with a sincere regard for soccer an appropriate, challenging competition in league and tournament play. Team ages range from Under-11 to Under-19 aged girls and boys.
2. Provide players with quality, knowledgeable coaching focusing on the long term development of the individual player as well as the team.
3. Provide players with an environment that promotes the positive aspects of team sports and competition, including:
 - ÿ confidence
 - ÿ sportsmanship
 - ÿ fair play
 - ÿ teamwork
 - ÿ learning to sacrifice one's personal desires in the interest of the team
 - ÿ learning to win and lose with grace and dignity
 - ÿ learning the relationships between success, practice, discipline, preparation, effort and teamwork
 - ÿ learning the positive resolution of conflicts
 - ÿ finding a sense of excellence in oneself

It is the ultimate intent of Oshkosh United Soccer Club to positively influence each player in their physical, social and emotional development as an athlete and as a person.

CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE--- A brief overview

Oshkosh United is a non-profit entity [IRS 501(c)(3)] that is guided by a board of directors with elected officers. Standing and ad hoc committees are in place to address projects and tasks needed to be completed by the club. Each team within the club is appointed a head coach and team representative. The head coach (along with an assistant coach, if appointed) manages all facets of team competition and training. The team representative's primary role is to handle to administrative functions of the team. The director of coaching, appointed by the board, is assigned the responsibility of providing coaches direction pertaining to

long range player development training plans, age/talent appropriate practice content, and guidance regarding appropriate player and coach behavior and performance expectations.

The board of directors welcomes inquires and input from its members as well as from others within the general soccer community.

CLUB PHILOSOPHY

The Oshkosh United Soccer Club is committed to providing its players with an enjoyable, challenging, and positive soccer experience. Having fun playing soccer, partaking in the thrill of competition, and deriving satisfaction from improvement and accomplishment are the essence of the Oshkosh United soccer player experience. Developing each player's soccer skills and abilities as well as promoting each player's personal and social maturation are the primary priorities of the club and its coaching staff. It must be understood that win / loss results are of secondary importance to the previously stated priorities. Oshkosh United places a great value on quality coaching. The club is committed to securing properly trained coaches with previous soccer experience under the guidance of a club appointed director of coaching. In addition, all coaches are required to attain nationally recognized certification by attending the appropriate level soccer coaching courses provided through the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) or the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). The coaching staff is committed to providing players with a positive, challenging and enjoyable playing environment and instruction that is appropriate to the age and ability of the player.

The Oshkosh United Soccer Club coaching staff is guided by the following principles of youth soccer development as recommended in part by the national youth coaching staff of the United States Soccer Federation:

1. Soccer activities (practices, games and tournaments) should be appropriate to players' ages and playing abilities.
2. Soccer activities must be held in a safe and appropriate environment.
3. Soccer practices are to be organized with activities that will generally flow from a simple-to-complex progression of soccer skill and activity.
4. Soccer activities (especially practices) should put players in decision making situations.
5. Soccer practices should be full of activities that are high in activity and be relevant to the game of soccer.

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

A player who chooses to be part of the Oshkosh United Soccer Club assumes full responsibility and commitment to the following expectations:

1. Pay attention to, respect, and obey the instructions and lead of the coach.
2. Always display a manner of respect for the game - Demonstrate good sporting behavior in words and action towards teammates, opponents, officials, coaches and spectators. A player represents Oshkosh United at all times. Players' actions both on and off of the soccer field will reflect on Oshkosh United as a whole and on all of our players, coaches and staff. Always display appropriate behavior.

It IS appropriate:

- Ø To shake hands with and thank the referee at the end of a game.
- Ø To congratulate opponents and recognize fans at the end of a game.
- Ø To encourage and support teammates, especially in moments of adversity.

It is NOT appropriate:

- Ø To challenge a referee's decision.
- Ø To taunt or interact with opposing players, coaches or fans in a negative fashion.
- Ø To vent frustration in any inappropriate manner, including swearing.

3. Display a positive attitude of cooperation and teamwork in practices, meetings, and games.
4. Be prompt and ready to begin all practices and games at the scheduled time.
5. Understand and honor the commitment of time and effort to attend team practices and games throughout the entire season.
6. Never have an unexcused absence from a practice or game. If there is an attendance conflict, the coach is to be notified well in advance of the event.
7. Be responsible for all personal equipment:
 - ÿ Bring a ball to all practices and games.
 - ÿ Bring a water bottle to all practices and games.

- ÿ Have socks pulled up over shin guards at all practices and games.
 - ÿ If you have no shin guards you will not be allowed to practice or play.
 - ÿ Have proper fitting shoes appropriate for soccer play.
 - ÿ Wear clothing appropriate to weather conditions.
 - ÿ Take good care of all game uniform articles.
 - ÿ Any clothing with inference to tobacco, alcohol or beer products is prohibited at all practices and games.
8. The use of alcohol and other drugs, and tobacco is prohibited.
 9. Appreciate, enjoy and maximize the opportunity to play the game of soccer.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Be very familiar with all the player expectations noted in this manual.
2. Provide your son or daughter with means to be prompt in attending all team practices, games, and tournaments or letting the coach and team representative know that your child will be unable to attend well in advance of the anticipated absence. When a player is late to practice or a game or fails to show up at all, many people are affected. Coaches plan practices that anticipate players being present to work together and practice exercises or plays as a team. Some exercises require a certain number of players to run. In order for the players to improve as a team and as individuals it is important for all of the players to make a full commitment to the team, to be on time and ready to go at both practices and games. Being late or not showing up for games or practices without prior excuse is discourteous to the coach and the other players.
3. Be certain that your child is covered by the appropriate health insurance.
4. Pay club/player's fee on time so that the club can operate responsibly.
5. Volunteer of your time in various club projects and operations. The club expects each player's parents to help with the annual tournament.

Parent DOs & DON'TS

DO give your child ample space so that they will be able to establish their own identity within their own team playing their own game. If you do watch a game or practice, do so from a far enough distance as to not disturb the players.

DO let your child's coach's coach.

DO NOT yell or give instructions as to how your child should play or what they should do within a game. Soccer players must learn to make their own decisions in a split second. A player needs a lot of repetition and trial and error in order to improve. It is important that the player not only learn to work through the problems presented in a soccer game by themselves, but it is also important for the child to depend on help from the coach and any specific instruction from the parent may compromise the coaches' ability to produce the proper training for long-term growth if the advice is at odds. Leave the training to the trained professionals.

DO accept and support your child's coach's decisions, instruction and approach to the game. You set a valuable example for your child if they see and believe that you endorse the authority vested in the coach.

DO NOT be overly concerned if you do not see your coach do a lot of "coaching" within a game. Soccer is a "player's game". The majority of useful instruction provided by a good coach is done at practices.

DO become acquainted with the game of soccer and its rules.

DO feel free to engage in positive/supportive conversation with your child as long as you refrain from judging their performance. Critical post-game analysis by parents is inappropriate. A parent must remember that this is your child's chance to play and enjoy soccer and competition. Your coach is better trained to work with the child on specific game analysis and the design of action plans to help the player grow.

Do encourage your child to talk to the coaches. Taking responsibility, whether it is about playing difficulties or about missing a practice, is a big part of soccer and of life. This will be a nice practical application your child can be encouraged to take toward developing leadership, negotiation and communication skills.

DO pass along to your coach appropriate concerns or information regarding your child in a timely fashion (outside of practice or game times). For example: it would be helpful for your coach to know that your child is recovering from an illness or injury.

DO NOT react negatively towards your child's / team's mistakes, referee decisions, or opposing player and coach actions. This only reflects badly upon yourself, your child and your club and community.

DO welcome your child's initiative to play soccer on their own (backyard play, etc.) away from practices and games.

DO support your child and team's efforts towards good sporting behavior and being gracious in victory or defeat.

DO keep perspective. As an important person in your child's life, you are expected to provide feedback on their performance. Be prepared to react to both good and poor performances. Mistakes are a natural part of sports and most things that we do in life. Feedback generally serves three purposes: error correction, motivation and reinforcement. As a parent, you may wish to focus on motivation and reinforcement. Accentuate the positive!

DO NOT speak or yell to the officials, except to say "thank you" after the game is finished. If you have questions or concerns about an official's performance, speak to the coach or to the team representative who can forward that information through the appropriate channels.

If you have a concern with your child's coach(es), you may ask to meet with that coach(es) outside of a practice or game time. Explain the problem to the coach and ask for the coaches perspectives on the problem. Try to reach an agreement about how the problem may be resolved. If you and the coach are unable to resolve the problem, you may take the problem to the Director of Coaching and ask him/her to assist you and the coach in resolving the issue. In any of these meetings it is important for everyone to control their emotions and take a positive approach to the issue. Any problem must be evaluated in terms of both the individuals involved and the needs of the team as a whole.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Serve as the primary source of information and communication between team members and coach. This would include information regarding schedules, tournaments, practices and club events.

Serve as the liaison between parents and coach and representatives and the club

Assist parents in providing information on directions, schedules and lodging information for tourmanents.

Seek volunteers to assist in team and club activities and projects.

Handle game day procedures including rosters, game report cards, referee fees and oversee pass cards and field flags (determined with coach)

Set up team for tournaments and make arrangements for overnight stay if necessary. Make sure parents on coach have necessary tournament information and team is registered.

DIRECTOR OF COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Director of coaching will oversee the recruitment, selection, development and evaluation of coaches. Also, the Director of Coaching will coordinate team formation (tryouts), player selection and placement.

Provide coaches with guidance regarding age/ability specific training content for each team. This will lead to developing a consistent style and understanding of play from one age to the next.

Provide feedback and evaluation for coaches regarding their work with their teams.

Recruit, screen and procure head and assistant coaches for the club. This includes making sure coaches have the appropriate license.

Act as liaison to handle to handle issues between coaches, players, and parents.

Assist with clinic/instructional sessions such as team or club camps.

Coordinate the evaluation of current players to be used as part of the selection process for forming teams the following year.

Coordinate the recruitment of new players for the club as well as the selection process (tryout).

Handle questions of player placement when issues arise.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches are responsible for setting up and running practice sessions for teams. They are also responsible to be at games and tournaments or find a substitute when needed. Coaches will also be responsible for being available at tryouts and assisting in the tryout process.

Safety

1. The first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in the basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home and away:
 - Y Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ice
 - Y 911 emergency procedures/telephone location
 - Y location of nearest emergency medical facilities
 - Y always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
 - Y follow up all injuries with parents/guardian
4. Know and understand the Laws of the Game

5. Inspect player equipment and field conditions for safety reasons
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play
7. Implement appropriate training programs to make sure players are fit for practice and competition
8. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury situations

Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in the proper perspective.
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the players age group.
6. Allow players to play all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach his or her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model.
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, referees, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sport in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility.
8. Promote support for "Just say no to drugs and alcohol".
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.