



## Fall 2017/Spring 2018 Soccer Handbook

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# Carrollton Boosters

## Mission

We are a volunteer youth sports organization. Our goal is for Carrollton Boosters to be a rewarding experience for our players and their families. It is important to remember that having fun and learning the skills of the sport are both important parts of a quality youth sports experience. We encourage the spirit of competition but we demand good sportsmanship from all who participate in our program. Sometimes coaches and fans get frustrated or carried away in the excitement of a game. These emotions are never an excuse for anyone to lose sight of our goal to provide a safe environment where children can have fun, learn to play better, and develop into responsible young men and women. It is our responsibility as players, coaches, and fans to make sure that we always act in the best interest of the kids. Winning a championship is an important goal but our greatest aspiration should be that playing on a team will be remembered fondly by every player on the team.

## Sportsmanship

It is entirely appropriate to cheer when your team succeeds in a competitive situation. Consequently, it is inappropriate and unsportsmanlike to cheer when the other team commits a poor play during the game. Further, it is never appropriate, as a fan, player or parent, in any league to attempt to distract the goalkeeper or player while the game is underway. **Fans and parents are not allowed to stand behind the goal or players' bench and talk, yell, cheer or otherwise instruct or distract any of the game participants – particularly goalkeeper – while the game is underway.**

Please cheer and support your team in a positive fashion and do not cheer against or argue with the other team, its players, fans and coaches. Remember that we are a recreational league for children and the most important contribution we can all make to the success of the program is through the example we set as parents, fans and coaches.

## **Program Rules**

### **Players are In Graded Leagues (U8 & older)**

1. Players arriving late can create a serious disruption to a coach's game plan. Players are expected to be in uniform, with their team before the start time for a game. Players arriving after the start of the game, but before the start of the second quarter remain eligible players. Players arriving after the start of the second quarter may not play during the game in progress including any extra time. Unless there is an injury, or the special play-down rule is in effect, no player may come off the bench in the middle of a quarter including a late arriving player.
2. Official Carrollton Booster team jersey and team socks must be properly worn by all players in the field, except the goalkeeper
3. In all graded soccer leagues, every eligible player must play in the field at least two quarters of every game.
4. In the competitive leagues the Jamboree games held at the beginning of the season are intended as preseason warm-ups.
5. Players who do not participate in at least two-thirds of their team's scheduled games and practices may be excluded from future Carrollton Boosters sports programs.

## **Practice**

Each team in a graded league (U8 & older) is allotted one weekday practice slot per week. The location of the practice will be at either Cuccia Byrnes/Gilbert or the Riverview/Fly. Please consult the Carrollton Boosters website for a diagram of our soccer fields. Teams often share a field during practice, and every effort should be made to share both the field and any available goals on an equitable basis. Coaches should ensure that soccer balls are not kicked into any playground fencing such as to cause damage to the fencing. Coaches practicing at the Riverview fields should also ensure that soccer balls are not kicked into any outfield banners hanging on the fences.

## **Pre-Game**

Teams should warm-up before games in a location and manner that does not disrupt on-going games or spectators/fans. Coaches are responsible for their team conducting orderly pre-game warm-ups that do not allow balls to enter a field where a game is being played or enter an area where spectators are watching games.

## **Administrative**

- Postponed games may be rescheduled by the Program Director and/or league coordinator. A game may be rescheduled as early as the next day.
- **NO PETS, LITTERING, CLIMBING ON FENCES, KICKING OR THROWING SOCCER BALLS INTO FENCES, OR DIGGING IN THE FIELD OF PLAY IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK.**
- **NO PROFANITY, VERBAL ABUSE, HARASSMENT, FIGHTING OR OTHER DISORDERLY OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK.** Penalty for violation of this rule may include disqualification (ejection), revocation of player, coach, or fan privileges (suspension), and/or any other penalties deemed appropriate by the commissioners of baseball or softball or the board of directors.
- Fans and parents may not enter the field of play at any time without permission from the referee or league coordinator.
- **NO BEER, ALCOHOL, OR SMOKING IS ALLOWED ON THE FIELDS.** Coaches may not leave their field to participate in these activities during a game in progress. Cell phones may not be used on the fields except in emergencies.

## **Disciplinary actions**

- Referees are responsible for enforcing the rules of the game and for maintaining order while a game is in progress. Referees have the authority to disqualify (eject) players, coaches, or fans for disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct. The referee's decision may not be appealed.
- The Program Director and/or league coordinators (or their designee) are responsible for management of the league and enforcement of league and park rules at all times. The Program Director and/or league coordinators have the authority to 1) disqualify (eject) players, coaches, or fans, and/or 2) revoke (suspension) player, coach, or fan privileges for disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Disqualified (ejected) players may not participate in the game. If their parent or guardian is present they must leave the playing field, and spectator areas of the game and may not address referees, players, or coaches while the game is in progress. If their parent or guardian is not present they must quietly remain on the sideline until the game is completed. Failure to comply with the referee's order may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- Disqualified (ejected) coaches and fans must leave the playing field and spectator areas of the game and may not address referees, players, or coaches while the game is in progress. Failure to comply with the referee's order may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team. If a coach or fan continues to behave in a disorderly or unsportsmanlike manner the Program Director and/or league coordinator has the authority to revoke their privileges for one game. The Program Director and/or league coordinator may also recommend a longer suspension to the Commissioner of Soccer. The referee's or league coordinator's decisions regarding disqualifications and game forfeiture are final.
- Revocation of player, coach, or fan privileges means the player, coach, or fan is not allowed to play, practice, attend, or participate in any activity with their team until the suspension period has ended. Offending players, coaches and fans may be required to meet with the Commissioner of Soccer, or other Boosters Club representatives before resuming participation.

## **CARROLLTON BOOSTER SOCCER**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS**

We ask all parents and spectators to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- **I will let the players play.** Players need to concentrate while they play and negative pressure from the fans does not improve their performance. Cheer them when they do well, encourage them when they don't, but be positive in how you do it. Don't expect more than they can deliver, and most importantly be a fan of everyone on the team, not just your own child.
- **I will let the coaches instruct.** Remember that your child's coach may have a different style and/or philosophy than you. Some coaches believe that players should gain experience at all positions. Others believe it is better for the team if each player specializes at one position. Some coaches don't care as much about winning and just want the kids to have fun. Others place more emphasis on winning and believe that even players that don't play as much have more fun when they are on a winning team. It is IMPORTANT to remember that your child's coach, not you, is responsible for how the team is managed. He or she volunteered to accept that responsibility and is giving up a lot of time for the love of the game and the kids. Your child's coach deserves your cooperation and respect even if you disagree with how s/he manages the team.
- **I will let the referees officiate.** Bad calls are going to happen but most officials are doing their best. Respect the referee's decisions and don't embarrass yourself by questioning a call, especially if you don't know the rules. Blaming the referee for a bad outcome of a game is a hallmark of poor sportsmanship. If the ball takes a bad bounce, set a good example for the kids and deal with it like an adult.
- **I will be a good sport.** Be civil and don't verbally abuse players, coaches, referees, or other fans. Losing is part of athletic competition. Accept losing graciously and teach your child to do the same by your good example. Respect the other team's fans and players. Never blame your child or another member of the team for a loss; teams win and lose together. Keep your post-game discussions with your child positive. If you don't like something about the way the coach managed the game, keep it to yourself and don't damage your child's opinion of the coach.
- **I will prepare my child to participate.** Make sure they have the proper equipment and water. Notify your coach in advance if you will miss a practice or a game. Don't expect the coach to teach your child everything s/he needs to know to play the game well. Even if you are not skilled yourself, spend time with your child passing the soccer ball to them. You may be surprised how much this small effort can help your child's skills develop.
- **I will communicate responsibly.** Your coach cannot address a problem if he or she does not know it exists. Neither can the league coordinator, program director, or the commissioner. Most of the volunteer leaders at Carrollton Boosters will welcome constructive input about important matters delivered in a civil manner.
- **I will help keep the park clean and safe.** Please use the trash receptacles. If you see a child doing something they should not, especially something unsafe like climbing or hanging on a goal or kicking a ball in a crowded area, stop them. We are all in this together.

## **CARROLLTON BOOSTER SOCCER CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES**

We ask all coaches to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- **I will provide a safe playing environment.** Attend a safety clinic at least once a year to review the basic principles of first aid. Make sure there are at least two adults at each practice. Ask parents to make sure players have water when it's hot and humid.
- **I will be a good sport.** Be civil. Don't verbally abuse players, fans, referees, or other coaches. Lead by example and teach players and parents the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship.
- **I will remember that the game is for the children.** Place the interests of the players ahead of your personal desire to win. Be able to honestly tell yourself that you operate in the best interest of all the kids at Carrollton, not just your child or your team.
- **I will remember that different players have different abilities.** Learn each player's strengths and weaknesses and help them perform at their highest level.
- **I will do my best to know the rules of my sport.** If you don't know the rules your team might lose a game because of your mistake. Learn the rules and teach them to your players and parents.
- **I will do my best to know the skills of my sport.** We are all volunteers and everybody starts off inexperienced. If you're a rookie, buy a book on coaching and read it. Take advantage of the coaching clinics sponsored by the club. Find a good assistant coach. Watch and work with experienced coaches to improve your coaching skills.
- **I will prepare myself for practices.** Don't wait until you get to the field. Be organized and have a plan for each practice and for the season. Schedule practices as far in advance as possible and make sure your entire team is notified. Make practices challenging so they'll hold the kids' interest.
- **I will be responsible for the behavior of my players and fans.** If a player or parent from your team behaves in a disorderly or unsportsmanlike manner it is your responsibility to deal with it.
- **I will communicate responsibly.** Keep your parents and players informed. Keep in touch with your league coordinator. If a problem comes up during the season talk to someone and resolve it before it gets out of hand.
- **I will do my best to make each child's experience on my team a good one.** Someday they will look back and tell their children about their little league coach. Make sure the memories are good ones.

**Each child on your team is entrusted to your care by their parents or guardians and by Carrollton Boosters. As an adult coach of children we ask you to carefully consider each item on this list before you volunteer to coach.**

CDC Heads Up Concussion Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

US Soccer Digital Coaching Center: <https://dcc.ussoccer.com/>