

NEWPORT HARBOR GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM GUIDELINES

Please have handy this season's Team Guidelines handout when we discuss concerns and issues with regards to this season's soccer teams. Our teams will be held to these guidelines as well as players and parents.

Coaches observe teams from one end of the soccer spectrum while players and parents observe teams from the other end of the soccer spectrum. Therefore, because of this Coach/Player/Parent difference of perspective we must always communicate between coaches, players and parents to try to avoid and/or solve problem areas and create a healthy team-working environment.

All of us (coaches, players, parents, relatives, friends, etc.) under all conditions we face must be positive, supportive, and united. The school comes first, then the team, then the individual. The order of priority with respect to school, team, and individual can be a difficult and unnatural one for players and parents to deal within the decision making process. While for coaches this order is a natural means for decision-making. In my experience as a coach, players' decisions are often made first with priority to their personal needs, and parents' decisions are made first with priority to their families and daughters in mind. Coaches' decisions are made first with priority to the school, then the team and then the individual in mind.

We are a class act. We represent Newport Harbor High School, the Athletic Department, the Girl's Soccer Program and above all ourselves. We always exhibit good behavior, consideration, proper manners and thoughtfulness toward others and one another. We always leave places clean and tidy. This includes parents' homes, meeting rooms, class rooms, restaurants, vehicles, soccer fields, etc.

Aside from being the Team Coach for the Newport Harbor Girl's Varsity Team, I also the Supervisor of the other teams within the Girl's Soccer Program. From time to time one of the designated Newport Harbor staff coaches may assist me with the varsity team.

When there are conflicts between my other program responsibilities (AND THERE WILL BE CONFLICTS), careful consideration will be made by the coaching staff about which responsibility will assume priority. In the event I am unavailable, one of the Newport Harbor staff coaches will take over as team coach of the varsity team for that particular event. There will be times when the team is asked to accept responsibility for game preparation so the players grow in their understanding of leadership, maturity, and responsibility.

Players will be evaluated for soccer in four areas:

MENTAL DIMENSIONS:

Team Building Concepts.

Character, Leadership, and Discipline.

Player's work rate in defense & offense throughout the entire game.

PHYSICAL DIMENSION IN DEFENSE:

Player's soccer strength in defense

(win physical confrontations with opponents and win the ball).

Player's soccer speed in defense

(cover space and recover when beaten).

PHYSICAL DIMENSION IN OFFENSE:

Player's soccer strength and soccer speed in offense

(capture space behind opponent's defense, hold space, execute productive shot, cross, or scoring chance).

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE & TACTICAL AWARENESS IN OFFENSE & DEFENSE:

Player's skills, reading and runs in offense

(fast comfortable relationship with ball, team efficient decisions, creation and prevention of scoring chances).

Application & execution of defensive principles

(tactical understanding of team defense and decision making).

Remembering that each game can take on a life of its own; as coaches we make decisions on player selections, players' position, amount of playing time, team formation, game participation, based solely on OUR BEST JUDGMENT (subjective) of the players demonstrating the highest required level of productivity for each of the respective eleven positions within the AREAS OF EVALUATION in soccer games on a regulation size field. Keep in mind each respective position requires a certain level of productivity in the AREAS OF EVALUATION in order for the position to produce in the game on a regulation size field. It could be that one player has a higher level in an AREA OF EVALUATION and that may make them more productive at that position in THE COACHES' JUDGMENT. As coaches we make coaching decisions almost every second of the game through the AREAS OF EVALUATION. With the many decisions to be made, it is impossible for us to review every decision with the players or parents each time we make a decision.

Throughout the season from time to time we will verbally evaluate players giving them an indication of areas where they are doing well and where they may be able to improve; players may also at any time during the year request to be evaluated. Our decisions will not be based on other areas of evaluation such as, the judgment of other players, other coaches, private trainers, parents, relatives, friends, boyfriends, social relations, number of years played at the high school, parents position in the school or boosters, financial contributions, missing practices or games etc. PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN AREAS OF EVALUATION into the Newport Harbor Soccer Program evaluation process. As coaches we will not bring into our discussion evaluation comparisons between your daughter and other players. Our intentions are always to play every player in every game, but when the game starts we have no idea the unforeseen circumstances each game may present. Therefore Players and Parents must be positive in the role players are asked to fulfill for the team at any moment, EVEN IF THAT ROLE HAS THEM NOT PLAYING AT ALL, coming off the bench, or playing a different position. Players will often face adverse conditions in order to learn how to deal with and or solve problems in a healthy way. The team comes before the individual.

Parents, always at the appropriate moment and time feel free to communicate and ask questions about your daughter or her status with her team. Parents take the initiative to teach your daughters and encourage them to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible. As coaches we will always express our observations and views of an individual through the Areas of Evaluation.

Players must organize their time in their studies, social life and private life so they come MENTALLY concentrated, focused and sharp to all our soccer practices, meetings and games.

Hydration, nutrition and rest are an important part of a player's personal responsibility. Drinking the correct fluids and eating proper nutritional foods along with getting the proper rest so that their body can PHYSICALLY perform at its maximum level is an important aspect and responsibility of being a productive athlete.

Players are instructed to always take care of their bruises, injuries, strains or anything that requires treatment. If you are not sure if you require treatment, ask the coach or trainer. Never leave anything to chance. Follow up and get treatment when you are injured and always get taped when needed. A player's health is considered more important than a soccer game and if we have any doubt about the status of a player we will be conservative in our decisions meaning that even though our team may suffer without her services she may not play unless we can be certain her injury will not worsen.

Arriving at the game site at the team's designated time is as important as the game itself. Before, during and shortly after games, players must be disciplined in concentrating and focusing on their performance and not socializing with their parents, relatives, friends, boyfriends, fans, pets, etc.

No one, other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on the team bench before and during games.

During the season, as dictated by conditions of the game, one will see a spectrum of active to passive coaching from the sideline.

Our style of play through the course of the season will be one that is adaptable, changeable and flexible.

No arguing or complaining to the game officials, opponent players, coaches, parents, etc. One of our objectives as coaches during a game is through our own means and experience to positively inquire with officials about their decisions. No matter how poor you may feel the officiating is it is counter productive to have our sidelines complaining and berating the officials during the match no matter how difficult things may be on the field.

It is encouraged that parents, relatives, friends, etc. come and support their daughter and the team during the game through positive encouragement; however, there will be no coaching from the sideline. Instructing to pass, kick, dribble the ball and shouting "Go, Go, Go" are interpreted as coaching from the sidelines.

When necessary, there may be times we ask players to do a hard physical workout immediately after games. This should not be interpreted as a punishment, but a means of achieving a higher level of fitness.

On our trips the players travel, go on bus trips, live, and play soccer together, unless otherwise agreed and approved by the coaches. At times we may make exceptions if they do not conflict with School and Department policy; but we will always listen to your requests and then decide what is best for the team. Each case is judged individually and you must abide by the final decision with a positive attitude. Parents, relatives, friends, boyfriends, fans, etc. are always welcome to support us when we travel, but they must find their own means.

If the players have problems amongst themselves; we promote maturity and conflict resolution by asking the players to work out the difficulties on their own. If the problems cannot be solved, communicate with the coaches or the appropriate authority. The same principle applies to parents.

Parents and players regardless of your personal opinions and critiques with respect to game officials, school administrators, opposing team parents, coaches, and players, Newport Harbor Girls Soccer Program team parents, coaches, and players; please be sensitive to the feelings of others and keep any negative comments private and out of our public domain. If you have issues with events that occur or Program decisions please feel free to discuss them with your team coach privately at the appropriate time.

If we perceive disciplinary problems or patterns of unacceptable behavior (from players or parents), it may result in players performing tasks for the team (i.e., carrying ball bag, water, etc.) or sitting on the bench during games for as much time as we feel appropriate. This could be 20 minutes, half a game, as much as an entire game or more. If players are being disciplined, they will participate in practices, and on game days they will support their teammates in a positive manner from the bench. If unacceptable behavior continues, they will be removed from the team

We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer. In terms of priority, family and schoolwork come first. However, if the coaches see players are not willing to put their soccer above other recreational activities during the season, it may affect their Mental & Physical Dimensions and thereby affect playing time and/or one's status with the team. As a member of the Newport Harbor Soccer Program, we expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and your team as your first recreational activity and priority during the season.

During and/or after the soccer season players from our teams may be offered the opportunity to participate in different school activities, other athletic sports teams, Newport Harbor Soccer Program teams, or with select "All Star", or senior teams. Evaluation and selection for these activities and or teams will be the sole responsibility of the entity sponsoring the activity or event. If selected the player's decision about whether to participate in internal or external events will be left up to the player and parents. Be aware that players who are selected for other activities or teams may encounter conflicts. Our general program policy will be that your team should take priority unless your team coach in coordination with the program staff decides otherwise.

With the above paragraphs in mind, as team coaches we will consider special requests on a case by case basis with consideration and understanding of the individual's needs. When the time comes for us to make decisions for the good of our teams please be prepared to show us the same consideration and understanding.

The Newport Harbor Soccer Program and its team coaches do solicit college coaches to attend our events to evaluate our players.

The commitment for both parties (teams and players) is for one season. We expect our players and parents to be ethical and honest and honor their commitments; therefore you should make your decision about whether to join one of our teams carefully. Once your commitment is made, the program expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer season through the termination of CIF playoffs; this includes our practice and preparation for tournament competition. You are committing to the program and team even in the event results, personal playing time, personal relationships, etc. do not meet your expectations and/or are not to your liking. Remember there is a bigger picture to consider besides soccer; which is the person's development as an honest positive human being.

Always be adaptable and flexible to changes as the situation dictates.

Please consider these observations which I hold to be true given my experience over my many years of involvement in dealing with players and parents and I can only hope you will not be offended and can accept these observations in the way they were intended.

AT THE BEGINNING, ALL PARENTS ARE RATIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE.

HOWEVER, PARENTS HAVE THEIR EMOTIONS INTERTWINED WITH THEIR DAUGHTER'S EMOTIONS AND THAT MAY AFFECT THEIR RATIONAL THINKING PROCESS.

AT THE BEGINNING, PLAYERS ARE ALSO RATIONAL, BUT THEIR EMOTIONS MAY ALSO AFFECT THE RATIONAL THINKING PROCESS.

IN THE COMPETITIVE ARENA AND ENVIRONMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL FEMALE SOCCER, PLAYERS AND PARENTS MAY HAVE SENSITIVE FEELINGS.

WHEN THE TEAM GUIDELINES ARE COMBINED WITH THE SENSITIVE FEELINGS OF PARENTS AND PLAYERS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS EMOTIONS MAY AT TIMES CHANGE AND THEY CAN BECOME EXTREMELY IRRATIONAL AND UNPREDICTABLE. AT TIMES, THESE EMOTIONS CAN EVEN LEAD TO VOLATILE BEHAVIOUR.

SO, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT AT THIS TIME, YOU ARE AGREEING TO THESE GUIDELINES.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE CONFLICT AND PROBLEMS, BUT WITHIN THE NEWPORT HARBOR GIRL'S SOCCER PROGRAM, THROUGH OUR TEAM GUIDELINES, AND OUR SINCERE DESIRE TO CREATE THE OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL INVOLVED IN THE GROWTH PROCESS WE WILL WORK TO RESOLVE ANY ISSUES RATIONALLY AND POSITIVELY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN CAREFULLY GOING OVER THESE GUIDELINES.

GO SAILORS!!!

**LARRY DRALUCK
949-412-5837
larry@nhgirlssoccer.com**