

MARKHAM SOCCER CLUB



HOUSE LEAGUE PARENT GUIDE

www.markhamsoccer.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome!

To our new and returning players, on behalf of the MSC Directors, we wish the players and their family's very warm welcome and best wishes for a fun, challenging and safe soccer season!

The MSC is proud to be an integral part of the Markham community. Offering programs for children, youth, adult, special needs and a highly successful competitive program, the MSC is York Region's Premier Soccer Club. Since 1971 the MSC has been proud to represent and support its members through its commitment to developing their soccer skills in a fun safe and challenging environment.

The spirit of volunteerism that exists in our club is one of the main reasons that the MSC has achieved its excellent level of programs and its ability to serve our Markham community. The MSC is a community based soccer club that operates largely due to the generous efforts of its dedicated volunteers. Join our team today; volunteer to coach or assist a coach, manage a team, or convene a division. Volunteering is the basis of our organization and all the individual efforts culminate to make the MSC the great club that it is today. I encourage you to volunteer and take an active part in our community club, the Markham Soccer Club.

Please take your time and read through this *House League Parent Guide* handbook. Inside you will find a wealth of information for your soccer season. Welcome aboard, have fun and enjoy the beautiful game with your sons and daughters, family, friends and neighbors.

Best wishes for a great soccer season,

Perry Galanis
President
Markham Soccer Club



ABOUT US

The Club was formed in the winter of 1971/72 by a group headed by Gavin Berry. We were Initially known as the *Markham Minor Soccer Club* with one team in the Newmarket and District League. Then it was called the *Markham Youth Soccer Club* until 1991, when it merged with *Markham (Senior) Soccer Club* to form today's *Markham Soccer Club (MSC)*.

It was a House League Club until the 1976/77 season, when Representative Teams were introduced under Len Notaro's presidency. When Brian Crawford was President in 1978/79, Indoor Soccer was introduced. January, 1988 saw the opening of Mount Joy Community Centre, our home.

It has since grown to over 3,800 outdoor players and 1,200 indoor players.

Our recreational division offers:

- An introduction to soccer for Under 3's (U3).
- A Micro program with:
 - 3-a-side for U4 – U6
- A Pre-Mini and Mini program with:
 - 4-a-side for U7
 - 5-a-side for U8
 - 7-a-side for U9 & U10
- A Junior Field program for U11 & U12 with 9-a-side
- A Full Field youth program for U13 – U18
- A one week summer camp for U8-U12's

VOLUNTEERS

This is a volunteer organization and we can always use more help. If you can help us by being a team leader or coaching a team, that's great. Please check the volunteer box on the registration form, call us at (905) 472-2869, e-mail us at michelle.self@markhamsoccer.org come in and talk to us.

Volunteer Team Leaders with our U4-U6 divisions will receive a \$25.00 credit at the end of the year to be applied to a future registration.

Volunteer coaches in the U7 – U18 divisions will receive a \$50.00 credit at the end of the season after submitting their player evaluations.

Don't miss your chance to contribute positively to the youth in your community, and to positively influence your child's experience in organized soccer.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee includes the following for each player:

- Full Kit – Including Jersey, Shorts & Socks
- Starter Kit – U3 and U4 only (ball, shin-pads, water bottle)
- U3 – U12 – Ball
- A full-season program
- A individual photograph from U3 – U6 only



PICTURE DAYS

Player Team photos for divisions U3 – U6 only will be taken at their game field on a game or practice night during the season. A schedule will be emailed to all players once the dates are finalized. The club supplies an individual player photo; parents will have the option to purchase extra packages. **Please note that there are no re-take days.**

GAMES AND PRACTICES

Preparation

In order to prepare for games and practices, all players should remember the following:

- Shin guards are mandatory for all players
- Socks must be worn over shin guards
- a water bottle labeled with your child's name
- Soccer cleats are recommended for all players, but not necessary. Running shoes (low profile) are acceptable
- all items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather/rubber wrist bands, etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not acceptable.
- **Glasses are not permitted** on the field, sport goggles are acceptable.
- Sunscreen is recommended

We ask that your child arrives at the field dressed and ready to play 10 minutes before the scheduled time period. Showing up late makes everyone else stop while drills are rearranged.

Please note that one parent or guardian must be at the field during all games and practices.

- We do not assume responsibility for unsupervised children
- If your child is injured it is important that you are there to tend to him/her.
- The children are very proud of what they are doing and enjoy having someone watching and cheering them on.

Guided by parental requests, the MSC took the initiative of putting a stop to the practice of a rotation for half time and post-game treats. It is recommended that all players continue to bring water for during and/or after a game/practice. Any post-game celebrations should be organized on an exceptional basis and be enjoyed away from the field. No parent must feel obligated in any way to provide treats for the team.



GAME DAY

Please be on time

Please try and have your child to practices and games at least on time, if not early. Showing up late makes everyone else stop while drills are rearranged at practice or could delay the start of the game.

If you have to miss a game or practice

Spending an hour on lineups and then having to rework them at game time, or not having enough players to run a session is not fun. Please try and let your coach know in advance that your child will not be able to attend a practice or game.

Check the website for game changes or cancellations

Changes to fields, game times, or dates may take place over the course of the season. Cancellations due to severe weather or poor field conditions are also a possibility. While we do our best to send out e-mail notifications it is the responsibility of the parent to check the website prior to going to the field for any changes or cancellation notifications.

Check to make sure you have the right equipment

Let's face it, kids are kids. Many simply don't prepare and forget simple things that they need to play difference (shin guards, jersey, water bottles, socks, balls, etc.) Please remember to check the gear and make sure they have it all. (No shin pads means they will not be allowed to play) We highly recommend you teach your child to do this and make it their responsibility. A final check before leaving the house is a good idea.

Sideline Coaching

One of the key elements of a youth player developing is their ability to make decisions on the field. This means making good choices and bad ones too. Players should only listen to 3 people:

- Their coach
- The referee
- Their teammates

Cheering is good, but do not yell at your child or anyone else's child during the game. It can be distracting and what you tell them may be different from what the coaches are saying. If you would like to be an assistant coach, please call the coach. He/She would love your help.

Please note that there are other parents sitting quietly on the sides to enjoy the game. Sitting next to the "loud parent" is a horrible experience that takes away from the beauty of our game.

Parents should ...

Offer praise and applause for good plays and good behavior for their team.

Offer praise and applause for good plays and good behavior for the OTHER team. They are all trying their best; let them know you appreciate it.

Be careful not to say anything that might be taken the wrong way or hurt someone's feelings. Remember this is for fun and these are children.



EQUAL PLAY

The Markham Soccer Club has an equal play policy in place to ensure that all players get the same amount of playing time to the greatest degree possible.

See our House League rules for more information on this policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Notifications will be posted on our website by 4:00pm if the club has formally cancelled a game due to extreme weather or field closures. We will do our best to send out e-mail notifications to all parents and coaches as well. If there aren't any notifications Coaches and players must show up at the field.

As long as the game is still scheduled, **the referee shall have the sole authority to cancel the game** due to unsuitable field or weather conditions. Coaches and Volunteer Conveners do not have the authority to cancel games.

Outdoor games will normally proceed even if it is raining but must be halted by the referee in the event of lightning. If in doubt – show up; otherwise your team may forfeit the game.

Soccer Games and practices will take place every week except under the following weather conditions:

- Thunder and lightning storms
- If any fields are closed by the Town due to dangerous conditions
- If any fields are closed by the Club due to dangerous conditions or damage to fields

Please check our website to find out if your game or practice is cancelled prior to going to the field. www.markhamsoccer.org

MAKE-UP GAMES

For the U14 divisions if a game is cancelled due to weather or field closures, every attempt will be made to schedule a make-up game. These games will take place on the regularly scheduled practice night. Once games have been scheduled they will be posted on www.markhamsoccer.org and coaches or the division convener will provide information stating when the make-up game will be played.

For U16 & U18 Interlock League, every attempt to make up games based on the teams schedule will be made, subject to available resources from both participating clubs.



COACHES & TEAM LEADERS

All of our Coaches & Team Leaders are volunteers, without whom we would not be able to run. Many of these parents do not have any experience but have been willing to give up their time to coach your child so please leave the coaching to them.

Should you have any complaints we ask that you wait at least 24 hours before then contacting the coach to discuss your concerns.

In the event that your child's coach is unable to make it on a given night it is up to the other parents/guardians on the team to step up on that day.

FIELD CONVENORS

Each Micro and Mini U7-U8 field will be assigned a Field Convener. This person is hired by the Markham Soccer Club to help make sure that everything runs smoothly during games and practices and to open the storage bins with the equipment needed each night.

Get to know your Field Convener as they are the link between you and the Markham Soccer Club.

The Convener will be responsible for giving the nets to the coaches for set up before the games and practices. A video on setting up the nets can be found at www.thebownet.net/demo.php Conveners will also distribute any information (e.g. newsletters) that the Club may have for you and take notes of any concerns.

We encourage feedback from parents and players. Conveners are trained to take note of all comments and pass them through to the Club Executive. Every year our program has changed as a direct result of suggestions from our parents.

REFEREES

For our teams U7 and older the Markham Soccer Club will provide referees for each league game.

These referees are young girls and boys who are learning the game of soccer just as your child is. They have shown an interest in refereeing and have become certified officials. Please ensure that our referees remain on the pitch year to year by treating them with respect, not making negative comments, and providing them with positive feedback at the end of each game. Remember the more experience our referees get, the better they will become.

The club will NOT tolerate any abuse of referees by parents, players or coaches.

If you are interested in refereeing and are 12 years old or older as of March 31st of the current year, please contact the MSC office or by e-mail Michelle michelle.self@markhamsoccer.org



If you or your child has a particular problem with one of our referees we would ask that you contact the office with your concerns and our Head Referee will address the issue.

The referee has the responsibility of:

- communicating with players and coaches
- starting the game on time
- making sure the teams have the correct number of players on the field as outlined in the rules section of this guide
- being the official timekeeper of the game. Please see the rules section of this guide for lengths of games. Game times may vary at the discretion of the referee
- making sure the Laws of the Game are followed
- making sure that a safe game ball of the correct size is provided by one team. The size of the ball is outlined in the rules section of this guide
- making sure that all fouls are penalized. If a foul is deemed serious by the referee, as described in the Laws of the Game, the player may be directed to leave the field
- Submitting completed game sheets to the club office
- terminating the game if lightning is seen

CLOSING DAYS

The Micro Divisions each have their own Closing Day activities involving all players in the division on the last day of their season.

The U8 to U12 divisions have a Closing Day Festival; with awards presentations after their last games.

The U14 to U18 divisions have Closing Days that revolve around the Championship play-off games and presentation of awards for the season.

CONTACTS

To obtain contact information for a director or a staff member, please refer to the Club website <http://markhamsoccer.org/ContactUs.aspx>



LONG TERM PLAYER DEVELOPMENT (LTPD)

You will be seeing a lot of this symbol.



Long-Term Player Development (LTPD) is a program mandated by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) and the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA) and is responsible for introducing the Plan across Ontario clubs. The OSA states the goal “is to make the game more fun than ever before for the recreational player and to provide better development opportunities than ever before for those with aspirations for a future in the sport. LTPD is a key aspect of ensuring that will happen”.

The philosophy of LTPD is for recreational players to develop basic physical abilities, be fit, receive excellent instruction, and have fun. By giving them a strong foundation, players are more likely to stay in the sport, if they so choose, hopefully for life.

The Markham Soccer Club has fully adopted the principles behind this philosophy and program changes are required to meet these objectives. For details on LTPD, please read the LTPD links found at www.markhamsoccer.org



Technical Festivals U7 – U12

Players registered in U7 – U12 House League will have one game day and one training session (team practice or technical festival) per week. Every other week, teams will attend a tech fest which will be delivered by our Certified Technical Staff Coaches (with assistance from our Volunteer House League Coaches). The club feels that this is an effective way to develop each individual player's skills.

U3-U4

- Their coordination is at the early stages
- They may want to participate one week then have no interest the next
- They need A LOT of positive reinforcement
- Their attention span is short
- They like playing games

U5-U8

- Their coordination is still improving
- They will run with the ball and rarely pass to a teammate
- Their attention span is short
- They like playing games

U9-U12

- Their coordination is good. This is a golden period in the development of soccer players
- by the age 9 or 10, players will be willing to pass the ball to a teammate by 11 and 12 they are able to cooperate with more than 1 player
- they like the idea of being on a team
- they are still in the “play to learn” stage
- they love to compete and to be accepted by their peers and parents

U13-U14

- they are able to understand basic tactical principles and basic positional play
- they like to win but winning and losing should be put into perspective

U15-U18

- they know everything 😊



MARKHAM SOCCER CLUB – HOUSE LEAGUE RULES

The following is a selection taken from the *House League Playing Rules* document found on our website. Please refer to that document for a more comprehensive description of the rules we follow. (An accompanying document on the website, *MSC Policies and Procedures* provides the basic rules by which the Club operates on a day-by-day basis.)

U3 – U6 SOCCER

An instructor-led package, intended to be a fun introduction to soccer. Phone the Club for details.

The U3 sessions will run as a 'Parent & Tot' program whereby all children are introduced to the game of soccer. The idea is to give them some familiarity with soccer and to provide comfort by including parents in the training. Participants will be divided into groups with a Markham Soccer Club mentor coach assigned as the coach and instructor. Exercises will be basic in nature and provide a fun learning experience for all children. A size 3 ball is used.

For our U4 – U6 programs, players will be assigned to a team of six players with a Volunteer Parent Coach (Team Leader). Each group of two teams will be assigned to one of our Junior Mentor Coaches for the season who will instruct the players and the Team Leader through our program throughout the season.

U6 – U7 MICRO SOCCER RULES

This format is used for players in the U6 and U7 age groups. It is a non-competitive format and thus there are no formal playing rules. The following are the guidelines used in scrimmages:

- a) The maximum number of players on the field is three per team for U6 (no keeper) and four per team for U7 (includes a keeper).
- b) A size 3 ball is used.
- c) No offside.
- d) Players will be substituted in and out together as a complete unit if there are sufficient substitutes. The players will rotate through positions with each round of substitutions.
- e) Substitutions should be done regularly (every 3 - 4 minutes) so that players are not sitting out for too long and equal play for all is observed.
- f) Up to but not including U7, one coach from each team will be allowed on the field with the players during the scrimmage. The coaches will act as referees, in addition to coaching their players. Coaches may not interfere in the play in any way. Coaches are encouraged to remain along the sidelines when possible.
- g) As this is a development-oriented format, winning the scrimmage is not the prime objective. Coaches should de-emphasize winning and losing and focus on good play and applying what has been taught. Positive feedback when a skill has been applied should be the prime focus.



h) No standings (formal or informal) for games won or lost or goals scored shall be kept. Coaches are encouraged to inform the club of exceptional players.

U8 – U18 HOUSE LEAGUE SOCCER RULES

Note: *These rules will apply to Outdoor leagues run entirely by the MSC for the U8 to U18 age groups. Other leagues in which MSC teams may participate will establish their own rules.*

The normal laws of soccer (FIFA Laws of the Game) shall apply, subject to the described modifications for each division. For a complete discussion of our House League rules for all ages, read the online *House League Playing Rules* document.

Game times for all divisions are listed in the rules below. Referees will start the clock at the scheduled start time. Games will not be extended due to teams not being ready to begin at game time.

5-A-Side Pre-Mini and 7-A-Side Mini Soccer Rules

These forms of the game are currently used outdoors for the U8 to U10 age groups. For the “Pre-Mini” U8 divisions, the maximum number of players on the field at any time is five per team. For “Mini Soccer” U9 and U10 divisions, seven are allowed. We put the three ages together here for simplicity since their rules are very similar.

- a) Two halves of 25 minutes each with a five-minute break between halves. Half time will be called once 25 minutes has passed, the game will be over when 50 minutes has elapsed.
- b) For U8 –U10 divisions, there will be no recording of or defined stoppages for substitutions. Instead, coaches may change players at any stoppage, with the permission of the referee. Despite not recording the substitutions, coaches are required to follow the spirit of Equal Play as defined in *Section 1.2.8 Equal Play Rules* of the *House League Playing Rules* document.
- c) Offside rule does not apply.
- d) Kick-ins rather than throw-ins will be used for U8 to U10 teams.
 - when the whole of the ball has crossed the touch-line, either on the ground or in the air, the ball shall be kicked in from the point where it left the field of play by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last played or touched it
 - the player taking the kick-in shall:
 - i. Face the field of play and
 - ii. Kick the ball from on, or behind, the touch line
 - the ball will be in play immediately after it enters the field of play directly from the kick
 - if the player taking the kick-in plays, or touches, the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team
 - at the taking of a kick-in, all opponents must be at least 4.6 metres (5 yards) from the ball
 - A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-in



- e) Opposing players must stand at least 5.5 metres (6 yards) away when a free kick, penalty kick, corner kick, or kick off is being taken.
- f) For U8 – U10 games:
 - When a team is taking a goal-kick, the opposing team must retreat to their half of the field until the ball has been put into play. The ball is in play when it is:
 - i. kicked directly out of the penalty area and is touched by another player on the team taking the kick, or
 - ii. kicked directly over the half-way lineIf the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area before being touched by another player of the team taking the kick, the kick is retaken. If a player on the opposing team crosses the half-way line before the ball is in play, the kick is retaken.
 - A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-off
- g) No standings (formal or informal) for games won or lost or goals scored shall be published.
- h) This is still a development-oriented format, winning the scrimmage is not the prime objective. Coaches should de-emphasize winning and losing and focus on good play and Applying what has been taught. Positive feedback when a skill has been applied should be the prime focus.

9-A-Side Junior Field Rules

This format is currently used outdoors for the U11 and U12 age groups. The maximum number of players on the field at any time is nine per team. The offside rule is introduced and size 4 balls are used. Standings are not kept.

U11-U12 (50 minutes, 2 Halves):

Two halves of 25 minutes each, with a five-minute break between halves. There will be no recording of or defined stoppages for substitutions. Instead, coaches may change players at any stoppage, with the permission of the referee. Despite not recording the substitutions, coaches are required to follow the spirit of Equal Play as defined in *Section 1.2.8 Equal Play Rules* of the *House League Playing Rules* document.

11-A-Side Full Field Rules

For age groups U14 up to and including U18, the maximum number of players on the field at any time is eleven per team. Size 5 balls are used. Standings are not kept.

U14 (72 minutes, 2 Halves)

Two halves of 36 minutes each, with a five-minute break between halves. Coaches may change players with permission of the referee during the following stoppages of play:

- At a goal kick by either team
- After a goal is scored by either team
- At your own team's throw in with piggy-backing by the other team allowed
- At the beginning of the second half or any overtime period
- At the referees discretion for an injury

Substitutions may not be made during: corner kicks, free kicks, or drop balls.



U16-U18 (90 minutes, 2 Halves)

Two halves of 45 minute each, with a five-minute break between halves. The first half will be over after 45 minutes and the second after 90 minutes (or less if the referee is forced to shorten the duration of the game). The clock will be started at the scheduled game time regardless of when the game actually begins.

Unlimited substitutions are allowed at the following times with the prior approval of the referee:

- At a goal kick by either team
- After a goal is scored by either team
- At your own team's throw in with piggy-backing by the other team allowed
- At the beginning of the second half or any overtime period
- At the referees discretion for an injury

Substitutions may not be made during: corner kicks, free kicks, or drop balls.

Players coming off and going on will have to make the exchange at the half way line on the team bench side of the field so the referee and others can see a one-for-one exchange.

Coaches are still required to address the spirit of the law regarding equal play knowing that the referee is not writing it down. (**Section 1.2.8 Equal Play Rules** of the *House League Playing Rules* document).

For our U16 & U18 divisions, Markham Soccer Club teams will participate in the York Region Interlock League, playing against house league teams from other clubs within York Region.

All clubs participating in this league have agreed to abide by the same rules/principles in place for house league competition.

Standings for the regular season will not be kept. To try to minimize travel for all teams participating in the league, schedules may not be entirely balanced for all teams throughout the season.

And end of season play-off tournament will be held for these two divisions with medals awarded to the tournament champions and tournament finalists.



PARENTS' PROMISE

1. At least one parent or guardian will be present for the duration of all my child's practices and games.
2. I will arrive at the field 10 minutes before the scheduled time period.
3. I will show respect and appreciation to the coaches and other volunteers who give their time to provide sporting activities for my child.
4. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice.
5. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
6. I will not question a referee's decision or intimidate him/her at any time.
7. I will remember that my child plays by the rules and must resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will teach my child that doing his/her best is more important than winning so that my child never feels defeated by the outcome of a game.
9. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and playing hard.
10. I will never yell at mine or someone else's child for making a mistake or losing a game.
11. I will remember that children learn by example, I will applaud good performances by players on my child's team and his opponents.
12. I will support all efforts to remove all verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting events.
13. I will adhere to the 24 hours rule – If I am upset I will wait 24 hours before speaking to my child's coach or Field Convener.
14. I will remember that the game is for youth not adults.
15. If I bring disposable refreshment containers to a field with no useable trash containers, I will take them home again. I will keep the field and sidelines free from litter.
16. I will provide a smoke-free and alcohol-free environment during games and practices for all the children.



COACHES' PROMISE

1. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
2. I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
3. I will be knowledgeable in the rules of the sport that I coach, and will teach these rules to my players.
4. I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for all my players.
5. I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not for adults.

PLAYERS' PROMISE

1. I will show respect and appreciation to the coaches, officials, fans, and others who give their time to provide and support sporting activities for me.
2. I will arrive at the field dressed and ready to play 10 minutes before the scheduled time period.
3. I will display good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for *all* players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice.
4. I will not question a referee's decision or intimidate him/her at any time.
5. I will play by the rules and will resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. Doing my best is more important than winning and I will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
7. I will never yell at another player for making a mistake.
8. I will applaud good performances by players on both teams.
9. I will support all efforts to remove all verbal and physical abuse from my sporting events.
10. My uniform represents my sponsor and my Club; I will wear it proudly.
11. If I bring disposable refreshment containers to a field with no useable trash containers, I will take them home again. I will keep the field and sidelines free from litter.