



**Player and Parent Agreement:
Participant's Commitment to Embrace and Adhere to Program Rules**

At SSUSA, our vision and mission revolve around fostering a secure, player-centric environment for all soccer athletes within our sphere of influence. With this in mind, the ensuing guidelines and regulations shall be in effect for all activities under the SSUSA Soccer Program. All participants are expected to uphold the principles set forth in this code of conduct agreement and the official Laws of the Game for SSUSA 2023/2024.

Key Principles:

Expectations for SSUSA Participants:

1. Gain familiarity with the rules and cultivate an understanding of the game.
2. Reserve discussions regarding rules for board members rather than coaches or officials.
3. Uphold conduct that reflects our league's values.
4. Treat others with the respect you desire for yourself, recognizing your behavior's impact.
5. Acknowledge remarkable plays from both teams, celebrating growth and camaraderie.
6. Demonstrate respect for officials and adhere to their decisions.
7. Coaches are responsible for addressing concerns with officials professionally.

Players' Commitment:

1. Adhere to the rules of the game and seek to master them.
2. Arrive prepared for training sessions and matches.
3. Control emotions and use appropriate language to respect oneself and others.
4. Treat teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans with courtesy at all times.
5. Remember to enjoy the game!

Parents, Guardians, and Fans' Pledge:

1. Familiarize yourselves with the game's rules and help your player understand and apply them.
2. Accept and refrain from questioning officials' judgments, showing respect for their role.
3. Employ appropriate language, avoiding profanity, threats, or heckling.
4. Let players play, coaches coach, and officials officiate without sideline interference.
5. Display gratitude to coaches, irrespective of the game's outcome.

As parents, we serve as role models for our athletes. Acknowledging this, SSUSA maintains high expectations for all participants, instituting a zero-tolerance policy for the following unacceptable behaviors:

Unacceptable Behaviors:

1. Verbal or physical abuse directed at anyone.
2. Taunting, trash talking, or the use of profanity towards players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
3. Harassing officials or ridiculing their decisions.
4. Verbally or in writing (email, social media, etc.) abusing any volunteer.
5. Engaging with alcohol, tobacco or drugs during SSUSA activities or while on the property.

Consequences may include probation, suspension, or permanent expulsion. Yellow and red cards indicate warnings and subsequent consequences, while adherence to the guidelines and rules is mandatory for all participants.

Important Dates:

February 6, 2024 - Parents meeting (Philadelphia Baptist Church 6:30 et)

February 8, 2024 - Coaches meeting (Philadelphia Baptist Church 6:30 et)

February 10, 2024 - U8-U12 Evaluations/Drafts

U8 (2016-2017): 10:30 et - 11:30 et

U10 (2014-2015): 12:00 et - 1:00 et

U12 (2012-2013): 1:30 et - 2:30 et

February 13, 2024 - 2nd Coaches meeting

Week of February 19, 2024 - Recreation Practices begin

March 8, 2024 - Opening ceremonies (Smiths Station Sports complex 6:30 et)

March 9, 2024 - Opening games day (Smiths Station Sports Complex)

March 10 & 17, 2024 - Picture days (Day and time to be determined by the coach)

March 16, 2024 - Games to be played during the week

March 23, 2024 - SSUSA Easter egg hunt (Info TBD)

March 30, 2024 - Beginning of Lee county Spring Break/Easter weekend - No Games

April 20, 2024 - Potential fundraiser

May 4, 2024 - End of season celebration

May 6-10, 2024 - Presidents cup Play-offs/semi-finals

May 11, 2024 - Presidents cup Finals

Evaluations:

U8-U12 players will check in at the front gate and receive a number. They will be separated into smaller groups and participate in 3-4 activities led by volunteers. Players will be evaluated by the rec coaches and drafted to a team once evaluations have concluded. The rosters will be accumulated and given to the coaches on August 24. Coaches will begin to reach out through SportYou once they receive their rosters.

Opening ceremonies:

Opening ceremonies will take place the Friday before opening day (March 9, 2024). Players will participate in a parade and other fun activities. We encourage each team to come up with a name to create an individual identity and create a banner to use during the parade. Details will be released closer to the date. We are looking for vendors for both our opening ceremonies and opening day games.

Player Requirements:

- Black shorts
- Black soccer socks
- Shin guards (worn under socks)
- Soccer cleats
- Soccer ball (U4-U8 Size 3, U10 & U12 Size 4)
- Water bottle

Game Requirements:

- All of the above
- Both game jerseys (provided as part of your registration fees; if selected)

Practices:

- Practice days and times will be decided by the coach your player is assigned to.
- Practice days will be Monday-Friday between 6-8 pm Eastern.
- Practices will be 1 to 2 nights a week and last 30 mins to an hour depending on the age group
- Teams will practice within the Smiths Station Sports Complex either at the Main fields or at the Green space located next to the main baseball fields
- The game schedule will have the home team listed first and the away team listed second (Home jersey = Green Away jersey = Blue)

Games:

- Games will predominantly take place on Saturdays at the Smiths Station Sports Complex. There will be weekday games scheduled the week of March 16th. Play off games will also be played during the week. In the event of a rainout or field closure makeup games may be played during the week or be made up through double headers.

- Schedule
 - Game schedule will be released by February 19th
- We do not keep score for U4 and U6 games as these are purely developmental and for fun.
- For U8-U12 scores will be kept and entered into GotSport for point accumulation that will assist in seeding the teams for our end of the season SSUSA President's cup.
 - 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss (Please see the schedule for an in depth explanation of the scoring system)
 - Medals will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place

Parent Obligations:

- Parents/Guardians will be asked to assist in concessions, field committees, special events, etc.
 - Signup sheets for concessions field committee and special events will be shared in SportsYou and on our website
- We are asking each team to volunteer 2 hours during the season as we need all the help we can get

Coaches:

We are still in need of coaches

- Coaches will receive support from our rec director of coaching and other volunteers, coaching materials, and a \$25 credit refunded back to the card on file at the end of the season.
- Coaches will need to complete their safesport certification and background check prior to the season starting, details on the website under the coaching tab.
- More information can be found on our website ssusasoccer.org/coaches

Fundraising and Communication:

- Pictures, raffles, and other fundraisers help support the club.
 - Buying images directly is a way to contribute to the club's fundraising efforts. For this reason, we strongly advise parents and guardians **against** taking screenshots and sharing the images. Instead, we encourage purchasing the images to support the club.
- Primary communication through email and SportsYou app for coaches.
- Download SportsYou for updates, practice schedules, and direct messaging.

Field and Complex Rules:

- Prohibitions include tobacco, alcohol, drugs, outside food, and pets in the complex.
- In depth rules can be found on our website ssusasoccer.org
- Remember, we're here to enjoy soccer and support our athletes!

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to ssusasoccer@gmail.com or our president brandi@ssusasoccer.org.

