

Parent Guide for Soccer – Fall 2019

NOTE: All players MUST have a 2019-2020 Club membership (\$25 fee is good for the entire school year (August-May) by September 7th in order to participate in the program.

🌐 **Athlete's 1st, Winning 2nd**

- Emphasis is on participation, sportsmanship, enjoyment and developing character 1st.

🌐 **Picture Day- Family Fun Day (September 7th)**

- Team shirts & game schedules are given to coaches to handout to players this day.

🌐 **Uniform Requirements**

- All players must wear their BGCLCV issued T-shirt or team uniform to all games.
- Footwear: Tennis Shoes or Cleats (no metal cleats or toe cleats)
- Illegal Equipment: Hard objects, casts, jewelry, zippers, bracelets, etc.
- Shin Guards: Are mandatory, keeps guards in place & reduces risk of injury.

🌐 **Game Locations**

- K, 1st and 2nd Grades @ Lewiston Boys & Girls Club (1021 Burrell Ave. in Lewiston Orchards)
- 3rd – Jr. High Grades @ Clarkston Boys & Girls Club (1414 Highland Avenue in Clarkston)
 - **PLEASE sit/stand in designated spectator area (across the field from coach/team box)**

🌐 **Medical Insurance Information**

- BGCLCV insurance is secondary and covers after parent/guardian insurance
- Any injury requiring medical attention must be reported to the Athletic Director within 24 hours.

🌐 **Updated Schedule, Standings and Other Pertinent Information**

- Visit www.PowerOfTheClub.org for info (check the coaches' corner link)
- Text Soccer to 87940 to receive important updates throughout the season.

🌐 **Referees and Monitors**

- Referees have a hard and thankless job! They are working hard to do their best so please understand that despite their training and knowledge they are human and will make mistakes. If there is an issue, please notify the Athletic Director's office. Please avoid talking to the officials during the game.

🌐 **Unique Rules (Soccer has a variety of rules that are very different from other American sports)**

- Please stay at least 6 feet from the field of play, ball isn't considered out until entire ball crosses the line.
- Advantage Rule: The referee may decide there is an "advantage" whenever an infringement or foul occurs. This means that they may not necessarily call each infraction depending on the circumstance and instruct the players to "play on." Example: not stopping the game if a whistle would take away a scoring opportunity/advantage for the team that is fouled.

🌐 **Foul Weather Procedures & Cancellations**

- We will play through all weather conditions excluding lightning. Notification of cancellations or stoppage of play will be provided by the field monitors/officials.

🌐 **Conduct**

- We all have the responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in athletics.

Code of Conduct

The Athletic Code of Conduct is a commitment to represent self, the Boys & Girls Club, family, and community in the most positive manner at all times. Our athletics are at their best when the focus is on the kids playing the games.

As a parent/guardian with the Boys & Girls Club, I pledge to abide by the Code of Conduct;

- I will comply with the spirit and intent of the Boys & Girls Club athletic programs and policies.
- I will be aware that I have a tremendous influence, for good or bad, and I will treat referees and opponents with respect & dignity at all times.
- I will respect and support contest referees in everything I say and do whether I agree or disagree with their judgment.
- I will not use abusive language and will never verbally belittle players, coaches, or officials at any time.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating sportsmanship to all players.
- I will remember that I am a youth parent and that the game is for the children, not for the adults.
- I will refrain from the use of tobacco, drugs or alcohol when at the Boys & Girls Club.
- I will have a positive attitude at all times when involved with the Boys & Girls Club Athletic programs.

Inappropriate behavior will result in disciplinary action, up to and including, expulsion. Decisions made will be fair and in the best interest of the athletic program and its members. All decisions are final. Thank you for helping keep the focus where it belongs – on the kids and the game.

Soccer Parent & Spectator Tips

How to support your child - Children are strongly influenced by parent/adults attitudes & actions

- Don't take it too seriously, no matter how talented your child is, at this stage enjoyment and development is the goal.
- Children need positive feedback to feel they can improve. It doesn't help to tell them what they're doing wrong.
- Help children feel confident, enjoy themselves and feel like they belong by supporting a positive atmosphere at games.
- Don't let player's mistakes get in the way, encourage them to move on.
- Respect the officials and their decisions (even if you disagree) Officials are trained and expected to be impartial guides and arbitrators of all games. Sportsmanship requires the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials. Remember referees are very important to the program without them there would be no games!
- Soccer is for the kids--not the adults!
 - It is not a professional game/league
 - It is meant to be fun
 - Getting angry won't solve anything

What can I do to help out?

- Volunteer to be a COACH! We need coaches.
- If you don't want to be the primary coach, then offer to be an assistant.
- **Note** – any coach/assistant coach MUST pass a background check in order to work with our kids.
- Lead by example: be constructive, and help with practice, carpools and refreshments/snacks.

What experts say about children and competition – Success means giving your best effort

- Avoid critiquing game on the car ride home, the 6 most important words to tell your player, “**I love to watch you play.**”
- Children should feel confident that they’ll be supported, whether they win or lose
- Too much pressure to win can have a negative effect, creating burn-out, which leads kids to quit playing sports altogether
- Dreaming of success is fine, but make sure they’re your child’s dreams, not yours
- It helps to manage your child’s expectations so they regard losing as learning, not as failure
- Research has shown that children are more interested in playing the game than in winning
- Winning is great but at this stage it’s not everything
- If we see competition as a way to improve and develop skills, losing can be as valuable as winning

Get the most from watching your child play – Be a Good Spectator

- Cheer good effort
- Respect the referees’ decisions (even if you disagree). Remember – they are unbiased
- Be positive and supportive of all the players
- Allow the coach to do their job without interference
- Don’t criticize or dwell on mistakes or weaknesses (this undermines confidence & inhibits growth)
- Appreciate the opposing team’s efforts as well as your own (cheer good plays & efforts on both sides)
- Grow in your appreciation and understanding of the sport - visit the Coaches’ Corner link found on our website at www.PowerOfTheClub.org
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectator Areas (3rd-Jr. High)
 - The Spectator areas are located on the opposite side of the team sidelines

To get updates on game cancellations, registration periods Text the word “Soccer” to 87940

For more information please refer to our website at www.PowerOfTheClub.org or to contact the Athletic Director at 208-746-2301 (ext. 216) or at...

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-Great Futures Start Here-

