



DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

Effective May 7, 2002

To our PeeWee coaches, parents, and players:

Our current policy is to honor parents' requests whenever possible to place a player on a particular team, especially if they are a returning player. This allows players and parents alike to develop a supportive, family-like environment which is intended to encourage team spirit, good sportsmanship, and the comfort level necessary for the children to learn the skills the coach is trying to instill. The DHSC has enabled and encouraged this to happen.

Teams that bond this way play well together. Some teams are fortunate in that all or most of the players return session after session. All teams are not the same, all players are not the same, and all coaches are not the same. Some players leave due to lack of interest, others due to commitments to other activities, some move out of the area, etc. These teams tend to play at a lower skill level as new players are added to replace those that leave, whereas those that stick together, for obvious reasons, play better.

The board wishes to very strongly remind every coach, parent, and player in our Pee-wee program that every game played is a scrimmage. There are no scores reported, there are no standings kept, and the point of this level of play is for every child out there to have fun and learn to play soccer.

The unsportsmanlike conduct of some of these teams must stop immediately. When games end with one team having scored 10-15 goals, and the other having scored none, it is a disgrace.

Due to the disturbing number of incidents occurring this session with our Pee-wee teams, the attached policy will be immediately implemented. If this unfortunate trend continues, it may become necessary to disband teams, and to stop honoring requests for team placement during registration. Players will be placed at random on teams each session to allow for rotation of players so that no one group of players will have an unfair advantage over the others. We understand that this may be devastating to the closeness that teams develop by playing together session after session, and we do not consider it a healthy solution. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please do not offer criticism without also providing an alternative.

Please address your comments to the DHSC, P.O. Box 159, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 or email them to dhsoccer@dhsoccer.org.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to making this a rewarding experience for all of our members.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board
Dearborn Heights Soccer Club

Dearborn Heights Soccer Club

P.O. Box 159, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
DHSC48127@hotmail.com, <http://freedomssolutions.com/dhsoccer/>

Pee-Wee Policy of Fair Play

Implemented May, 2002
Effective Immediately

- 1) No team will at any point during a game be more than 5 goals ahead of another team. You may not score another goal until the other team scores first. This may mean you have to let them score. You can do this by telling your defense not to be so aggressive.
- 2) Any coach who does not believe they can stop their players from scoring additional goals should immediately contact any of the board members who will provide a mentor for your practice to show you how it's done.
- 3) Some helpful suggestions include:
 - Work on other skills - for example, tell them they must pass the ball to two other teammates within the 18 yd. line before they can score; or they can only score with their non-dominant foot; or they can only score a goal if every player on your team touches the ball first starting with your goalie. **Referee's will be instructed that the goal does not count and will be taken as a goal kick if your team scores before the opposing team does.** Be creative in your rules. Make a game out of it for your team.
 - Rotate your stronger players off the field more often, and play them in positions where they need to improve their skills. Teach them to hold that position. This age group tends to play "bumblebee" soccer - i.e. chasing the ball all over the field in a swarm.
 - Stronger players obviously dominate. They sometimes take the ball from their own teammates and/or the weaker players don't go for the ball if the stronger ones do. Tell them they must pass to a teammate. Make it clear that's all they can do. We're not asking them not to play. We are asking them to be less aggressive, and to be a team player. **Remember, this is only after these players have had their chance to shine and your team is ahead.**

- The coach sets the tone. If you are negative, the parents and players will pick up on this. Your challenge is to teach them all the skills necessary to play soccer, which involves more than just scoring goals. Teamwork, good sportsmanship, honor, and fairness are some of those skills. Don't come across to the team that they are being punished or "holding back" because they are winning. Tell them "Ok, we've scored a few goals, and that was easy. Now show me just how great a soccer player you are. Won't it be fun if we try using only our left foot (or right foot if the left foot is dominant)." Or, "Susie hasn't scored any goals yet this season. Everybody needs to help her to score, even if you can take the shot on goal don't, because she needs the help of her teammates, and we want her to know how good it feels to score a goal."
 - **Parents need to support the coach by reflecting the same attitude.**
- 4) In a situation where one team does not have enough players to start the game, the opposing team will designate some of its players to play for the team with fewer players so that there is an equal number on each side. If an odd number exists, the team giving up players may keep the extra one. Again, this is a scrimmage. Have those players now playing for the opposing team flip their shirt over. The alternative is the team with fewer players forfeits, and nobody gets to play. **Your team divides up and scrimmages each other in practice, this isn't any different.** Let the kids play. The coach should not ask for volunteers (most kids won't volunteer, and they expect direction from their coach at this age). Make sure the ones that are chosen know that they were chosen because they are leaders, and now they have a chance to really show everyone just how great a player they can be. It's their turn to "coach" by setting an example for the other players.
 - 5) The intent is not to "punish" strong players or strong teams because they play well. They are being taught not to punish other players by stomping them with ridiculous, overblown scores.
 - 6) Every player should still play 50% of every game to the best of their abilities. **We do not wish to take away the fun from these players either.** We do want them to expand on those abilities and skills. They will be learning self-control, teamwork, and that being a winner means allowing your opponent to lose with dignity. Let them shine and score a goal or two, then have them stand down and be good sports.