

Boys' Soccer Team Handbook



2021-2022

Philosophy

- I. **Varsity** – The coaching staff will attempt to give each athlete a chance for success as an individual and as a team member. The focus of varsity will be to put together the most competitive team possible. Coaches will look for athletic ability, positive attitudes, and team oriented players when selecting the varsity team.
- II. **B-Squad & Freshmen** – The main focus of these teams will be to develop soccer fundamentals and an understanding of the team game in preparation for the varsity level. The coaches will play all athletes although playing time may not be equal.
- III. **Junior High** – The focus of the junior high program will be to have FUN, learn soccer fundamentals and team tactics. Coaches will strive to build confidence in athletes, provide a positive athletic experience, and teach soccer basics. Attempts will be made to provide equal playing time.

Participation on the South Saint Paul Boys' Soccer Team

- It's a privilege, not a right.
- Players must accept all responsibilities in order to be on the team.
- Nobody will be accorded equal or guaranteed time on the field.

Responsibilities of the Athlete

- School and family come before soccer
- Attend all practice sessions.
- Be receptive to coaching.
- Be responsible for all uniforms and equipment.
- Represent South Saint Paul well and follow team rules.
- Report all injuries to the trainer or coach.

Responsibilities of the Coach

- Select the team.
- Determine the style of play
- Teach at practice sessions
- Determine who starts and amount of playing time for each player
- Establish team rules
- Establish requirements to earn a letter
- Always make safety and the athlete's welfare first

Responsibilities of the Captains

- Lead the team at practice and before games
- Be a channel of communication between players and coaches
- Support the development of all players in the program
- Stay positive at all times (even when we're down)

Responsibilities of the Parents

- Be positive and supportive of your son
- Please always try to be supportive of our program and if you have a concern, let's talk about it.
- We want only the best for your son. Please trust that this is our top priority. We will do everything that we can to help your son achieve his goals.

Dealing with Questions or Concerns

There is a chain of command that must be followed when addressing concerns:

1st Step – The player talks to the captains or the coach

2nd Step – Meeting with the coach, parent, and player

3rd Step – Meeting with coaches, the athlete, parents, and Activities Director

All questions and concerns will be dealt with only if these steps are followed and will never take place on the field. Please schedule your appointment to meet at the high school.

Program Expectations

I. Have Fun

Soccer is a game and is meant to be played for pure enjoyment. Never let soccer become so important that it is no longer fun. Part of having fun is developing a work ethic, becoming dedicated to improving, and enjoying the team aspects of the game.

II. Be Positive

1. Be positive in your attitude towards yourself. Keep your head up high and remember that every experience is a learning experience.
2. Be positive toward your teammates. We are all learning from each other and together we can help each other reach our goals.

III. Use Self Control

1. Abuse of the referees by players or coaches will not be tolerated.
2. No swearing on or off the field.
3. Demonstrate good citizenship on and off the field.

IV. Follow MSHSL Rules

1. Failure to comply shows lack of commitment to your team. Please refer to the Student Activities Handbook.
2. Reinforce your teammates commitment. Help each other follow these rules.

V. Be Responsible

1. Be on Time! Being late to a game or practice (unexcused) will result in diminished playing time and possible game suspension.
2. Missing the team bus to a game will result in an unexcused absence. The coaching staff recommends that you know how your child will be getting to and from practice each day.

VI. Attendance Policy

1. An unexcused absence is an absence or tardy that is not approved by the head coach or that does not result from an illness or emergency.
2. If you cannot be at a practice or a game please contact your coach as soon as possible. Call me at (651) 497-0260 and leave a message so alternate plans can be made. Coach Murphy's email rmurphy@sspps.org
3. An excused absence or tardy is one where the coach is aware of the absence or tardy before a game or practice. The coach should be contacted by telephone or a signed note. Promptness is expected of all players.
4. An excused absence can come in the form of a family emergency or illness.
5. Work is not an excused absence. We realize as a staff that athletes are in the work force, but to put together a quality program we need commitment from the players. Please work your schedules around soccer practice and games.
6. Missing practices will result in loss of playing time.

Note: Attendance is required after an injury. Player will not participate. All athletes are different and have different situations. The coaching staff reserves the right to handle each situation as we see appropriate and fair to that athlete.

VII. Be gentlemen on and off the field

All players, managers, and coaches will always conduct themselves in a first class manner. We all represent South Saint Paul High School and the South Saint Paul Community! Athletics is another opportunity for us as educators to teach life lessons and to promote virtue in athletes. The success of our program will depend upon not only what we do but who we will become.

VIII. Other Policies School & Soccer

1. Family first, school second, soccer third. You cannot participate in athletics if you are not working up to your capabilities in the classroom. If there is a problem in the classroom (academic or behaviorally) playing time may be affected.
2. You must be in school to play in a game or practice, unless the absence is for a specific reason mentioned above.
3. Manage your time properly. If school work cannot be made up outside of practice time and the athlete needs to spend time with a teacher, a note signed by the student's teacher must be given to the coach. Communication must be given to the coach before practice, not after.

IX. Uniforms

1. Uniforms are to be worn for games only. This means jerseys and shorts.
2. Lost uniforms will result in athlete paying to replace it or an alternate plan will be discussed.
3. Each athlete will be issued a practice jersey and will be expected to return it at the end of the season.

X. Injuries

1. All injuries must be reported to the coach immediately.
2. If athlete needs to see a doctor about an injury, please inform the coach so he is aware of the situation.
3. If an injury warrants a doctor's attention, a note from the doctor to regain participation must be given to your coach.

XI. Lettering Standards

A letter is an honor to receive and must be earned by the athlete. The following criteria must be met to earn a varsity letter.

- a. Athlete successfully completes the season. Managers must also complete entire season.
- b. Athlete is on the final section roster.
- c. All uniforms must be returned or paid for in the event one is lost, to earn a letter.
- d. The coaching staff reserves the right to letter any athlete, or manager that does not meet the above requirements.

XII. Team Awards

Team awards will be voted on by varsity players, with the exception of All-Conference and All-State Awards, who are voted on by conference coaches and state coaches, respectively.

XIII. Captain Selection

1. Any athlete interested in leading the team as a captain should submit a 1 page typed letter of interest, and 2 teacher recommendations to the coaches before the conclusion of the season.
2. A team vote may be taken in order to help coaches make the final decision
3. Informal interviews of each of the interested candidates may also take place before making the final decision.
4. The total number of captains for each year will be decided by the coaches and may change from year to year.
5. Coaches may add captains as needed at any point before or during a season. A captain who violates team, MSHSL, or school (academic or co-curricular) rules or policies may be removed from her or his leadership (captain) role on the team. The coaching staff will reserve final discretion for removal of an athlete in the event of such a violation.

Guidelines for Assigning Players to Teams

Varsity

Each player 9-12 will have an opportunity to make the varsity team. Varsity team selections will be based upon athletic ability, attitude, basic fundamentals, and game intelligence. A younger player (9th /10th grade) will be placed on varsity only if they will be playing significant minutes. We need to have those younger players getting as much game time as possible on the B-Squad and freshmen teams. They will not be brought up to sit on the bench.

B-Squad & Freshmen Squads

The B-Squad will be a compilation of players who do not make the initial varsity roster. There is potential for upward movement for two reasons: there is a team need at the varsity level and/or, that athlete is not being challenged at his current level and needs to move up to further his overall soccer skills. Only the coaching staff will make these decisions.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 651-497-0260 or email rmurphy@sspps.org

Varsity Coach – Rob Murphy
Varsity Assistant – Pat Bookler
B-Squad Coach –
C-Squad Coach – Alyssa Podgorski
Jr. High Coach –