

2022 MCL SOCCER NOTES for PREGAME CONFERENCE

MCL rules are a mix of NFHS and Modified FIFA. Normal soccer rules shared by both groups apply. These notes are intended to clarify where there might be confusion.

1. The head coach and captains will attend the pre-game conference; these notes will be stated during the conference. There will be a coin toss at this conference. The winner of the coin toss may choose side or kick-off.
2. Games are played with 9 players. If a team has fewer than 8, that team forfeits.
3. Unless modified by unanimous agreement, the home team typically will wear dark jerseys and socks; the visiting team will wear white jerseys and socks. The goalie jersey will distinctly contrast both teams.
4. Unless modified by unanimous agreement, game length is typically 80 minutes: two 40-min halves with a 10-min halftime. Modification may be necessary in the case of injuries, darkness, inclement weather, etc.
5. Official game time is kept by the referee, with stoppage time added according to his discretion.
6. If regulation ends in a tie, the game remains a tie, except during the season-ending tournament.
7. Substitutions are allowed by either team during any stoppage with permission of the referee.
8. Any player who receives a yellow card must immediately sub out until the next stoppage.
9. Any player who receives a red card must immediately sub out and the team must play short-handed for the remainder of the contest. Furthermore, said player is ineligible for the next league game.
10. The referee's authority on the field will not be questioned.

SPORTSMANSHIP/SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

(TO BE TRAINED BY COACHES THROUGHOUT SEASON, NOT FOR PREGAME CONFERENCE)

1. Safety Concern: Never slide tackle from behind, no matter what the score or situation. Slide tackling from behind carries a much higher risk of serious injury.
2. Safety Concern: Avoid playing younger or smaller players on defense or as goalie. Older, stronger forwards playing against younger, smaller defenders carries a higher risk of injury for the smaller players. Younger, smaller players should be forwards or midfielders.
3. To avoid running up the score, play weaker or younger players on offense to reduce the number of goals scored.
4. To avoid running up the score, work the ball down the field instead of booting it ahead for a breakaway attempt.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

(TO BE DISCUSSED BY AD'S & COACHES, NOT FOR PREGAME CONFERENCE)

COACHES BEHAVIOR

1. Athletic directors need to clearly communicate the standards of sportsmanship and character to their coaches.
2. Coaches need to know the standards and conduct themselves in a way that is different from the world, which is consistent with our Christian faith and honoring toward our Heavenly Father.
3. Coaches may yell specific instructions to players, but should avoid yelling at players in a general way. For example, instructing players to "move your feet," or "box out," is better than yelling "get tough."
4. Coaches should understand the difference between demeaning and demanding. Coaches should not demean a player (especially publicly) with non-instructional statements like, "You're stinking it up out there," or "Don't be such a baby." Coaches should not insult a player's intelligence, self-worth, ability, toughness, spirituality, social class, or anything else inappropriately personal.
5. Coaches should not grab, yank, shove, or otherwise physically contact a player in a disparaging or confrontational manner.
6. Coaches should not throw objects, kick chairs, or otherwise disrespect property.
7. Coaches should not disrespect referees verbally or with their gestures. Coaches should not show disgust with a referee's decision. Coaches should not excuse their own bad behavior by saying, "I'm just protecting my team," or "I'm just trying to pump-up my team."
8. Coaches and assistants should stay within their defined coaching areas, and should follow the rulebook regarding standing or sitting and talking to referees.

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Purposeful action should be taken to communicate encouragement toward the opponent, especially in a lopsided contest.
2. Purposeful action should be taken to avoid "running up the score" when opponents are not equally matched.
3. Players should never trash-talk.
4. Players must be instructed how to go through the handshake line at the end of a contest. Players should look their opponents in the eyes, shake their hands, etc. Players should not be permitted to take off their jerseys, avoid eye contact, be on their phones, wear headphones or earbuds, or not participate in any other way.