

# St. Louis de Montfort Youth Soccer League

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**Philosophy:** The league is committed to the development of youth soccer players, coaches, and referees in a non-competitive and supportive environment. This includes a focus on learning the basic skills and rules of the game, sportsmanship and fair play, a commitment to team work, and the value of putting forth your best effort, no matter what level of ability you possess. We also provide an opportunity for adults to get involved with their children and community.

## Guidelines governing play\*

Division	Max # Players	Ball Size	Game Duration	Breaks	Special Rules
Pee Wees	4 v 4	3	8 minute quarters	3, 5, 3	Repeat throw, no offside. No PK
Juniors	7 v 7	3	10 minute quarters	2, 5, 2	Repeat throw, no offside. No PK
Intermediates	9 v 9	4	12 minute quarters	2, 5, 2	

\*May be modified by referee, division coordinator, or league president because of weather, attendance, etc.

**-Equipment:** The safety of the children is our top priority. All players must wear shinguards. No jewelry or hard hairclips, ponytails, or headbands may be worn. All children with braces should wear a mouthguard, and no child will be allowed to play with a cast. Goalkeepers shall wear a shirt of a different color than either team. The referee will provide a scrimmage vest to each coach before the game for this purpose, which should be returned after the game.

**-Players:** All players must be registered, and are assigned to teams by the league. No coach can add or remove players from a roster. Every effort will be made to have balanced teams. All the children on a team should receive approximately equal playing time (except for illness, injury, absence, etc.). Player substitutions must be requested of the referee (i.e. coach calls, "Ref, sub?", and substitutes waved on). Usually allowed before own throw in, after a goal by either team, prior to a goal kick by either team, or by either team when the referee has stopped play for an injury. The referee should be notified anytime there is a change in goalkeeper. The referee does not need to be notified of substitutions between periods, except goalkeepers, as above.

**-Coaches:** One coach is allowed on the field of play for each team at the Pee Wee level and one coach from each team is allowed on the field at the Junior level. Coaches at the Intermediate and Senior levels should only come on the field if requested by the referee, unless an obvious significant injury has occurred which the referee is not aware of. During the game coaches should keep comments simple, direct, positive, and to a minimum. Let the children play!

**-Referees:** Our program is designed to support the development of young referees as well as players and coaches. Please respect them accordingly. An attempt will be made to assign a referee for all games. In the event a referee is unavailable, the coaches or division coordinator involved should designate another adult, or alternate refereeing themselves. All questions regarding rules or concerns about conduct of the game should be brought to the president and/or division coordinator before the game or at the end of the next period of play, if possible.

**-Parents and other spectators:** We encourage active support for the children. However, it is important that all spectators remain a safe distance away from the edge of the field. Please show respect for others by not crossing a field while a game is in progress, and by picking up any items you may have dropped before you leave the fields. Simple, positive comments are welcomed. Try not to coach from the sidelines. It's hard enough for the kids to listen to the coach!! Good sportsmanship, positive self-esteem, putting forth your best effort, and teamwork are the things we would like to promote through participation in this great game.

**ENJOY!!**