



LAUREL – JONES COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
COACH'S INFORMATION

General Information: [www.ljcsa.com](http://www.ljcsa.com)

Field Information Hotline: 601-319-GOAL (4685)

### FACILITIES

The soccer facilities are provided by the City of Laurel. Players, coaches and spectators have a responsibility to help ensure continued availability of these facilities by seeing the fields are undamaged and free from litter when they leave. Please do not park or drive on the fields. There is ***no parking*** in front of sidewalk entry to the fields to allow for emergency vehicle access in the event of injury. Abuse of the facilities should be reported to the LJCSA Board.

It is the responsibility of the referee to assure the safety of the facility prior to the start of a game. It is the responsibility of the **coach** to assure the safety of the facility prior to the start of practice and/ or team activities. Facility issues should be reported to the Facilities Coordinator. Those interested in helping with facilities and facilities planning should contact the Association President.

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### REFEREES

LJCSA games will be administered in accordance with the rules set forth by USYSA, as amended by MYSA and LJCSA, and as appropriate for each age group. While the referee's decisions may not always be agreeable to all participants, ***the referee's decisions are final***. Shouting disagreements and derogatory remarks are not acceptable. The referee has the power to caution and/or eject players, coaches and spectators, and/or terminate a game if necessary. Complaints regarding referee performance should not be directed to the referee on the field either during or after the game, but should be directed to the LJCSA Referee Coordinator. Teams should remember to thank the referee after each game. The referee shall keep the safety and welfare of the players as his/her primary concern at all times. It is the responsibility of the referee to assure the safety of the facility prior to the start of a game.

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### SOCCER CONDUCT

LJCSA players and teams represent the **Association**, the City of Laurel and Jones County and should conduct themselves at all times in the most positive image possible, both on and off the field. All participants (players, coaches, parents, officials, spectators, etc.) are to exhibit good sportsmanship and proper standards of conduct. Abusive treatment (including verbal abuse) of any participant by any participant will not be tolerated. Spectators are to remain at least three feet from the sideline, on the spectator side of the field. No one is allowed behind the goal line at any time during the game. Coaches are to remain on the sideline near the middle of the field, and keep coaching comments positive and to a minimum during the game. Spectators should leave the coaching to the coaches. Only a player who has been admitted into the game by the referee in response to a proper request may enter the field during a game. The one exception to this rule is a **coach** who has come onto the field to assist an injured player when signaled to do so by the referee.

The following penalties will be strictly enforced:

1. A player receiving one red card will automatically be ejected from the game and will be suspended from the next game. Additional suspension may be imposed, depending upon the severity of the offense at the discretion of the Board.
2. A player receiving a number of yellow or red cards during one season may face additional disciplinary action.

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## **PLAYER'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Players who register to play make a commitment to attend all practices and all games, and to behave properly at all times. Each player should receive a copy of the game schedule and the tournament schedule from the **coach**. Coaches are responsible for team discipline and may limit playing time or suspend players. A **coach** wishing to drop a player for consistent unacceptable behavior must receive LJCSA Board approval. The LJCSA Board requires that all players through the U-14 age level play at least one-half of each game for which they are present and ready to play, unless play is being limited due to disciplinary action. An exception is made for tournament games, when playing time is determined by the **coach**. Parents are responsible for player's transportation to and from all practices and games.

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## **COACH'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Coaches MUST read and sign the Kid Safe Form.**

Coaching is a **privilege** offered and granted to individual volunteers who perform capably during LJCSA activities. It carries with it an obligation to uphold and promote the goals and objectives of LJCSA. The **coach's** behavior shall be such as to bring credit to him/ herself, the LJCSA and the sport of soccer. The **coach** shall keep the safety and welfare of the players as his/her primary concern at all times. Coaches shall at no time participate in play with youth players in such a manner as to jeopardize the safety of the players. It is the responsibility of the **coach** to assure the safety of the facility prior to the start of practice and/or team activities. LJCSA provides clinics to train and license coaches and assistant coaches. Persons interested in coaching should contact the Director of Coaching. The Board will select coaches based upon their training and experience.

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## UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

All players are required to wear shin guards at practices and in games. Shin guards must be completely covered by socks. All players should bring a ball to each practice.

U6 & U8        Size 3 Ball  
U10 & U12     Size 4 Ball  
U14 and up     Size 5 Ball

**Soccer** cleats are recommended but not required. Studs may be plastic, aluminum, or molded rubber, and must be no more than 3/4 inch long. The studs may not be sharp, and toe cleats are illegal. Nothing dangerous can be worn during a game, including, but not limited to: jewelry, earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets, and wristwatches. Casts and splints are allowed *at the discretion of the referee*. Additional clothing such as shirts and long pants may not be worn over the uniform in game play, although they may be worn *Under* the uniform in cold weather. Goalkeepers must wear a shirt clearly different from any other field player or official; they may wear special goalkeeper jerseys, gloves, pants and/or elbow and kneepads.

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## PRACTICE AND SEASON PLAY

Team practices will usually be held on weekdays, in the afternoon or evening after school. It is important that players attend all practices. Practices will normally be held at the same time(s) each week, as determined by the **coach**.

The recommended number of team practices is shown below.

U5/U6    one one-hour practice per week  
U8        two one-hour practices per week  
U10      two one-and-one-half hour practices per week  
U12      four hours of practice per week  
U14      five hours of practice per week

The *typical* number of games played per week:

<u>Age Level</u>	<u># of Games</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u># on Field</u>	<u># on Team</u>
U5/ U6	1	4-8 min. qtrs.	3	5
U8	1 or 2	4-12 min. qtrs.	5	7
U10	1 or 2	4-12 min qtrs	6	9
U12	2	4-15 min qtrs	8	12
U14	2	4-20 min. halves	11	15

Games may be played regardless of weather conditions. Games will be canceled if the fields are not in playable condition, or when play will cause extensive damage. Games called for weather or any other reason will be rescheduled by the Scheduling Coordinator. Teams make a commitment to other teams and the league to appear for each game. As a general rule, games may not be rescheduled. If extenuating circumstances exist, a game may be rescheduled with the approval of **both** Coaches **and** the Scheduling Coordinator.