

**2021 YOUTH FALL SOCCER PROGRAM POLICY**



**Sports Branch  
Semper Fit Division  
Marine Corps Community Services  
Lejeune-New River, NC**

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## Mission & Contacts

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### ***Youth Sports Mission***

Lejeune-New River Youth Sports will develop and deliver quality and affordable youth sports programs to help build positive characteristics through participation in a fun, friendly, and safe family environment. Lejeune-New River Youth will develop a sense of belonging, a sense of worth, and the ability to interact with their peers through participation in Youth Sports.

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### ***Youth Sports Office***

#### **MCB CAMP LEJEUNE**

Hours of Operation: 0830-1630\*

Hours of Registration: 0830-1630(M-F)\*

Location: Bldg. 1985 Stone St.

Contacts: 910-451-2177; 910-451-2159

Fax: 910-451-5437

Mailing Address: Attn: SPOR

1401 West Road

Camp Lejeune, NC 28547

Website: [mccslejeune-newriver.com/youthsports](http://mccslejeune-newriver.com/youthsports)

**\*NOTE: The Youth Sports office on Stone St. operates Tuesday through Friday 0830-1630 during the sport season. Financial transactions end at 1630 daily.**

## Youth Soccer Registration Deadlines & Refund Policy

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The registration period will be conducted from 28 June – 23 July 2021. Proof of age (copy of birth certificate, dependent I. D. card) will be required upon registration.

### **Refund Policy**

A full refund will only be given during the open registration period. There will be a \$15 surcharge for disenrollment after the registration period. No refunds will be given after the first game.

### **Financial Hardship Waivers**

Financial Hardship Waivers will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **Purpose**

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To provide information and instructions concerning the Lejeune-New River Youth Soccer Program, hereinafter called “program”.

It is the policy of the League to conduct activities so that the physical and moral welfare of the young people, for whose benefit it is organized, shall remain paramount.

The purpose of the program is to provide authorized youth with a fun activity, which firmly implants the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority.

## **Coaches', Parents', & Staff Responsibilities**

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### ***Coaches Responsibilities***

Coaches are responsible for creating opportunities for players to acquire the basic knowledge of soccer skills as well as implementing concepts of:

- Sportsmanship
- Team Work
- Self- Discipline
- The value of athletic competition

Coaches are responsible for the administrative duties of their team, including but not limited to:

- (1) Providing players with quality instruction matched to the player's learning and understanding levels whenever possible.
- (2) Total administrative control of the team.
- (3) Ensure your assistant coaches are certified through the youth sports office.
- (4) Ensure that assistant coaches and players comply with league rules.
- (5) Always set the example for your team by maintaining the high standards expected of an NYSCA certified coach, which includes but is not limited to: fundamental instruction, skill development, rules of the game, teamwork, and character development. Make your practices fun. Never exercise as a method of punishment, or withhold fluid intake. Hydration is very critical for your young athletes' sustainability and wellness, as well as healthy eating habits.
- (6) Ensure assistant coaches and players treat officials and opponents with respect before, during, and after the activity/game.
- (7) Coaches will not leave the facility with players still remaining at the facility (unless the child is accompanied by an adult).
- (8) Coaches are responsible for the accountability of all children assigned to their team and will not leave children unattended.
- (9) Volunteers and staff are not authorized to transport youth in their private owned vehicles.
- (10) Coaches must be present for all practices at least 15 minutes before scheduled start time. If a coach cannot be present, he/she must ensure a pre-authorized youth sports volunteer is appointed to take their place.

(11) Coaches will function within limits of their volunteer status. You may not remove players from your team; exchange players between teams; make exceptions to the age requirements; allow unregistered players to participate; or promise parents that their child will play on your team. If the head coach has to step down from their position, they must notify their team members and the youth sports office immediately.

### ***Parents Responsibilities***

Ensure you and your child attends practices and games; be supportive and encourage all others to abide by, and support the “Parents’ Code of Ethics.” Parents are required to pick-up their children promptly at the end of practices and scheduled games. If a child is not picked-up within fifteen minutes at the conclusion of practice or a scheduled game, appropriate action will be taken which could result in PMO being contacted.

Program administrators cannot be at all practices. Communication is vital to the safety and success of the program as well as the enjoyment of our participants. We encourage communication directly between coach and parents. However if the coach cannot assist, speak directly with the Youth Sports Staff or Youth Sports Manager on any area of concern and incidents that occur. The Youth Sports staff is here to support our families and volunteers.

### ***Youth Sports Staff Responsibilities***

MCCS Lejeune-New River Youth Sports Staff are responsible for providing a safe, educative, and skill building sports program for the youth participating in the Lejeune-New River Youth Sports Programs. This includes taking all appropriate steps to ensure participant safety, education of coaches, program accessibility, and most of all, maintaining participant fun throughout all programs!

MCCS makes every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of children involved in recreational programs activities like youth sports. This includes conducting thorough background checks and providing annual training for all staff and volunteers on reporting suspicions of child abuse or neglect.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect it is a moral obligation to report your concern. Contact the Family Advocacy Program Camp Lejeune 451-9563 or MCAS NR 449-6110, and civilian Department of Social Services/CPS at 910-219-1955 or after hours call the Sherriff’s Department 910-455-3113 and ask for the Emergency Duty Social Worker.

If you witness violence or know someone is in immediate danger, call 911 or PMO.

## **Guidelines for Social Media Participation**

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These guidelines apply to all participants in Lejeune-New River, Semper Fit Youth Sports program who create or contribute to blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds or any type of Social Media. Examples: Twitter, Yelp, Wikipedia or Facebook.

Our goal is to ensure participation in social media that involves MCCA Youth Sports is conducted with respect, and safeguards confidential information of our participants.

1. Postings should not disclose any information that is confidential or disclose information pertaining to individual, volunteer parent or children.
2. Internet postings should not include MCCA logo or trademarks
3. Do not post negative comments or pictures regarding any aspect of Youth Sports. This includes but is not limited to coaching, officiating, parents, staff or participants.
4. Comments that are posted that can be construed as harassment or bullying will not be tolerated.

Failure to comply with guidelines may result in removal from MCCA Youth Sports Program.

Concerns regarding any aspect of the Youth Sports program should be directed to the Youth Sports Staff or the Sports Branch Head.

## **Semper Fit Rights**

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Marine Corps Community Services, Semper Fit Division has the reserved authority to implement and interpret all rules, regulations, and sanctions stated in this policy manual as written.

## **Governing Rules and Bodies**

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### ***Governing Bodies***

Operating Procedures stated in this document by the Youth Sports Department will be utilized as the official ruling body/document for the 2020 youth soccer season. The High School Federation Rule Book for soccer and US Soccer Federation will supplement these local rules for the 2020 season.

Lejeune-New River Youth Sports will conduct the program.

### ***Meetings***

Lejeune-New River Youth Sports will be responsible for organizing and conducting a coaches' meeting prior to the start of the soccer season; and another meeting if necessary, midway through the season.

## ***Safety***

It is the policy of Lejeune-New River Youth Sports to keep all playing sites safe and free of anything that could put a child in danger. In doing so, we follow the National Standards for Youth Sports. In keeping with these standards, Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Pets are not allowed at any Youth Sports function. At a minimum, one staff member or volunteer on-site will be CPR certified. Additionally, all final decisions will rest with Youth Sports Administration as related to safety.

## ***Touch Policy***

Touch is absolutely necessary for the nurturance and development of children. MCCS Youth Sports will provide standard procedures addressing appropriate touch. At a minimum, MCCS Youth Sports Volunteers will adhere to the following procedures:

### **APPROPRIATE TOUCH INVOLVES:**

- Recognition of the importance of physical contact to child nurturance and guidance.
- Adults respecting the personal privacy and personal space of children.
- Adults responding to the safety and well-being of the child (i.e. holding hands to cross the street, assisting when a child has an accident, holding a child gently but firmly in a bear hug when the child may endanger himself/herself or others when upset).
- Modeling of appropriate touching such as high-fives, a quick hug, pat on back of head, handshake or other similar types of contact.
- Children have the option to refuse touch except to ensure the safety of other children.

### **INAPPROPRIATE TOUCH INVOLVES:**

- Coercion or other forms of exploitation of the child's lack of knowledge.
- Satisfaction of the adults needs at the expense of the child.
- Violation of laws against sexual contact between an adult and child.
- An attempt to change child behavior with adult force often applied in anger.
- Examples of inappropriate touching includes: forced goodbye hugs and kisses, corporal punishment, slapping, striking, pinching, tickling for prolonged periods, grabbing or pulling a child toward you in anger, fondling, or molestation.

## ***Head Injuries***

MCCS Youth Sports is dedicated to providing a safe playing atmosphere for the Lejeune-New River community, therefore, the NYSCA philosophy regarding injuries of "When in doubt, take them out" should always prevail. The following policies and procedures will be adopted concerning potential head injuries.

If a participant appears to be confused, unconscious, or dazed as a direct result of an impact to the head, coaches will administer the Standards Assessment of Concussions to the participants. If any of the test lends itself to a possible concussion the athlete will be removed from the activity and will not be allowed to return until given written medical clearance by a health care professional with experience in evaluating for concussion.

**Prior to season start:** All coaches will complete the Center for Disease Control’s “Heads Up Online Training Course” and present a certificate of completion to the MCCS Youth Sports Office.

All MCCS Sports Staff will complete the Center for Disease Control’s “Heads Up Online Training Course” annually.

Parents will read and sign the Heads Up FAQ sheet at the time of registration. In order to develop a baseline assessment for the participant; parents and coaches are encouraged to perform the SAC test prior to the season.

Coaches and Youth Sports staff members will be required to keep the SAC test accessible during all practices and games.

All incidents of head injury **must be reported to the Youth Sports office immediately.** **\*All coaches receive blank incident & mishap reports in their coaches’ packet.** All incident & mishap reports will be documented and maintained by the MCCS Youth Sports office.

## **Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Pet Policy**

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MCCS is committed to providing an environment that does not encourage the use of tobacco, drugs or alcohol. Tobacco includes, but is not limited to: cigars, cigarettes, electronic-cigarettes (e-cigarettes), stem pipes, water pipes, hookahs, and smokeless products that are chewed, dipped, or sniffed.

Our organization’s goal is to provide a safe and healthy youth recreational environment and we recognize that there are numerous health hazards resulting from the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products including smokeless products (*e.g.* e-cigarettes). We understand our responsibility to the participants is to model and promote healthy lifestyles. We also realize that the commercial alcohol and tobacco industries strive to make a connection between athletics and alcohol & tobacco use and we promise to refuse any compensation, either monetary or goods, from any tobacco organization’s program, promotion, or advertisement.

We stress to coaches, officials, administrators, parents, volunteers, spectators, and all others involved the importance of maintaining a tobacco, drug and alcohol, and pet free environment while working with young people. Through a collective effort we will provide an environment that is free of tobacco, drugs and alcohol, and pets at all events.

The use or possession of any form of tobacco, drugs or alcohol during MCCS activities is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to leagues, practices, games, tournaments, competitions and organization-sponsored events. This policy applies to all participants, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, volunteers, spectators, and all others involved in the program.

**References:** MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJO 1700.6 (Alcohol/Drugs)  
SECDEF Policy Memo 16-001 Dtd. 8 Apr 16 (Tobacco policy- e-cigs)  
MCIEAST-MCBCAMLEJO 10570.2 (Pets)

## Youth Sports Eligibility Criteria

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### ***Youth Athlete***

Family members of active duty military, retired military, DOD, and MCCS employees between the ages of five and twelve as of 01 September of the participating year are eligible to participate in this soccer program.

### **Participation Criteria**

All participants are eligible to participate in both recreational and scholastic sports; however, if a participant does not attend 50% of team practices, playing time is at the discretion of the coach. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is the intent to maintain program integrity and to ensure fair play and sportsmanship. It will be the responsibility of the player's coach to inform the proper youth sports authority prior to league games, of any player who will not participate and this must also be annotated in the official score book.

### ***Coaches of Youth Sports***

Coaches are volunteers and must be at least 18 years of age to be a Head coach, or 16 years of age to be an assistant coach and approved by the Youth Sports Department. Soccer teams will/can consist of a head coach and 3 assistant coaches. A team parent is permitted, but does not serve in a coaching capacity.

### **Coaches' Package**

Coaches are selected providing all preliminary coaching criteria is met. Individuals interested in coaching must submit a volunteer coach's package to youth sports, and complete the following additional requirements:

1. Complete the NYSCA youth sports certification program.
2. Complete the FBI criminal background check at MCCS Human Resources, Bldg. 1401.
3. Complete the DD2981 Basic Criminal History and Statement of Admission annually.
4. Complete the CDC "Heads-Up" Concussion Training program.
5. Attend Child Abuse Prevention/Recognition training. *Note: Active Duty Volunteers may provide documentation of current UMAPIT or IDC training in lieu of annual class.*

### **Background Checks**

All persons applying to be a coach of a youth sports program are required to successfully complete a FBI criminal background check as stated in DODI 1402.05. The ultimate decision to determine successful completion and fulfillment of the criminal background check is at the discretion of the Youth Sports Manager and/or Athletic Director. All applicants will sign the background check as signed under penalty of perjury, and additionally sign a volunteer agreement, touch policy & volunteer job description. Evaluation of criminal history background checks is made and monitored by the Youth Sports Manager and/or Athletic Director; final position hiring decisions rest with the same individuals.

Refusal to fulfill a background check will be considered an automatic disqualifier for the applicant refusing.

### **Mandatory Disqualifiers for Youth Coaches**

Applicants found to have offenses, or current investigations, which fall within the following categories shall not be permitted to coach in Youth Sports.

1. ANY conviction, to include current investigations, for a sexual offense, a drug felony, a violent crime, or a criminal offense involving a child or children.
2. A wide range of offenses such as arson, homicide, robbery, fraud, or any offense involving possession or use of a firearm.
3. Evidence that the individual is a fugitive from justice.
4. Evidence that the individual is an illegal alien who is not entitled to accept gainful employment for a position.

### **Discretionary Criteria Disqualifiers for Youth Coaches**

Applicants found to have offenses that fall within the following categories will only be allowed to coach a youth sports program at the discretion of the Youth Sports Manager and/or Sports Branch Manager. Additional information, interviews, etc. pertaining to the offense in question may be requested before a final decision is made.

1. Acts that may tend to indicate poor judgment, unreliability, of untrustworthiness in working with children.
2. Any behavior; illness; or mental, physical, or emotional condition that in the opinion of a competent medical authority may cause a defect in judgment or reliability.
3. Offense involving assault, battery, or other abuse of a victim, regardless of age of the victim.
4. Evidence or documentation of substance abuse dependency.
5. Illegal or improper use, possession, or addiction to any controlled or psychoactive substance, narcotic, cannabis, or other dangerous drug.
6. Sexual acts, conduct, or behavior that, because of the circumstances in which they occur, may indicate untrustworthiness, unreliability, lack of judgment, or irresponsibility in working with children.
7. A wide range of offenses such as arson, homicide, robbery, fraud, or any offense involving possession or use of a firearm.
8. Evidence that the individual is a fugitive from justice.
9. Evidence that the individual is an illegal alien who is not entitled to accept gainful employment for a position.
10. A finding of negligence in a mishap causing death or serious injury to a child or dependent person entrusted to their care.

### **Selection Process**

The selection process will include a review of the coach's package, background check, having a child or not on the team, past coaching performance, willingness to participate in meeting(s), clinics and player evaluations, as applicable, are also considerations. A coach moving up or down from one division to another or an assistant coach returning to a team will compete equally with all other prospective coaches for selection.

### **Certification Requirements**

The National Youth Sport Coaches Association (NYSCA) must certify all head coaches and assistant coaches. The Youth Sports Department will announce and conduct certification clinics. All coaches are required to attend any and all seminars/clinics that the program may require.

### **Basic Coaching Guidelines**

- 1) While each coach will have his or her own style of coaching, the Head Coach is ultimately responsible for all activities their team engages in. All subordinate coaches take direction from, and report to the Head Coach. Parents should support the Head Coach's requests for things within reason. Since there is an enormous amount of responsibility placed upon the Head Coach, they should be properly prepared to carry out the basic tasks of team training, and organization.
- 2) Ensure the players are warmed up and stretched before every practice/game.
- 3) Make sure to do a cool down stretch at the conclusion of every practice/game.
- 4) Ensure coaches leading warm ups know all the proper stretches and can demonstrate for players.
- 5) Ensure parents understand how to dress players for practice/games.
- 6) Coaches must ensure that player's equipment is worn properly before ANY contact at ANY time. Looking over players before/between drills or at breaks in activity is the best time to do this.
- 7) Ensure each player has all necessary equipment for any contact related drills, or exercises. This includes footwear.
- 8) Coaches must enforce proper technique at all times. Any movement that is incorrect on the part of the player should be corrected by the coaching staff. Practice does not make perfect. Practice makes permanent. Allowing players to practice improper technique places unnecessary risk on the players as it will become habit.
- 9) Players must be taught basic skills such as proper stance, movement, body positioning and so on constantly.
- 10) *Safety in training should be the primary focus of all coaches/players/parents involved in the Youth Sports Soccer Program. Any coach/parent/player should be able to freeze practice if an unsafe condition exists.***

## **Team & Division Formation Criteria**

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### ***Team Formation***

The number of teams in each division will be determined by the number of players enrolled on the last day of registration.

Those who sign up after the last day of registration will be placed on a waiting list and assigned to teams if space becomes available. The "Space A" list will be kept on a first come- first served basis. No new players will be added to a team roster for the last 2 regular season games.

Sponsors must declare what classification they are signing their children up for at registration. The established divisions are as follows:

- Division II Ages 10-12
- Division III Ages 8-9
- Division IV Ages 6-7
- Division V Age 5

### ***Player Placement/Team Assignments***

Only head coaches and the 1<sup>st</sup> assistant coach have the right to claim their son or daughter for a team assignment. Individuals desiring to be assistant coaches after team formation will approach the head coach following the placement of their child (children) on a team as applicable, if they desire to be an assistant. Four adult coaches are permitted. One team parent is permitted and does not serve in a coaching capacity. All guidelines must be met for background checks and NYSICA certification. No other adults are permitted to assist with official team functions i.e. have access to PII, or assist on the field.

Brothers/sisters will play on the same team, unless otherwise requested by their parents. Under age children or children not registered in the youth soccer program will not be allowed to participate in practices or games or serve as mascots.

### **Aging Up**

Parents may request to advance a child from their normal age group, for ages 9 and up, if that child's skills are above his/her age group. That player must be within (1) one year of that division's age group (i.e. an 8 year old will not be advanced to the 10-12 year old age group). The player must be evaluated with children of the requested age group during the scheduled program evaluations to determine if the player is competitive with that age group.

If the player is not evaluated within the guidelines, he or she may not be moved.

### **Aging Down**

Parents may request to hold back a player from their normal age group if that player has a diagnosed developmental delay, or a physical or mental disability. Appropriate medical documentation of disability must be provided, **with health care provider recommendation.**

Youth Sports may evaluate that player prior to a final decision. If it is judged that the participant's skill/emotional level exceeds the requested level of play, they will be returned to their age appropriate division.

Each request must be made in writing at time of registration giving specific reasons for the request via the Special Request process. Each request will be evaluated by Youth Sports and brought to the Parent Advisory Committee for consideration.

## Equipment

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### **Check Out**

The Youth Sports program will designate a day and time for uniform/equipment issuance for each team. Sponsors will be required to fill out a gear custody sheet for their child's equipment at the time of issue.

### **Equipment**

The home team will provide the game ball. The size of the ball used during games for the Lejeune-New River Youth Soccer League will be as follows:

- (1) Divisions II and III: Size Four (4)
- (2) Divisions IV and V: Size Three (3)

Shin guards and soccer shoes are mandatory for practices and games for all players. Turf shoes are acceptable substitutes provided they have molded cleats. Football and baseball shoes are illegal, unless the front single (toe) cleat is removed.

## Uniforms

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A portion of the registration fee is used to issue uniform t-shirts to participants; upon the completion of the season the uniform becomes the property of the participant. Uniforms are not permitted to be altered or personalized during the season; unauthorized alterations of a uniform will require the parent to pay for a replacement uniform. Requests for a specific number on a uniform will not be honored. Parents must indicate uniform size at time of registration. **Soccer shorts cannot have pockets.** *Only a limited number of extra uniforms are ordered; if a uniform does not fit, parents may exchange the uniform while supplies last.*

### **Check-out**

The Youth Sports Department will designate a date and time for uniform issuance for each team. Coaches will be responsible for uniform issue. Coaches will have the sponsor fill out a uniform custody sheet for their child's uniform at the time of issue. Issued MCCS uniform apparel must be turned in no later than 2 weeks after the season has completed.

### **Authorized Users and Usage**

Only registered youth participants are authorized to wear issued uniforms. Coaches or parents are not permitted to wear uniforms issued by Youth Sports.

Uniforms will be worn for games and pictures only. They are not to be worn to any other function or to school.

### **Personally Purchased Uniforms**

Teams will not be allowed to purchase their own uniforms for use in the program.

***Return of Issued Equipment***

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to ensure all issued equipment is cleaned and returned, **no later than two weeks after the season has ended**. Registration into another youth sport by any child in the family is contingent upon return of any outstanding issued equipment.

***Personally Provided Equipment***

All personally purchased equipment must meet all local and/or federal guidelines for the sport or equipment being used. Items must be inspected and approved prior to use by Youth Sports. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Youth Sports office for further information.

**Team Practices**

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***Time and Place***

Practice sessions are the responsibility of the head coach. Practice days will be established through coordination of the coach and the Youth Sports Office.

***Practice Equipment***

Coaches will be provided applicable practice accessories where available.

***Authorized Practice Facilities***

Practices sessions must be conducted using facilities aboard military installations. Practices with city/county teams outside the military installations wearing MCCA uniforms and using MCCA equipment will not be authorized.

***Practice Courtesies, Parent Responsibilities***

Please adhere to your practice times as assigned. Parents are required to pick up their children from practice promptly at the conclusion of their scheduled practice. Coaches are responsible for the accountability of all children and will not leave children unattended. If participants are not picked up within fifteen (15) minutes of completion of practice, or special arrangements made, Youth Sports Staff reserve the right to contact PMO.

***Limitations***

Div II, III and IV Teams will be limited to 2 hours of practice per week and no more than 2 nights per week.

**Sport Season**

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***Season***

The season will run from August to the end of October. The scheduling of games, locations, and officials is the responsibility of Lejeune-New River Youth Sports. Games will be played on Saturdays' and during the week if needed. No Sunday activities will be scheduled. Requests from coaches to reschedule games due to coaches not being available, or not having enough players, will not be honored. Coaches who coach multiple teams cannot request changes to scheduled

games based upon potential conflicts between the two team schedules. It is advised that a volunteer only operate as head coach of one team. Make-up games may not be played on your scheduled practice evenings.

### ***Playing Conditions***

In the event of inclement weather before game time, call 451-2177 or check the Youth Sports website at <http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/youthsports> then click on “field conditions.” Only the appropriate Youth Sports Coordinator, their designated representative, or the assigned official can cancel scheduled games at the field. This decision will be reached jointly. Every effort will be made by the Youth Sports staff to honor posted schedules, however, safety of our participants will remain our priority. The Youth Sports Office will attempt to call every coach in the event of a cancellation. Coaches are required to call 451-2177/2159 or visit the web site at <http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/youthsports> to find out the status of games or practices and then notify team members.

### ***Standings***

Where applicable, a tied record in the standings within a division at the end of regular season play will be determined by head-to-head competition. If a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place still exists, standings will be determined by a formula deemed appropriate by the Youth Sports Department. If a tie exists for any teams below 3<sup>rd</sup> place, they will remain tied and standings will be determined by a formula deemed appropriate by the Youth Sports Department.

### ***Season Awards***

First (1<sup>st</sup>) and Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place teams will receive awards as determined by Youth Sports in D2. All teams will receive a participation certificate to be determined by Youth Sports.

### **Fundamental Divisions**

Participation certificates will be given to all soccer players and will be determined by Youth Sports.

## **Participation Criteria and Playing Rules**

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### ***Participation Criteria***

If a team fails to appear, or fails to field the minimum number of uniformed players for soccer at the scheduled game time, the referee shall declare the game forfeited to the team adequately represented and ready to play. **Only extreme circumstances may be taken into consideration.** If neither team has the minimum number of required players present, the game shall be declared “no contest” and rescheduled. **Game time will be forfeit time for all games.** Any team that plays an ineligible player in the age 10-12 division shall forfeit all games in which the player participated. The score of a forfeited game shall be recorded 1-0. In the event the officials are unavailable, the game shall be rescheduled. Games suspended for any reason will be replayed from the point of interruption.

Players not playing in a game, or playing less than the required time, must be noted on the official score sheet. Youth Sports representative and the opposing coach must be notified prior

to the game, along with the reason they are not playing. The only acceptable reasons for not playing a player are failing to make any practices sessions, sickness, injury or disciplinary action such as issuance of a red card.

### **SPECIAL SAFETY RULES**

For safety reasons- Slide tackling is not be permitted in any age division. "Heading" is not permitted in any age division. Goalkeepers are not permitted in Division 5. **Spectators are positioned on the opposite side of the field in designated spaces at games.**

### **Division II**

Seven players are fielded per contest. Coaches may use free substitution; however, coaches will ensure that every player plays approximately half of each game. A team can start and play with 5 players. **Mercy Rule:** After 30 minutes of play where a team goes ahead by 12 goals, the game ends. Players who did not get 15 minutes of playing time must start the next played game.

### **Division III**

Seven players are fielded per contest. Coaches may use free substitution; however, coaches will ensure that every player plays approximately half of each game. A team can start with 5 players.

### **Divisions IV and V:**

Seven players are fielded per contest in Division 4 and five players are fielded in Division 5. All non-starting players who have not yet been substituted into the game will be substituted at the start of the quarter. Two coaches (one per team) may be on the field to direct players, but will not interfere with the flow of the game. This is a privilege extended in the interest of teaching. A team can start with any available players.

### **Exceptions to player participation rule**

A player is removed by coaches/officials, or removes self from participation due to injury, illness, fatigue, or for disciplinary reasons. Prior to the start of a game, a player not participating must be declared in writing, to the youth sports representative by the head coach as being ineligible (due to injury/illness/or missed practices.) A player must attend at least ½ of the practices in a week to be eligible for full participation time. If a player arrives late, the coach is only obligated to play that player starting the beginning of the next quarter/half. Participation by children with Special Needs will depend on each child's needs and abilities. This will be worked out between parents, coaches, and Youth Sports Coordinators. It is the intent to maintain program integrity and to ensure fair play and sportsmanship.

### **Field Dimensions/Scoring**

The following dimensions will be used for the fields of play for the Youth Soccer League:

- (1) Division II: Length of 180 feet, width of 120 feet.
- (2) Division III: Length of 180 feet, width of 120 feet.
- (3) Division IV: Length of 150 feet, width of 90 feet.
- (4) Division V: Length of 75 feet, width of 60 feet.

The following times will be used for the length of games for the Youth Soccer League:

- (1) Division II: 30 minute halves with a 10 minute half time. (2 Officials)
- (2) Division III: 24 minute halves with a 5 minute half time. (1 Official)
- (3) Division IV: 4- ten minute quarters, with one minute between quarters and a 10 minute half time.
- (4) Division V: **Saturdays are 20 minute skills and drills followed by 2- ten minute quarters with a 5 minute half time. (Coaches Referee)**

The Head Referee will keep the score (10-12 League only). The home team will keep a score sheet and turn it in to a Youth Sports Representative at the end of the game with the Center official's signature.

If a tie still exists at the end of the game for the 10-12 Leagues, the teams will go directly to a **shoot-out**. The game will not end in a tie.

### ***Game Protests***

National Federation of State High School Associations and US Soccer Federation does not recognize protests. Any questionable situation that occurs must be resolved at the time of the infraction, prior to play resuming. Game officials will be the ruling body for all regular High School Federation rules. If the call or situation involves league special rules, the Youth Sports representative will be the ruling body. If a situation occurs that cannot be resolved to everyone's satisfaction a grievance may be submitted in writing per grievance policy.

### ***Penalties***

#### **Player Red Card Policy:**

Red Card: Any player receiving a red card will be required to sit out the remainder of the game in which the red card is issued, and must also sit out his/her team's next played game.

Two Red Cards: Any player receiving a second red card during the playing season must sit out the next two games played. A third red card will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.

#### **Coach Yellow Card/Red Card Policy:**

- (1) Yellow Card: If a coach receives a second yellow card during a season, he/she will appear before the Youth Sports Coordinator for a decision on what disciplinary action to take.
- (2) Red Card: If a coach receives a red card, he/she will be relieved of his/her coaching duties for the remainder of the game and suspended from coaching the next game played.
- (3) Two Red Cards: If a coach is issued a second red card during a season, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

## Code of Conduct

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The Code of Conduct applies to all parties relative to all athletic programs, facilities, and personal interactions and communications.

The Code of Conduct may be applied in addition to penalties assessed to ejected players, coaches, and spectators.

OFFENSE	ACTION(S)	LENGTH OF SANCTION(S)	SANCTION(S)
LEVEL 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Excessive Profanity</li><li>Taunting/ Baiting</li><li>Argumentative/Unruly Behavior</li><li>Failure to comply after Warning</li><li>Other Offenses deemed Level 1</li></ul>	One (1) week	Immediate removal from site; plus one week ban from all Division programs, activities, and facilities.
LEVEL 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Verbal Abuse</li><li>Inciting unruly behavior</li><li>Abuse/Damage to Property</li><li>Failure to comply with Smoking/Tobacco Policy</li><li>Other offenses deemed Level 2</li></ul>	Two (2) weeks	Immediate removal from site; plus two week ban from all division programs, activities, and facilities
LEVEL 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fighting</li><li>Verbal/Written Threats</li><li>Possession/Use of alcohol /drugs</li><li>Other offenses deemed Level 3.1</li></ul>	One (1) Year	Immediate removal from site; plus sanctions according to severity of offense.*
LEVEL 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assaulting a patron, official or staff member</li><li>Weapons Possession/Use</li><li>Other offenses deemed Level 3.2</li></ul>	Two (2) years	Immediate removal from site; plus 2 year ban from all division programs, activities and facilities (possible criminal offense per state statute)*

\*Level 3.1 and 3.2 offenders must petition to appear before the Semper Fit Sports branch to seek reinstatement after their ban expires. The NYSCA status of coaches will be reviewed upon commission of a Level 3.1 or 3.2 offense.

## Ejections & Suspensions

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### *Grounds for Ejection/Suspension*

Coaches, players and spectators shall be subject to ejection from the game and playing area by the officials for misconduct.

### ***Sanctions for Ejections***

Coaches, players and spectators ejected from a match must leave the premises for the remainder of the day. Play will not resume until the ejected individual has been removed. Refusal to leave may result in contacting PMO.

Coaches, players and spectators ejected will not be eligible to attend or participate in the next played match. Determination for suspension of a coach, player or spectator for a longer period of time, will be the responsibility and at the discretion of the Youth Sports Manager.

Suspension or dismissal from the season's play may occur with any serious infraction involving unsportsmanlike conduct at the discretion of the Lejeune-New River Athletic Director.

### ***Grievance & Misconduct Cases***

#### **Submissions**

Instances of misconduct by a participant, coach, spectator or official shall be referred in writing by the complainant to the Youth Sports Department. Grievances must be submitted within 48 hours from the occurrence of the incident.

#### **Replies**

Within 48 hours of receipt of a written complaint the Youth Sports Department will contact the complainant to confirm that appropriate action has been initiated or concluded.

The Youth Sports Department will handle all grievances whenever possible or forward the grievance to the next higher level within MCCS if deemed appropriate.

#### **Appeals**

Any grievance decision may be appealed in writing with five days to the Lejeune-New River Athletic Director.