

LMYA Soccer FAQs

- **Where can I learn more about the rules of soccer?** You can find a link to the IFAB Laws of the Game here:
<https://ussoccer.app.box.com/s/xx3byxqgodqtl1h15865/file/296741999141>

You can find the LMYA modifications to the Laws here:

<http://www.lmyasports.com/Soccer/Rules-of-Play/index.html>

- **How are teams selected? My child's team lost every game and she didn't have any friends on her team.**

Team building is one of the most difficult challenges we face each season and the methods we use are subjective. However, the goals we try to achieve are the following:

1. Promote the selection of players in a fashion that will result in a well-balanced league with all teams able to compete effectively. A positive recreational experience for all is better achieved with evenly matched competition.
2. For younger grades we build teams in a fashion which will result in convenient practice locations in order to encourage broader participation and greater attendance at practice sessions.
3. For older grades we build teams with all levels of ability, so as not to expose lesser experienced players to embarrassment.
4. We used coach evaluations from prior seasons. Please encourage your coaches to complete their evaluations after each season.

- **Can my child be left unattended at practice or games?**

Children should not and must not be left at the field unattended. Parents should not drop off their child at a field unless the coach, the assistant coach or other responsible adult is present. It is the parents' responsibility to pick up or arrange for their child to return safely from a practice or game. Always be on time.

- **What if it's raining on practice or game days?**

If it is raining please call our "Rainy Day Hotline" at: (925) 467-6800

- **What kinds of shoes are should my child wear?**

Ideally soccer cleats. No baseball/softball/football cleats (Toe Cleat), hard soled shoes or open toed shoes are allowed.

- **Are shinguards required?**

Yes. Shinguards are to be worn at all times; and under the socks. Referees will check before each game.

- **My child just had her ears pierced can she put tape over her earrings?**

Absolutely **NO** jewelry/earrings, or accessories; Medical bracelets only. **NO** band-aids or tape over earrings – no exceptions.

- **Must all players play equally in every game?**

Yes. Coaches are **REQUIRED** to play **ALL PLAYERS** equally in every game and **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to provide equal position play in every game. Coaches receiving complaints will face disciplinary action.

- **What should I do if the rules are confusing or contradictory?**

Meet the Referee and other Coach before the game to clarify any rules/issues; if you can't agree, default to the binder, and let the league know that it needs to be clarified.

- **Who has the final say in any decision relating to the match?**

Referees are responsible for the safety of the players and the rules of the match and have **FINAL SAY** on all related decisions. **DO NOT ARGUE** with them. Coaches can ask them to clarify a call **ONLY**. If you think a Referee is wrong contact the LMYA Commissioner and let LMYA discuss the issue with Referees.

- **What if a referee misses a call?**

The Referee has a different vantage point of the play, as does the coach, and each parent. Please be patient if you see a foul before a Referee can blow their whistle. If you think the referee is wrong, see previous question.

- **When can a substitute come on the field?**

Substitutions should happen at period breaks. This helps to balance equal play for all. Referees can allow for free substitution or alternate plans if agreed upon by both coaches – Heat/Water breaks, Split time for 2 players. Subs must **WAIT** until the Referee allows the substitution.

- **Are goalkeepers allowed in Kindergarten matches?**

No. Please, do not have a “player act like a goalie” and maintain position in front of the goal, encourage ball and player movement instead.

- **Does LMYA Use a Build Out Line?**

Yes in grades K – 3. Offensive players must retreat past the Build-out line (Between Goal box and Midfield), when the goalkeeper has possession, or it is a goal kick. Players on the team without the ball cannot re-enter the area until the ball is touched by a 2nd player. Goalkeepers are no longer allowed to punt the ball in these age groups. For a more detailed explanation consult the IFAB Laws of the Game or watch this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ92Kfilwok>

- **Does LMYA have Offside Rules?**

Yes. The rules differ depending on whether there is a buildout line or not. For K – 3rd grade we prefer to educate players about the offside rules rather than call infractions. Play can be stopped to explain, followed by a drop ball (not in the goal box). For more information about the offside rule consult IFAB Laws of the Game or this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GePIbCsGniA>

- **Can a player challenge the Goalkeeper when the Goalkeeper has the ball or is attempting to pick up the ball?**

No. Players **ARE NOT ALLOWED** to approach a goalkeeper in the process of possessing a ball. Referees are instructed to protect a goalkeeper who is bending over/reaching for a ball. "**In the possession of the goalkeeper**" is defined as the goalkeeper having the ball trapped between one hand and a surface (which may include the other hand, the ground, a goalpost, or the keeper's own body). The hand includes any part of the hand or arm.

- **What are LMYA's most important principles?**

Sportsmanship and fair play. Our opponents and teammates are our friends and neighbors. Treat all players, coaches, fans and Referees with the respect you would expect to receive. The head coach is the **ONLY** person to talk to a Referee. Players are not to "trash talk". **Shake hands with the other team and the Referees after the game. DO NOT run up the score** (5+ goals ahead).

- **What happens if a team runs up the score?**

For K – 2nd grade divisions scores are not kept, but of course every player and every parent knows the score. If we receive repeated complaints about coaches running up the score, we will take disciplinary action. For 3rd grade and above, scores are kept which count toward the end of the season tournament. A team earns 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss. If your team runs up the score and wins by a margin of more than 5 goals, you will only receive only 1 point for that win. Learn tactics to avoid these situations.

- **Where should coaches and fans sit during games?**

For K - 2nd grade divisions, fans and players can sit on the same side of the field, coaches are encouraged to use the opposite side of the field. In

3rd grade and higher divisions coaches and players must sit on the sideline opposite the fans. Coaches must remain in their technical areas. In LMYA the technical area is 10 yards long starting from the midfield stripe 1 yard behind the touch line. Referees will issue warnings for repeat offences. **THERE IS NO COACHING/PARENTING FROM BEHIND THE GOALS.**

- **Can I bring my dog to the games?**

No. Both School District and Parks do not allow dogs on the fields. You will be asked to leave by LMYA officials.

- **How can parents help?**

There are so many ways.

1. **Don't Coach!** The team has a coach who you may contradict with your own coaching.
2. **Positive Cheering!** Be a positive force as a spectator.
3. **Bring Snacks!** Best part of the game for many kids.
4. **Pick up Trash!** Help keep the fields clean.
5. **Help volunteer** for pre-season and post season jobs

- **How should the physical goals be handled?**

Goals must be moved on to the field before the first game. BE sure to leave cables/locks on fences in a **VISIBLE** Position. The last game of the day must return goals to storage area and lock them securely.

- **What is the most important thing to remember?**

Keep it fun for everyone involved, both teams and fans; and have fun yourself!