

Hi Coaches, We have a meeting next Tuesday at 7 pm Stone Point. Please make every effort to attend. Game schedules are not out yet, and I don't expect them till mid next week. Practices start next week, but games will not start until the following week. Please review the information below. In preparation for our meeting next week. Keep this email you will want the links in the future. Thanks

Old Tappan Rec Soccer

Coach Responsibilities & Yearly To-Do List

#1 Rule to Remember

Be the positive role model all our children deserve.

As a coach, you set the tone for the team. Our goal is to provide every child with a positive opportunity to play, develop, compete, and have fun.

- Set the tone for sportsmanship, effort, and fun.
- Organize your team with clear communication through **GameChanger**.
- Promote inclusivity and **shared playing time**.
- Foster a respectful environment for players, parents, coaches, and referees.
- Remember: **Character Counts**.

Step 1: Complete Town Coaching Requirements

To coach, you must complete the required certifications outlined by the town.

Please visit the coaching page for full details: You are all good to go unless the town has reached out to you. If they have start the process and finish as soon as you can but you have some time.

Old Tappan Coaching Requirements:

<https://sites.google.com/view/oldtappanrecsoccer/home/coaching>

- These requirements only need to be completed once.

If Have Not Done It Yet The Head Coach Should Set Up Your Team in GameChanger

Please set up your team in GameChanger as soon as you receive your roster.

- Invite all players and parents.
- You can name your team using the team number on the roster followed by your name.
- Add your schedule once it becomes available. The schedule should be ready next week
- Practices Start first week of September See our Schedule here for your teams practice times
- <https://sites.google.com/view/oldtappanrecsoccer/home/schedule>
- If you would like to schedule your own practice Please contact Allison Lausin - allison.lausin@abbott.com

GameChanger should be the primary source of communication with your team.

GameChanger setup video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkaaCfoT6aQ>

FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

Mandatory Coaches Meeting

- **When:** First Tuesday of September
- **Time:** 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Stone Point Park

At this meeting:

- Pick up your equipment bag.
- Get your coaching shirt

- Review important league information.
 - Get any questions answered before the season begins.
 - Rules distribution
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WEEKLY GAME PREP

Check Your Availability

Please check GameChanger throughout the week and make sure you have enough players available for each game.

Thursday before each game:

- Check your GameChanger roster.
- Make sure you know who is attending.
- Contact families who have not responded.
- Determine whether you have enough players and substitutes.

WHEN YOU NEED PLAYERS: Cross over or Play up?

Our goal is to have teams play with their regular roster whenever possible.

Players **cannot normally play for another team in the same age group.**

The exception is when a team has **no substitutes or doesn't have enough to play**. In that situation, the team may use extra player(s) from another team **only up to having 2 substitutes at the start of the game**. To accomplish this, you may use a crossover or play-up player

When using a crossover/ play up player:

- The coach must disclose this to the opposing coach.
- This does **not** apply to ½-grade divisions.
- Crossover players may **not** be used for playoff games. *But* you may use a play-up no more than two subs

Don't take the easy way out. GAMES MUST BE PLAYED. Games are not rescheduled because of a lack of players. Play the game, even if you are short players. If you are unable to field a team for a particular game, contact your **Division Coordinator** immediately. The Division Coordinator must notify Craig **at least 24 hours before the game**

Wear Your Coaching Shirt At Games(will be handed out at our meeting)

Please **wear your coaching shirt to games and practices whenever possible.**

This helps identify you as a coach and, more importantly, helps us promote the philosophy of our program.

If you need a coaching shirt, let me know. I have extras.

Paying Refs- You only need to front money to pay refs if you coach $\frac{5}{8}$ or $\frac{7}{8}$. We will repay you every two weeks through the town IF you fill out the google form below. At $\frac{5}{8}$ each team pays 30\$ to the center ref (CASH ONLY) at $\frac{7}{8}$ each team pay 70 (Cash Only). $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ does not need to pay refs anything.

CLICK THIS LINK TO SUBMIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT

RULES- [Here is the Link to the rules of the league](#)

SHARED PLAYING TIME — OUR DIRECTIVE

Every Child Should Play in Both Halves

Shared playing time is a core directive of our program.

We strive for every player to play **at least one half of every game.**

The result of the game does not determine our success.

Our success is measured by giving every child a positive opportunity to participate, develop, compete, and enjoy the game.

Please do not shorten a player's playing time because of mistakes, ability, or the score.

Practices - If you would like to have a practice throughout the season you are welcome to do so but you need to schedule a time With Adrian: pocovnicu@gmail.com

DURING THE SEASON

GameChanger

- Keep your GameChanger roster up to date.
- Enter and maintain your game schedule.
- Use GameChanger as your primary communication tool with families.
- Continue checking player availability before every game.

Coaching Philosophy

Remember our mantra:

CHARACTER COUNTS

As coaches, we are responsible for modeling the behavior we expect from our players.

- Be positive.
- Encourage effort.
- Promote teamwork.
- Give everyone meaningful playing time.
- Be patient with referees — many of them are learning too.

- Treat opposing coaches, players, and parents with respect.

Be Present

Please be present for every game.

If you are unable to attend, notify your Division Coordinator and make sure appropriate adult coverage is arranged.

MANAGING THE SCORE

Please be mindful of the score throughout the game.

If your team is building a large lead, **you are expected to control the scoring environment.**

You can do this creatively and without embarrassing players. For example:

- Use a secret signal with your players (DONT YELL STOP SCORING!) .
- Move stronger players into different positions.
- Have stronger players play goalkeeper.
- Ask players to focus on passing rather than scoring.
- Ask certain players to stay on their defensive half.
- Encourage players to work on specific skills.

The goal is **not** to embarrass the other team or stop playing. The goal is to keep the game competitive and positive.

League Scoring Rules

A differential of 10 goals reached is an automatic loss for the "winning" team. Plus the league will call you

The maximum official score is a **5-goal differential.**

For example:

8–1 will officially be recorded as 6–1 in the standings.

Coaches do **not** have to remove players at any particular point during the game. However, that is always a coach's discretion

Extra Player Rule

At a **4-goal differential or greater**, the losing team is allowed to have an extra player on the field.

- Goal differential of 0–3: teams play with equal numbers.
 - Goal differential of 4+: losing team adds an extra player.
 - at 5 goals two players can be added.
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DQ TEAM REWARD

During the season, you will receive gift cards for your team.

For the **last game or last home game (or when you desire)**, please have your team meet at the DQ.

- Each child receives a **\$5 gift card**.
- Give the card directly to each player.
- Have the family order their own food.

Please make this a fun end-of-season team experience.

END OF FALL SEASON

Equipment

Return **all fall equipment** to your Division Coordinator.

Player Information

Please complete the required **player information/evaluation form** at the end of the season and submit it as instructed. We will send it to you

This information helps us evaluate the season and prepare for future team formation.

WINTER COACHING

If you are coaching during the winter season:

Equipment

- Restock your equipment bag.
- Pick up one indoor soccer ball.

December Team Changes

Teams may be reshuffled in December.

If this happens:

- Update your GameChanger roster.
- Add/remove players as necessary.
- Contact parents with the updated team information.

RULES TO REMEMBER ALL YEAR

1. NEVER BE ALONE WITH A PLAYER

Always make sure a second adult is present.

Never put yourself or a player in a situation where you are alone together.

2. SPECTATOR RULE

All non-players — parents, siblings, friends, and other spectators — must remain on the **opposite side of the field from the team.**

3. LIGHTNING PROTOCOL

If the lightning alarm sounds:

VACATE THE FIELD IMMEDIATELY.

Do not return to the field until the official **all-clear** has been given.

THANK YOU

Thank you for volunteering your time and energy to coach.

Coaching is about much more than soccer. **You have the opportunity to influence how our kids learn to compete, handle mistakes, treat others, and work as a team.**

Thank you for helping us make Old Tappan Rec Soccer a positive experience for every child.