

# **Tippco Soccer Club Parent's Handbook**

## **Welcome to Your Club**

Tippco Soccer Club is run entirely by volunteer parents just like you. When your son or daughter joins a Tippco soccer team, you become members of the Tippco Soccer Club. It is our goal as a club, through the volunteer efforts of the members, to provide the youth of Tippecanoe and surrounding counties with the opportunity to develop skills by fielding teams at a variety of competitive levels.

## **FIFA Code of Conduct**

Tippco Soccer Club endorses FIFA's rules for fair play:

- Play the game for the game's sake.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be graceful when you lose.
- Be fair always no matter what the cost.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
- Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.

## **About Competitive Soccer**

While Rec soccer's primary goal is to give our youth an appreciation of soccer as an enjoyable pastime, competitive soccer focuses on player development. This is achieved by utilizing qualified, licensed coaches and providing appropriate levels of challenging competition.

Tippco Soccer Club fields competitive youth soccer teams for boys and girls between the ages of nine and fourteen. Teams at each age can be placed in a variety of skill levels depending on the experience and ability of the players. Most new teams start out at the B level. As they progress, they can move on to A, AA, and Gold. It is our policy to attempt to find a place on a team for all players attending tryouts. Teams play two seasons per year—the fall season (September and October) and the spring season (April and May). Each season is usually comprised of ten games. Five home games are played at Tippco Fields on Lindberg Road. Five away games are played on the road, usually in the Indianapolis area. Additionally, teams may elect to play in weekend tournaments held before, during, or after the regular season. Our club hosts one such tournament at Purdue in early June, and all Tippco teams are expected to participate.

Tippco Soccer Club is a member of Indiana Youth Soccer Association (IYSA), Central Indiana Youth Soccer League (CIYSL), and Greater Indianapolis Regional League of Soccer (GIRLS).

## **Fees**

Fees are charged before the start of each season. The money collected goes toward providing uniforms, paying referees, maintaining facilities, paying player dues to the state soccer organizations, and funding club administrative expenses such as accounting, advertising and printing. Fees also pay for automatic entry in the Tippco Soccer Tournament each June.

Additionally, your team may ask for a payment to provide them with working capital to purchase items such as goalie gloves and practice equipment.

For up-to-date information on fees, visit our website at [tippco.org](http://tippco.org).

## **Tryouts**

Tryouts are held two times per year—in June for the fall season and in November for the spring season. Visit our website at [tippco.org](http://tippco.org) for exact dates and times.

## **Practices**

Most teams practice two or more days per week beginning a few weeks before the season starts and ending at the end of the season. Players should have shin guards, cleats, ball, water bottle, and weather-appropriate attire. Practices are usually held at the Tippco fields on Lindberg Road or at the Amphitheater fields on North River Road. Additionally, some teams offer optional organized practices during the summer and indoor practices during the winter. Also, though not affiliated with our club, a winter indoor soccer league is available at Soccer Central.

## **Game Day**

On game day, most coaches request that players be at the game site 30 to 45 minutes prior to game time, ready to warm-up and practice. Players need complete a uniform, shin guards, cleats, water bottle, and a ball for warm-ups. Also, depending upon the weather, sweatshirt, sweatpants, headband, and gloves may be needed.

During the game, the teams are always on one sideline and the spectators are on the other. Only players, coaches, managers and referees are allowed on the team sideline. Spectators should conduct themselves in a positive, supportive manner. Inappropriate behavior can reflect poorly on the team through the referee's game report filed after every game. In severe cases it can result in removal from the premises.

## **Weather**

Soccer games are played in all kinds of weather, including rain and cold. Lightning will always postpone or cancel a game, as will flooded fields. For up to date information on game delays and cancellations, call the Tippco Hotline at 447-5747.

## **Coaches and Managers**

All of our coaches are licensed and trained by the IYSA to coach youth soccer. All are volunteers, most with sons or daughters on the teams they coach. Coaches are responsible for organizing practices, determining playing positions and playing time and substituting during games. Coaches are also responsible for player conduct during games.

Team managers (also volunteer team parents) are responsible for organizing team paperwork, team meetings, payment of referees (with club funds), distributing travel directions and numerous other details which allow the coach to concentrate on coaching. Managers are also responsible for parent conduct on the sidelines during games.

## **Parent's Code of Conduct**

The club hopes that all parents will adhere to the following code of conduct:

Provide only positive support during games.

Do not criticize your child's teammates or coaches in the presence of your child or his/her teammates.

Do not talk to players or coaches for either team during matches, except to offer support, congratulations or assistance.

Do not use abusive or profane language.

Do not argue with officials.

Be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat.

Do not argue with opposing fans.

Do not criticize opponents in the presence of them or their fans.

Clean up after yourself.

Tippco Soccer Club is a pet free zone (as are most of our opponent's clubs). For the safety and enjoyment of all, please leave pets at home.

Fighting or physical violence will result in automatic removal from Tippco premises. Repeat violations can result in expulsion from the club.

## **What can parents do to maximize their child's experience with Tippco Soccer Club?**

- Parent's daily modeling of fair play, conflict resolution and the "golden rule" encourages players to calmly play with skill on the field.
- Know your child's coach.
- Be knowledgeable of the game.
- Encourage fair play at home.
- Be supportive; i.e. be sure the player attends practices; pick him/her up on time.
- Ensure that your child is properly equipped (shin guards, cleats, water bottle, uniform, etc.)
- Attend games.
- Be positive or quiet at the games.
- Be respectful; expect your own children to be respectful.
- Be calm and have good manners.
- Concentrate on praising other people's children during the game.
- Support the coach's and referee's decisions.
- Volunteer to help the coach.
- Become a referee.
- Play the game of soccer.
- Encourage communication between the coach and parent.
- Focus on good nutrition.
- Ask your own children to describe his/her role, what new skills have been learned.
- Watch practices; help your child practice new skills at home.
- Find soccer videos and watch them with children.
- Read newspaper articles about older player's successes; provide models for your own children.
- Volunteer to help with club activities.

## **Your Contribution to the Club: Time or Money?**

Numerous volunteer opportunities exist within our club. The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer members who are responsible for the activities and direction of the club. There are also volunteer opportunities in the areas of field maintenance and team coaching or managing. Our club is in the midst of an ambitious project to develop a new soccer complex to serve our needs in the coming years. This project offers many opportunities for volunteers on committees such as marketing, fund-raising and new field development.

In lieu of volunteering time, a cash donation to the club would be appropriate. Donations to Tippco Soccer Club are tax deductible.

## **A Brief Discussion of the Rules**

Probably the least understood rule in soccer is the offside rule. A player is offside only if he is in the attacking half of the field, is not in possession of the ball, is ahead of the next-to-last defender at the time the ball is passed forward, and is judged to be involved in the play. If a player is even with the next to last defender, he is not offside. The linesmen run along the sidelines, trying to stay even with the next-to last defender, giving them a clear line of sight of who may be beyond that line. If an infraction occurs, the linesman will raise his flag, and the center referee will judge whether the player in an offside position is involved in the play. If he is judged to be involved, offside is called, and the defending team is awarded a direct free kick. A player cannot be offside during a throw-in or a corner kick. However, after the first touch of the ball after a throw-in or corner kick, a player could be offside if the previous conditions are met.

Another rule which often causes spectators some confusion is the advantage rule. Simply put, the advantage rule prevents the defending team from gaining an advantage by fouling. If the center referee rules that stopping play for a foul would be disadvantageous to the team suffering the foul, he can chose to ignore the foul and play on. He signals this by holding out both hands, palms up. Often in a match when it appears the referee failed to call an obvious foul by a defender, it is because he is letting play continue to the advantage of the offensive team.

For a complete discussion of the laws of the game, visit [drblank.com/soccer.htm](http://drblank.com/soccer.htm).

## **Some Useful Web Sites**

<a href="http://tippco.org">tippco.org</a>	Our club website, with up to date information on teams, registration, tryouts, etc.
<a href="http://inyouthsoccer.org">inyouthsoccer.org</a>	Lots of information about Indiana Youth Soccer.
<a href="http://girlsinsoccer.com">girlsinsoccer.com</a>	The girls website with information about team schedules and standings as well as links to maps, other soccer clubs, and other useful soccer sites.
<a href="http://ciysl.org">ciysl.org</a>	The boys website with information about team schedules and standings as well as links to maps, other soccer clubs, and other useful soccer sites.
<a href="http://fifa.com">fifa.com</a>	Information about soccer around the world
<a href="http://drblank.com/soccer.htm">drblank.com/soccer.htm</a>	Information about the laws of the game, soccer history, trivia, and more.
<a href="http://decatursports.com/soccerdrills.htm">decatursports.com/soccerdrills.htm</a>	Lots of soccer drills and articles, including video clips to assure you are doing the moves just right.

## The Tippco Board of Directors

President:	John Schumann	<a href="mailto:j.Schumann@verizon.net">j.Schumann@verizon.net</a>
V. President	Dick Burley	<a href="mailto:purdu9@cris.com">purdu9@cris.com</a>
Treasurer	Dave Holder (CPA)	<a href="mailto:dave@hrh-cpa.com">dave@hrh-cpa.com</a>
Dir. Of Tournaments	Shapour Khosravipour	<a href="mailto:khos3@aol.com">khos3@aol.com</a>
Dir. Of Camps	Phil Hammen	<a href="mailto:drmusk3@insightbb.com">drmusk3@insightbb.com</a>
Secretary	not filled	
Dir. Of Marketing	Samona Lester	<a href="mailto:no1chefsam@aol.com">no1chefsam@aol.com</a>
Dir. Of Boys Soccer	Craig Lamb	<a href="mailto:clamb@ivytech.edu">clamb@ivytech.edu</a>
Dir. Of Girls Soccer	Leo Pineda	<a href="mailto:leopineda@insightbb.com">leopineda@insightbb.com</a>
ODP Rep	Leo Pineda	<a href="mailto:leopineda@insightbb.com">leopineda@insightbb.com</a>
Director of Grounds	Dave Bugay	<a href="mailto:dbugay@ssci-inc.com">dbugay@ssci-inc.com</a>
At Large:	Brian Elmore	<a href="mailto:brianelmore@msn.com">brianelmore@msn.com</a>
Registrar	Steve Dunlop	<a href="mailto:sdunlop1@aol.com">sdunlop1@aol.com</a>
Webmaster	Steve Dunlop	<a href="mailto:sdunlop1@aol.com">sdunlop1@aol.com</a>
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