



Scarborough Soccer Club New Coach Survival Guide

Thank you so much for volunteering to coach a Scarborough Soccer Club team. Being an all-volunteer organization means we rely heavily upon people like yourself to help us give our players the best possible club experience.

This document is meant to be a general guide to assist new coaches with the most frequently asked questions. If, however, your question is not answered here, please do not hesitate to contact me at dserbin@maine.rr.com.

Club Administration

At your first practice we strongly recommend that you find a parent willing to be a team administrator. This individual will be your liaison to the players and their families. They will send out the team emails about game times, organize water and snacks, liaise with the club registrar about scheduling friendlies, etc. Having this individual will free you and your assistant(s) up to work on practice and game plans rather than managing the administration of the team.

We also strongly recommend that you/your parent administrator utilize a free application called Team Snap. It is available for both Apple OS and Android devices and is a great way to organize players, games, stay in touch and keep information all in one place so your parents aren't having to sort through millions of club emails to find the information they need. It's a great way to keep the team updated real-time.

At tournaments teams typically have quite a bit of down time. Because of this, you should ask if any of the parents has one or two ez-up 10x10 sun shelters they wouldn't mind bringing. Though these pop-up shelters are by no means mandatory, they do go a long way toward keeping both late Summer sun and late Fall rain off of your players.

Lastly, a team photographer is a must. Inevitably, there will be a parent who has a good camera and who happens to be a whiz at taking good team photos. These will be memories you will all want to share and it will also make providing photos for the end of season slide show a lot easier.

Practices: All teams are assigned two nights of training.

U9's and U10's

Tuesdays: group training session led by Seacoast United at Wiley Field

Session I 5:00 - 6:00 (Boys 2016)

Session II 6:15 – 7:15 (Girls (2016)

U11's

Wednesdays: group training night led by Seacoast United at Black Point Field

Session I 5:00 - 6:00 (Boys 2016)

Session II 6:15 – 7:15 (Girls (2016)

Each team will be scheduled for an additional day for a team practice just with your team. This is the best time to take the foot skills training and put it into practical use in small-sided activities. It will also be the time you will reinforce all the basic fundamentals of passing, shooting, getting to space, throw-ins, clearing from the defensive end, etc.

Equipment and Team Shed at Petersen Field

You will be issued a ball bag by the club with a few practice balls, cones and pinnies. A game ball will be provided before your first game. These are your responsibility and are to be returned at the end of the season. Players are expected to bring their own ball to each practice.

The club maintains a shed (the smaller of the two) at Petersen field that contains folding goals, corner flags for the fields and other equipment for your use. This must remain locked at all times when you are finished.

The last team of the day playing at Petersen must make sure that all club-owned equipment is returned to the shed and that the shed is locked.

League Games:

Each team is scheduled for 6 League games on Sundays (3 home and 3 away) beginning on Sunday, August 28th. This year, SoccerMaine is implementing one weekend with a Saturday game in addition to Sunday. Saturday, September 17th is assigned for League game #3 and Sunday, September 18th for League game #4.

The times for your home games will be scheduled by our Club Field Scheduler within a few days of the SoccerMaine schedule being released.

Away games are scheduled by your opponent. (They may take longer to schedule times.) The schedule will be accessible from the SoccerMaine website (www.soccermaine.com) and all pertinent contact information for coaches is listed with each age group.

It is your responsibility to communicate with your opposing coach the time and location of all your home games.

Each week by Wednesday confirm the game time and location.

All U9/U10 Sunday Home League Games are played at Springbrook Field

Friendlies

Each team will be able to play four club sanctioned friendlies.

A Friendly is a non-league game which coaches schedule against an opponent of their choosing. This is typically a challenge for first time coaches as you do not yet know the other coaches from other towns. However, one easy way is to create three-team round robins around existing scheduled league game. If for example you have a game against Gorham, it would be perfectly reasonable to suggest to a coach from Windham (the next town over) to schedule a round robin on the same day, i.e. each team plays the other team once.

The contact info for each of the head coaches is available on the soccermaine.com website by clicking on the contact information tab from within your league section.

Friendlies can be played at home or away and are typically played on Saturdays. The club field scheduler will let you know available field times and you invite a club to play. The club field scheduler can also assist you in scheduling an additional game on Sunday before or after your league game or help create a round robin with an additional team.

All U9/U10 Saturday Home Friendlies will be played at Peterson Field.

Referee Fees

Referees are paid cash at the field.

Each coach will be issued a check to cover the cost of 10 games. Please cash and get appropriate size bills for paying your referee fees.

Home games: collect the other team's half of the money **before the game starts** and YOU pay our center referee.

Away games: give your half of the referee money to the opposing coach.

U9/U10 referee fee per game is \$30 (your half is \$15)

U11/U12 referee fee per game is \$80 (your half is \$40)

U13/U14 referee fee per game is \$100 (your half is \$50)

Lobster Classic – August 13th & 14th

You should announce this event in your first communication with the team. You will be sent information concerning signing up your parent volunteers. Keep in mind that this club event is the club's only fundraiser and that it is expected that every parent participates as a volunteer for at least one, two-hour shift during the weekend. Having one fundraiser avoids door to door drives and other events and take up time during the season when we should be concentrating on soccer.

2016: Girls play in the morning--Boys play in the afternoon

(Note the U9's may only play on one day depending on the numbers; girls would be Saturday and the boys on Sunday).

Official Roster and Medical Forms

Once the official rosters are assigned, you will be given copies of your official roster. Keep these in a safe place as you will need them for each tournament. Never give away the last copy of your roster. You will also receive medical release forms. These medical release forms must be signed before the player may participate in practice. Coaches must have these releases with them at all practices, games, and tournaments. Ask your team administrator to collect and send reminders.

Tournaments

The club takes care of all tournament registrations once coach has designated which tournament they wish to attend.

- Labor Day Weekend—Cumberland Just for Fun tournament
A single day of shortened games. Closer to the tournament you will know if you play on Saturday or Sunday of that weekend. There are no games on Monday. All U9 – U11 teams participate in this tournament.
- Columbus Day Weekend:
Patriots (Gray), Falmouth, Sanford or York
You will select one of four tournaments to attend. We can help you decide which tournament would be best for your team.

Games, Festivals and Tournaments

8/8 – 8/12	Practices Begin		
8/13	Lobster Classic Day 1		
8/14	Lobster Classic Day 2		
8/28	League Game #1		
9/3 – 9/4	Labor Day Tournament		
9/11	League Game #2		
9/17 Saturday	League Game #3		
9/18	League Game #4		
9/25	League Game #5		
10/2	League Game #6		
10/8 -10/11	Columbus Day Weekend Tournaments		
10/15	U9/U10 Girls' Festival	U12-U14 District Playoffs	Day 1
10/16	U9/U10 Boys'	U12-U14 District Playoffs	Day 2
10/22	U11 Girls' Festival	U12-U14 District Playoffs	Day 3
10/23	U11 Boys' Festival	U12 – U14 District Playoffs	Day 4
10/30	State Semis and Finals	U12- U14	