



Coaches Handbook: *NSC Junior Academy (NSCJA)*

Click any of the page numbers below to go directly to a section. Look out for

 symbol for more clickable links throughout this document

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Adult / Coach Registration Requirements | Page 2 |
| Roster Management | Page 3 |
| Season Overview | Page 4-5 |
| Field Use | Page 6 |
| Field Status / Notification | Page 7 |
| Rescheduling A Game / Practice | Page 8 |
| Sportsmanship / Zero Tolerance | Page 9-10 |
| Coaching Resources | Page 11 |
| Drivn App: Coming Soon! | Page 12 |
| Pre-Season Checklist | Page 13 |
| Staff & Key Contacts | Page 14 |



Adult / Coach Requirements

In order to coach, assistant coach or help with an NSC team in any way, ALL adults must complete ALL registration steps and requirements.

No coach is permitted to step on the field with a team until all steps are complete.

GotSport Registration

Coaches required to register on GotSport each individual season (Fall, Spring)

Used for team/roster management

MA Youth Soccer Adult Registration

Annual requirements for each 'soccer year' e.g. Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Register for Fall 2020-Spring 2021 year via US Soccer Connect Registration Portal

Manage your requirements via the US Soccer Connect Login Portal

Receive your Adult Registration Credentials Lanyard

Background Check / CORI (automatic upon US Soccer Connect Reg.)

Upload Photograph (headshot only)

Complete SafeSport Training OR Annual refresher

Complete CDC Concussion Training

No coaches are permitted to coach until all steps are complete and in possession of their 2020-21 lanyard

[Click Here For Full Coach Reg. Instructions](#)

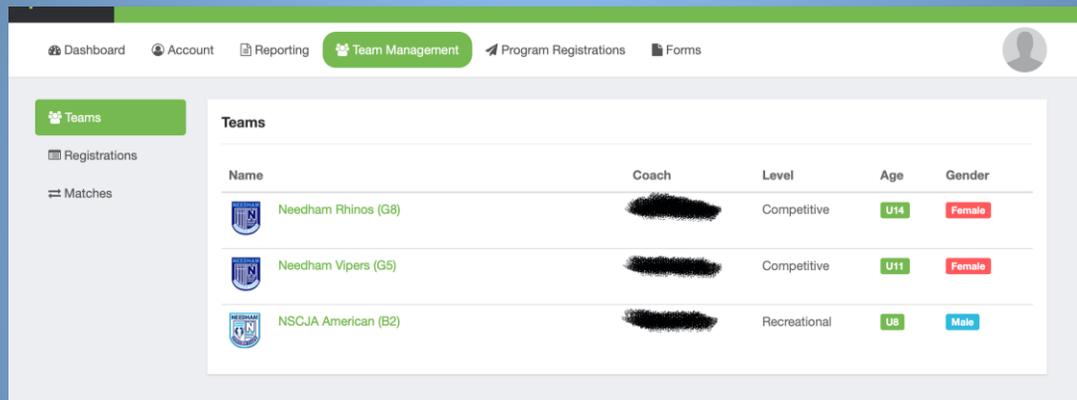




Roster Management

GotSport no longer uses "Team Logins". You can access your team information and view your players and contact information all within your personal GotSport account.

To login to your account, go to system.gotsport.com



Within the "Team Management" section of your account, you can find information related to any team(s) for which you are assigned as Coach / Asst. Coach. Simply click into the relevant team to view information.





Season Overview

Goals For NSCJA Players

- 1) FUN!
- 2) Team & Character Building
- 3) Learning & Development of Fundamentals

4 Divisions of Single Gender Teams

- 1st Grade Girls
- 2nd Grade Girls
- 1st Grade Boys
- 2nd Grade Boys

6-8 Week Season

- Depending on holidays

[NSCJA follows US Soccer with regards to game modifications and rules that are age appropriate for players in 1st and 2nd Grade](#)

[CLICK HERE for complete NSCJA Rulebook](#) 

Overview

- All games are 4v4
- No offsides
- No goalkeepers
- Pop-Up "mini goals"
- Size 3 Ball
- Coaches From BOTH teams work to manage game together!





Season Overview

1st Grade Program

Saturdays Only
(possible Sunday games for make-ups or due to covid based field limitations)

No weeknight practice

Game Day runs approx. 60mins

15 mins “warm up” activities led by professional coaches of [New England Revolution Academy](#)

2nd Grade Program

1 Weeknight practice per week
6-7pm Monday - Friday

Game Days
(possible Sunday games for make-ups or due to covid based field limitations)

No weeknight practice

Game Day runs approx. 60mins

15 mins “warm up” activities led by professional coaches of [New England Revolution Academy](#)

Due to Covid-19, our usual additional NSCJA Skills clinics will not take place in the Fall 2020 Season





Field Use

The scheduling of field resources is one of the most time consuming and difficult tasks we must accomplish each season. These shared facilities are used by all Needham Public School athletic teams, after school programs as well as numerous other Needham youth and adult organizations!

Please follow all NSC guidelines on field use, including, but not limited to the below.

- NSC field use is only permitted during the club's official permitted times. These time can change throughout the year.
- Head coaches may request a preferred practice day, but not field. Preferred days are not guaranteed.
- Teams are not permitted to begin using fields until confirmed by the club
- Teams are assigned to a specific field for practice. However, coaches are asked where possible to be mindful of wear and tear, and rotate to open space.
- Avoid using goalmouths. Move goals if necessary, and make use of areas of field outside of the field lines.

Schedules, once released can all be found on the *Schedules* tab at www.needhamsoccer.com

[CLICK HERE](#)





Field Status / Notifications

Latest field status information is always available via our website – www.needhamsoccer.com. It is recommended you double check before any practice or game, particularly in adverse weather conditions.

To Receive Notifications:

Monday – Friday:

Sign up for “Notify Me”, a town service, which will automatically email you latest field status updates by around 3pm each day – [Sign Up HERE](#) for “Notify Me” ^

Weekends:

NSC will make judgements on field closures on weekends during the season. Notifications are sent via “Status Me” text and email service – [Sign Up HERE](#) for “Status Me” ^

Share Both Services With Your Teams

Field Closures

Field Status is NOT open to interpretation. When a field is CLOSED, no use of the closed field, or surrounding area is permitted.

If Thunder/Lightning occurs, clear ALL fields immediately & For 30 minutes after the latest occurrence. Do not stand under trees or light poles.

If a field status is “open” but you arrive to find standing water, coaches should cancel the game.





Rescheduling A Game / Practice

Play the Schedule wherever possible, and avoid rescheduling unless absolutely necessary. If unavoidable or weather related, you as coach should take the initiative to find a new date and time.

Any known reschedules, should always be preponed (played before the originally scheduled date).

How To Reschedule A Game

1. Inform fieldscheduler@needhamsoccer.com along with opposing coach, and your team that the initial game is to be rescheduled.
2. Coordinate with opposing coach to find 2-3 possible new dates
3. Submit proposed dates to your respective directors
 1. Boys Director Mindy McGinn - min_barnes@yahoo.com
 2. Girls Director Brenda Salamone - brensal25@gmail.com
4. Your JA Director will then work with you to confirm a date/time/field
5. Rescheduled game is only definite once confirmed by said Director.

If for any reason a game is cancelled / moved/ postponed, inform your JA Director as soon as possible.

Reschedule/Cancel A Practice

1. Notify your team as soon as you know you need to cancel a practice
2. Inform doc@needhamsoccer.com in case of any adjustments needed to Revolution coach schedules





Sportsmanship & Zero Tolerance

Good Sportsmanship

Needham Soccer Club, and the BAYS league value good sportsmanship extremely Highly. Part of such sportsmanship includes ensuring players from both teams have a positive experience and develop a love of the game.

No team should be running up scores against an outmatched opponent. A 5 or more goal differential is strongly discouraged

Click here to learn some strategies on keeping the score down in lopsided games.



Zero Tolerance

While, there are no formal referees in the NSCJA program, NSC expects all coaches to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully towards all opposing players, coaches, and fans, as well as to your own players and fans.

As a coach, you are responsible for the behavior of yourself, your other coaches, your players and team parents. Your goal as coach is simply to teach fundamental soccer skills in a positive atmosphere.

As players/coaches progress into 3rd Grade and beyond, there is a formal Zero Tolerance rule in place that forbids coaches, players or spectators from yelling, complaining, gesturing or otherwise harassing a referee.

NSJCA Coaches should use these early years to help instill good habits in players, spectators and themselves as coaches and help wherever possible to promote a positive environment of fun and development.

Click Here For Full BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy





Coaching Resources

Needham Soccer Club fully supports the development of all our coaches, through ongoing formal and informal coach education opportunities.

Coaching Courses

We encourage all our coaches to take the relevant grassroots course(s) for the age group you are coaching.

Any course fees are reimbursed by the club

[LEARN MORE](#)



Informal Education

We also provide a range of other resources for coaches in the “coaches corner” section of our website.

Including: practice plans, coaches toolbox, MA Youth Soccer resources and more.

[VISIT COACHES CORNER](#)



On Field Coach Education

NSC utilizes professional coaches from **New England Revolution Academy**, including a full time Director of Coaching – Matt Murray to support our volunteer coaches over the course of the season. Utilizing professionally developed, age appropriate curriculum of training activities, best practice policies and guidelines from US Soccer, Mass Youth Soccer and the New England Revolution Academy, our volunteer coaches are given numerous chances to connect, learn & grow as a soccer coach every season!

Each Season our partnership with the NE Revolution Academy allows for professional coaches from their staff to come to Needham to work with NSCCL Teams on a rotational basis. Beyond the Saturday Clinics, Rev’s Coaches will be assigned throughout the season to work with every team at least once! Rev’s Coaches will work with you to run the session for your team.





Drivn App: Coming Soon!

Launching Fall 2020, we will be introducing a brand new club wide communication app that will be available to all our coaches and families to assist you in managing your season.



The *Drivn* app, allows coaches to connect with their teams with various features including:

- Team and Club Calendar
- Attendance planning/tracking
- Messaging
- Latest Club news and announcements

Stay Tuned For More Information!





Pre- Season Checklist

- Complete your NSC (GotSport) and MA Youth Soccer Adult Registration requirements
- Ensure co/asst. coaches are also up to date with requirements
- Coaches must have lanyard BEFORE beginning to coach
- Send welcome message to team and communicate practice schedule along with Zero Tolerance expectations
- Share your entire season game schedule with your team. Find out if you have any major conflicts (religious holidays, vacation, tournaments). Proactively prepone games if absolutely needed.
- Assign your team "Covid Coordinator" (Fall 2020 season)
- Familiarize yourself with website, philosophies and coaching resources – www.needhamsoccer.com
- Download *Drivn* App
- HAVE A FANTASTIC SEASON!





Staff & Key Contacts



Mark Miskin

Executive Director / Tournament Director
Covid Safety Officer

executivedirector@needhamsoccer.com



Matt Murray

Director of Coaching
Assistant Covid Safety Officer



Mark Beaumont

Administrator / Registrar
Field Scheduler
Referee Scheduler (BAYS & NSCCL)
Assistant Covid Safety Officer

admin@needhamsoccer.com

Damien Newman – President – president@needhamsoccer.com

Jimmy McShane – Vice President – jgmcshane1@gmail.com

Mindy McGinn– NSCJA Boys Director – min_barnes@yahoo.com

Brenda Salamone– NSCJA Girls Director brensal25@gmail.com

