



Synergy Soccer League Guidelines for Coaching

Fall 2009

Purpose

The **purpose** of the Synergy Soccer League (SSL) is to administer a community soccer league for youth in South Nashville, TN where players are introduced to a recreational soccer-based youth development experience that implements best-practices standards and reflects the mission of UGM.

League Goals

The SSL is a community youth program operated by Ultimate Goal Ministries (UGM). UGM is a sports-based youth development organization whose mission is **offering players hope and opportunity that transform and empower their lives**. By coaching in our league you agree to honor the mission of UGM by supporting our structure and guidelines, adhering to the policies set forth in this document, and positively representing yourself in the community.

Specifically, you agree to pursue the following objectives together with us as a SSL coach:

1. Provide a physically and psychologically safe place and experience for youth
2. Facilitate with appropriate structure and emphasize cultural competence
3. Commission supportive, caring adults to nurture youth development
4. Create opportunities for youth to belong, fostering friendships with peers and providing youth with a positive, inclusive group experience
5. Form a program culture governing behavior and daily interactions through positive social norm reinforcement and good sportsmanship
6. Youth sense support for their individual efficacy apart from peer comparison and are given opportunities to be useful and to make a difference in their setting
7. Players develop skills and competencies in soccer
8. Promote *active learning* (i.e., learning opportunities that engage multiple learning styles)
9. Ensure opportunities for youth recognition (i.e., youth are sincerely acknowledged for their contributions to our sport and their team)
10. Instill high expectations in youth that emphasize each player's strengths, assets, and development
11. Integrate family, school, and community efforts, ensuring similar norms and expectations across settings and offer opportunities for parental involvement

Coach Responsibilities

As a SSL coach, you are committing to: **A)** Be the point of contact for all issues concerning your team; **B)** Contact all players after you receive your roster, giving every parent/guardian your name and phone number, the SSL Hotline#, and inform them about weekly practices; **C)** Receive your team's uniforms and hand them out to players; **D)** Coach weekly practices with your team, arriving 10 minutes early for practice and leaving once all of your team's players have safely exited the complex; **E)** Ensure all players receive equal playing time during games; **F)** Exemplify good sportsmanship and use positive motivation rather than negative criticism; **G)** Ensure a safe and fun environment for all participants.

*The fall 2009 season begins Saturday, September 12 and ends Saturday, November 7. Games are on Saturdays, and practices are held either Monday or Tuesday nights 5 or 6pm (Thursdays makeup night).

Important Dates

Tuesday/Thursday, September 8/10 | Mandatory Coaches Meeting (attend only one), 6-8pm

Saturday, September 12 | SSL Fall Clinic Day, 8am-12pm

Saturday, October 3 | SSL Picture Day

Saturday, November 7 | Final Gameday, Team Trophy Presentations