

# Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club

## *Game Day Checklist*

### Helping Game Days Run Smoothly

Game days are exciting for both players and families. Being prepared helps reduce stress and allows everyone to focus on what matters most, enjoying the game and supporting the players.

This checklist is designed to help MKSC families know what to expect and how to prepare for game day across both recreational and competitive programs.

### Before Leaving Home

A little preparation goes a long way.

- Confirm game time and location in Playmetrics
- Check the weather forecast
- Allow extra travel time
- Eat a balanced meal or snack beforehand
- Encourage a positive mindset

Pro Tip: Arrive early! Now only does it help player settle and feel confident, you never know the parking situation of the field you are due to play at.

### What to Bring for your Player

Having the right equipment ensures players are ready to participate.

- Club uniform (jersey(s), shorts, socks)
- Inflated Soccer ball (correct size for age group)
- Shin guards
- Soccer cleats or appropriate footwear
- Water bottle
- Weather-appropriate layers

Pro Tip: Label your items! Fields and sidelines get busy and leaving the end of the game can sometimes be organized chaos.

## At the Field

Once you arrive, focus on routines and readiness.

- Check in with your coach
- Players should arrive early for the game for warmups (program-dependent)
- Use warm-up time responsibly
- Parents set up in designated spectator areas (opposite of the teams)

Pro Tip: Your coach will let you know how much time for warmups they need!

## Sideline Expectations

Game day behavior matters, for both players and parents.

- Cheer positively for all players
- Avoid coaching or giving instructions
- Respect referees and opponents
- Always model sportsmanship

Pro Tip: Your energy as parents often influences your players experience more than the results from the game!

## During the Game

Let the coaches coach, let the players play, let the parents watch.

- Support effort, not outcomes
- Stay calm during mistakes
- Trust coaches and referees

Pro Tip: Silence can sometimes be the most supportive response.

## After the Game

Post-game moments often shape reflection and confidence in a player.

- Thank the coach and referees

- Let your player lead the conversation
- Focus on effort, fun, and learning
- Avoid immediate technical feedback

Pro Tip: Players process games emotionally and often listening matters most.

## Special Considerations

Depending on the program, game days may include additional elements.

- Competitive teams may have longer warm-ups than recreational teams
- Travel games may require extra planning
- Tournaments may include multiple games in a day

## Quick Game Day Checklist

- ✓ Uniform on and ready
- ✓ Shin guards and ball
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Weather Gear
- ✓ Game time and location confirmed
- ✓ Positive attitude

## Key Contacts & Resources

- Club website: <https://www.mksc.org/>
- Regional contacts: <https://www.mksc.org/regions/>
- Club policies & code of conduct: <https://www.mksc.org/about/policies/>
- Playmetrics for your schedule and updates