



# CLUB GUIDELINES & PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT

**Dear Coach, Manager, Parents and Players,**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to MSC United Soccer. In order to help answer some questions and avoid potential issues or problems, it is important that players and parents understand the philosophy, expectations, rules and policies of the MSC United Soccer Club as outlined in the following pages.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The MSC United Soccer Club's Mission Statement, Principles and Values, and Goals are posted on the Club's website at [www.mscunited.org](http://www.mscunited.org). In keeping with the Club's Mission Statement; MSC United provides a comprehensive program for the youth soccer player. Coaches are assigned to each team by the Director of Coaching with input from the coaching staff.

The Club's interest is the long-term growth and development of each player, including his/her growth in skills and development as a soccer player as well as their development as a person. The Club and the Club's coaches will sometimes make decisions and players may be instructed to do things that parents may not understand. Club or team interests and player development coaches will sometimes be given a higher priority than winning. Parents and players must understand this and conduct themselves in keeping with a healthy team environment. Remember, playing *only* to win without taking into consideration other factors that are important to the health of the team and each of its players will not result in a solid foundation for either the team or the player and can have negative effects on team dynamics. Players and their parents should understand that attendance and effort at practice can affect playing time. Playing time during major tournaments (e.g., State Cup or Patriot's Cup) where the primary objective is to win, is not guaranteed and will be at the sole discretion of the coach.

Tournaments for each team will be selected by the coach based on the level of the team and the goals of the team for the season or a particular weekend. These goals may range from player/team development (trying out new formations and tactics, equal playing time, confidence building), or going all out to win (State Cup). Prior to committing to the years tournament schedule, there will be an opportunity to express opinions to your coaches and team managers.

MSC United does not allow coaching by parents or other spectators. No one on the sideline should instruct players or complain to officials during or after a game. Positive vocal support and encouragement are welcome during the game. Spectators should keep in mind that something as simple as "Shoot!" or "Pass it!" are interpreted as instruction and are not desirable. These instructions can be contrary to what the coach is teaching or has instructed the team to do. The Club insists members of the coaching staff be the only voice at all games and practices. No one other than those listed on official game rosters may sit on or near the team bench during games. From time to time, a coach may pull the parents in with the team for talks at half time or after the game, but please respect the space and privacy necessary for your coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities. Parents and players should feel free to communicate with the coach and ask questions but should do so at the appropriate time. Players are encouraged to speak up and communicate for themselves as much as possible. Coaches are expected to communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with each player about their progress. The Club encourages player-coach or player-parent-coach conferences at appropriate times during the year.

## **THE CLUB, THE TEAM, AND THE PLAYER**

The Club's Board of Directors has a policy directing how decisions are to be made within the Club. The Board, Director of Coaching, and the staff make decisions based:

- First, what is in the best interest of the Club;
- Second, what is in the best interest of a Team;
- Third, what is in the best interest of a Player; and
- Fourth, what is in the best interest of a coach or parent.

## **POLICY ON COMMUNICATIONS**

If a problem arises that a player and/or parent need to resolve, the Club has a policy on how to effectively address it. For everyone, **follow the 48 hour rule**, which means give a problem two days to settle down before initiating communications. It is amazing how much simpler a problem may seem after taking two days to cool down.

After that, the player and/or parent needs to:

**Discuss the problem with the coach.** If not resolved then...

**Discuss the problem with the Director of Coaching.** If not resolved then...

**Discuss the problem with the Club President.**

Managers are the conduits of information; coaches are the decision makers. They will work together to keep you informed of team plans and changes to plans when they occur. Most managers will communicate with team members via email. E-mails should be used only to distribute factual information. They should not be used to air problems or to express opinions. Please do not copy the Club President, the Director of Coaching, or other board members on e-mails, as they will not respond to them. Managers should not use e-mail when an *urgent* message needs to get out to the team, as a telephone call is the preferred means of sending urgent messages. Managers will also make sure that team members that do not use e-mail are contacted in another way.

## TRAVEL POLICY

The Club assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever for travel associated with Club training, practices, league or tournament play. The Club has a policy that coaches should not transport players unless accompanied by another adult. Carpooling and other cooperative transportation arrangements solely involve players and parents and the Club is not involved in said travel arrangement nor is the Club in any way responsible for making such arrangements. Accordingly, parents and players who have reached the age of majority, expressly agree to hold the Club, its officers, directors, and employees, and agents, harmless from any and all liability stemming from, or arising out of, injuries or death related to the transportation of players to and from Club training, practices, league, or tournament play.

As a player within the Club, travel outside of the city is anticipated and expected; and all players will be required to participate in every event unless injured.

### Practices

- Players must arrive at the field ten minutes prior to practice time.
- Players must practice in a MSC United practice uniform (MSC shirt and black short).
- Players must come with a properly inflated soccer ball.
- Players must wear shin-guards.
- Players must bring plenty of water.
- If a player must arrive late or leave a practice early, the coach must be notified in advance.
- If player needs to miss a practice, notification must be made to the COACH/ASST COACH/MANAGER as designated at team meeting.
- Players are allowed to practice with other teams in the club (check with both coaches first).
- Parents should avoid stepping onto the field to talk to the coach or the players. In case of emergency, parent should summon the coach to the sideline.
- If you would like a conference with the coach, please let the coach know in advance that you need to speak with him/her before or after the practice or at some point during the coach's free time.

### Games and Local Tournaments

- Players must arrive at the game field from 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes before the game as designated by the coach.
- Players must arrive properly and uniformly dressed.
- Players must only warm up with their teammates and coaches.
- Players can only be instructed by the coach during the game. **The parents' role is strictly encouragement – no coaching.**
- Any involvement of the parent with their player during the game has to be designated by the coach (injuries, water break etc.)
- If a player will be late for the game or has to leave the game early, the coach must be notified in advance.
- During the games, parents should refrain from making any comments to the game officials. The referees and linesmen should always be dealt with in a professional and courteous manner.

- Parents are not allowed to approach the coach after the game for discussions about playing time, playing position etc. Conferences should be scheduled for another time.
- Every coach, player and parent must behave according to VYSL and AYSA league and tournament rules.

### **Out-of-Town Tournaments**

- Itinerary should be given to all the players by the coach or team manager before departure to any out of town tournament.
- We strongly encourage players and families to travel and lodge together as a team.
- When players are traveling together the club recommends that they wear their MSC United Warm-ups.
- As long as the team is still playing in the tournament, players are required to meet at a designated area at a designated time as specified by the coach or manager to do any team related activities.
- Teams should designate a designated time and meeting place to travel to the fields.
- Players must be dressed uniformly when departing to the games.
- Using the swimming pool, Jacuzzi, exercise equipment, or the like must only be done with permission of the coach.
- Players must never leave the hotel without permission of their parents or coach. Parents must and coach should know the whereabouts of all players at all times.
- Players must follow the itinerary and must follow curfew precisely.
- Players are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol, or use illicit drugs.
- Every person associated with the MSC United Soccer Club must follow the rules of the hotel in which they are staying.
- Players need to be accounted for at all times with a parent, chaperone, coach or other designated person.
- Players are not allowed to run around in the hotel, play soccer in the hotel hallways, or walk barefoot or shirtless.
- Curfew will be set by team coach, honored by all players, and supported by parents and chaperones.
- If the tournament has both male and female teams, casual association during free time will be allowed in public areas, but absolutely no player will enter the rooms of players of the opposite sex.
- If a conference is necessary between the coach and an individual player, it must be done in the lobby of the hotel or if a more private area is required, then it needs to be done in the presence of a manager or the parent of the player or another adult.

## Financial Obligation

1. Training and Team Registration fees for The MSC United Soccer Club are determined on an annual basis, and these fees are subject to change each year. These fees may include charges for related training or activities such as registration fees, league fees, field use, and tournament fees and expenses. As the parent/guardian of the undersigned player, I/we acknowledge our obligation to pay our assessed fees in full and on time as invoiced by the club and/or team.
2. If a player elects to leave a team for any reason at any point in time during the season, there will be no refund of the training fees or team fees paid, and there will be no waiver or forgiveness of any outstanding or future financial obligation due to the club or team. Once a player has registered with a MSC United Team, that player is committed to the club and team for the entire season(s), including, but not limited to all training fees and team related fees. A player may not leave the Club to join another soccer club until all outstanding financial obligations to the MSC United Soccer Club and the player's team has been paid in full. If the player attempts to join another soccer club prior to obligations being settled, the Club reserves the right to pull the player's pass until such time as all amounts have been paid in full.
3. If a player is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons, there will be no refund of the training or team fees paid, and there will be no waiver or forgiveness of any outstanding or future financial obligation due to the club or team.
4. If a parent/guardian fails to fulfill the financial obligations set forth herein, then MSC United Soccer Club reserves the right to pull the player's pass, and that player will be placed in bad standing with the appropriate governing bodies until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.
5. MSC United Soccer Club offers scholarships to cover all or a portion of the Club registration fees. Scholarships are not awarded for training, uniform or team fees. These fees remain the obligation of the individual player. Scholarships are available on a limited basis to players meeting certain requirements and further accepting certain obligations of the club. A player should not accept a roster spot under the expectation that funds will be available to assist them in meeting their financial obligations.
6. All Training Fees are payable to **MSC United Soccer Club**.

Any violation of this policy will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Our club's goal is to maintain a reputation of excellence and these rules have been established to make our environment more professional, enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Please discuss any concerns or ideas with the officers of the club or the board members. In doing so you are exercising your rights as a member of the MSC United Soccer Club.

Most minor violations of the Player and Parent Agreement should be resolved within the team, through the team manager and team coach. Serious or unresolved violations should be reported initially to the Director of Coaching who will then involve the Club President, if deemed necessary. The Club President will conduct a review of the situation and present the findings to the Board of Directors which will make the final determination of what action, if any, may be appropriate. If action is necessary, the available options range from a caution or warning, to requiring a personal apology, probation, suspension from playing or attending games as the case might be, or as a final step, expulsion from the Club.

A Parent or a Player, in certain situations, including the removal of a player from the Club, will be both allowed and required to attend a hearing before the Board of Directors of the Club. As a member of the Club, you are responsible for your own actions, and will be held accountable for same. I/We acknowledge that we have read these rules and agree to abide by the policies and rules in this agreement.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

**MSC United Soccer Club**  
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