



North County Pacific Soccer Club Parent / Player Handbook

INTRODUCTION

In the interest of the players and their success we have developed the parent player agreement. Due to our experience as a successful youth development program and soccer club, we know that clear and concise communication between the club, teams, coaches, players and most importantly parents, leads to success not just for the club, but most importantly aids with individual player development and team success. This agreement is one way of explaining in detail, our expectations of you as a member of the **North County Pacific Soccer Club**. It will help identify some potential problem areas and at the same time answer questions about the CLUB'S decision making process. As you have committed to become a member of **North County Pacific Soccer Club**, please take the time to read the following pages carefully.

THE CLUB AND THE TEAM

Members of **North County Pacific Soccer Club** agree to put the CLUB ahead of the Team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the CLUB and a particular Team, the CLUB will come first. CLUB decisions will be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The decisions of the Board of Directors will be final and without appeal.

THE TEAM AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Members of **North County Pacific Soccer Club** agree to put their Team ahead of the individual Player. If conflicts arise between the Team and a Player or Parent, Team Manager and or the Board of Directors will be responsible to make decisions for the good of the Team. These decisions will be made after gathering all relevant information and consultation with those involved. The Coaches' and or Board of Directors' decision will be objective and will be based on their best evaluation of the facts. Once a decision has been made, it is final. Players and Parents must agree to abide with the decision.

PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Player performance will be evaluated by observing the Player under the pressures of annual tryouts, training, scrimmages, and or games. Only the Team Coaches will confer in matters of Player evaluation and selection.

There are many terminologies used to categorize and describe soccer abilities. Present and potential Team members will be evaluated in four areas:

Four areas of evaluation:

- 1) Mental dimensions (character, discipline, and leadership)
- 2) Physical dimensions (endurance, strength, and speed)
- 3) Technical competence (skills)
- 4) Tactical awareness (runs, reading)

If you have any questions about the meaning of these terms, please ask the Coaches. The Coaches will base their decisions on the four areas of evaluation and they are responsible to make decisions for the good of the Team. Politics, friendships, personal relationships, and financial contribution to the Club or Team will not enter into these decisions.

Your understanding here is important, for just as Players and Parents have freedom to select a soccer CLUB without unfair pressure and with a full understanding of what is expected, the Technical Director and Coaches need the same freedom to work objectively. We will not always agree on issues as sensitive as Player evaluation and selection. We hope you will respect our attempt to be objective in these matters.

TRYOUTS

Team tryouts will be held annually and are open to all Players who meet the age requirements for our Team. Each prospect will be given a fair opportunity to make the team. The CLUB will announce the open tryouts to inform the public of the specific tryout dates and times.

The open tryout period may last from one to five tryout sessions. In order to avoid wasting anyone's time, the Team Coach reserves the right to make cuts after the first tryout or to ask certain prospects to remain after the published tryout dates. Evaluations and selections will be based solely on how players perform in the four evaluation areas according to the Technical Director and Team Coach. Evaluations take place during the competitive soccer season (games and practices), as well as during open tryouts. During the tryout period please give us the same consideration and inform us whether or not you plan to join the team.

THE PLAYER

You are not under any pressure to join the team. Instead, we hope that you and your Parents will consider all your options and choose what will be best for you, taking into consideration your goals and aspirations as a person and as a soccer Player.

Once you commit to join **North County Pacific Soccer Club**, you agree to abide by the policies of the CLUB and your Team.

This commitment is for one soccer season only. The soccer season begins in **March** with conditioning and continues through the following **February**, depending on the success of the Team through state, regional, and national competition. At the end of the soccer season your commitment to the team is over and you are free to leave the team if you feel it is in your best interest. At the beginning of the next soccer season you are again free to tryout under the same guidelines previously mentioned. Remember, in the event our Team qualifies for regional or national competition, we expect you to fulfill your commitment to the Team through the end of that competition regardless of your status with the Team for the following season.

We expect our Players and Parents to be ethical, honest and honor their commitments both verbal and written; therefore you should make your decisions thoughtfully and carefully. Once your commitment is made, the Team expects your full participation and support for the entire soccer season. Take into account that when you make your commitment, the Coaching Staff and trainer may need to inform other potential Players they did not make the Team. Please be sensitive to others and consider your decision carefully. If you have committed to the Team, the Team will also be ethical and honest, honoring its commitment to you. No Player will be cut from a Team during a soccer season unless it is for disciplinary reasons or failure to fulfill your financial obligations. The team Coach will make decisions regarding temporary suspension from the Club after carefully consulting with the Board of Directors. Decisions by the Board are final.

As a member of our Team, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability will be expected at all times. The Team asks that you care about yourself and the sport of soccer. This requires that you maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy Team attitude. In addition, our Team will insist you maintain a positive Team attitude and a personal sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

At all CLUB, Tournament or Team functions you will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectable manner and to represent the CLUB and your Team in a positive way.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

In order to promote CLUB and Team unity it is essential that all Players be committed to wearing the designated **North County Pacific Soccer Club** uniform and colors of the CLUB in it's entirety. Returning players retain priority in choosing uniform numbers.

BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAMES

During the soccer season the Team and its Players participate in practices, league competition, tournaments, league and state cup. The Coaches will make decisions on Player selections, game lineup, Player's position, amount of playing time, tournament participation, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the Team at any moment, even if that role has them not playing at all, coming off the bench, or playing a different position.

From the designated arrival time at all practices and games, Players are expected to concentrate on soccer. Players must arrive on time with required equipment (shoes, proper uniform, soccer ball, shin guards, water, etc.) and be ready to practice or play. Since practicing and playing their best requires undivided attention, there will be no visiting between Players and Parents, family, friends, pets or others (who might cause Players to lose focus on soccer) from immediately before the practice or game until they have been dismissed by the Coach. This includes half-time and the conclusion of games, when Players are expected to get water, then immediately join the Team and Coach for game discussion or Team adjustments. When necessary, Coaches may ask Players to do hard physical workouts immediately following games. When Team responsibilities are over, Players are free to join family and friends.

Rest periods between games may be spent with family members or friends if time and the Team Coach permit. However, the period between games is not to be seen as a family time, vacation time, or a time to go sightseeing. There will be times when the Coach will require the Team stay together while waiting for the next game. At other times, the Coach may allow Players to go with family or friends. This decision will be left entirely up to the Coach and he is free to reverse any decision at any time if it is in the best interest of the Team. Individual exceptions may be made if the situation warrants but that decision, as well, will be left entirely up to the Coach, whose decision will be final.

TEAM TRAVEL

During the course of the soccer season, our Team will participate in away games. It is the Player's responsibility to arrange transportation to these games. In most instances Players will be able to arrange travel in conjunction with other Team members. All players are expected to arrive on-time and prepared to play.

THE PARENTS

Parental support and involvement with the Team is essential. If your son/daughter is selected and chooses to commit herself to the **North County Pacific Soccer Club** your commitment is also necessary. **North County Pacific Soccer Club** is a volunteer organization and parents will be asked to volunteer from time to time. If Players are to make a quality commitment to their Team, Parents must see to it that their players attend all possible Team functions (practices, meetings, fundraisers, parties, games, etc.). There will be times conflicts cannot be avoided and other more important events occur. The Team requires your communication, planning, and understanding so we can minimize conflicts. It is the Team's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for your planning. When Parents or Players have an unavoidable conflict, the Team expects timely communication to see if it can make any necessary adjustments. Final decisions on scheduling and adjustments will be made by the Coaching Staff and Team Coach after careful consideration of your needs and those of the Team.

SIDELINE COACHING

There will be no coaching by Parents. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist there be no shouting instructions to your child or yelling (complaining) to officials during games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play. "Go" or "Shoot" are interpreted as instructions and as such are not desirable. It is important Players not be distracted at practices (Parents and friends please stay off the designated practice area, including the goal mouths), during games, and that Players are given only one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after practices and games. For this reason, the Team insists that the Team Coach and/or Staff Coach be the only voice at all games and practices. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the Team bench before and during games (please respect the space and privacy necessary for the Coach and Team to carry out their game responsibilities).

Our Team's first concern is for the long term growth and development of your child as a person along with their soccer abilities under pressure. There will be times Coaches make decisions and Players are instructed to do things Parents will not understand. Team, and Player development will always be given a greater priority than winning, especially in the years prior to high school. Parents must understand this and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a healthy Team environment. Remember, playing only to win without taking healthy Team, and Player

development into account will not result in a solid foundation upon which your child will be prepared for success.

Parents, always at the appropriate moment and time, feel free to communicate and ask questions about your child. Please take the initiative to teach your child to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible.

The **North County Pacific Soccer Club** believes in and teaches Players the benefit of having positive outlook to guide their intense focus on the game of soccer. We will instruct your child to ignore adverse conditions such as bad referees, name calling, foul language, rough play, cheating, poor weather, negative behavior by Parents or opponents etc. We expect our Parents to have this same positive outlook.

THE COACH

The Coaches for the **North County Pacific Soccer Club** are instructed to conduct themselves first as teachers and second as soccer Coaches. Nothing positive will come of the CLUB'S efforts if we produce world-class Players who do not know how to conduct themselves as successful human beings. In this regard you can expect your Coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and display appropriate behavior. Our Coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on Players' lives.

Coaches are responsible for conduct of the Team on and off the field when the Team is together and part of a Team event. We insist our Players are polite, well behaved, and respectful. Players and Parents can expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from the Coach.

The commitment the Team Coach makes under no circumstances guarantees Players will be offered a college scholarship, or be considered for advanced levels of play. The Team and the Coaches do guarantee to give Players the tools and skills to enable them to become as good as their ability; desire, commitment, and effort take them.

The Team Coach is responsible to create an environment where you can play quality competitive soccer. The soccer we play will be taken very seriously. We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer. In terms of priority family and school work come first. However, if the Coaches see you are not willing to put your soccer above other recreational activities during the season, it may affect your playing time and/or your status with the Team. As a member of our Team we expect you to commit to the sport of soccer and your Team as your first recreational activity and priority during the soccer season.

Do not expect the Coaches to praise everything. After a time there are things the Coach will come to expect from every Player. There are times when the Coaches will say very little, and times they may yell out instructions. There are times they will be critical of Players, and other times they will be generous with praise. Players and Parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to accept both.

The Team Coach will be available to provide instruction in soccer for 4-6 hours per Team per week. During the later parts of the season instruction hours may go up due to tournament play (sometimes Saturday and Sunday) and State Cup preparations. The Team Coach will attend practices and will coach at games. In situations where conflicts do occur, and they will, the Team Manager and Team Coach will designate a Coach to cover that particular practice or game.

PURPOSE

Our attempt with this agreement is to present in clear detail exactly what will be expected of you and what you can expect of the Team, the Technical Director and Team Coaches. If you are uncertain what is expected, it is your responsibility to ask one of your Coaches. Knowing and understanding these things, your participation with the Team will be positive for you as you develop your soccer abilities to the highest level possible. We have high expectations for the Team, and you.

These expectations are really the rules, regulations, and policies for the **North County Pacific Soccer Club**. So that you and every Player on our Team can get the maximum benefit, we need you and every Player to abide by Club and Team rules, regulations and policies.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

If disciplinary actions are necessary, the following steps may be taken:

1. The Team Coach will discuss the problem directly and privately with the Player, with the assumption the problem will be corrected immediately.

2. If the problem persists, the Team Coach will communicate with the Player's Parents to discuss the problem and lack of response on the part of the Player. Parents will have the opportunity to be involved with correction of the problem at this time.

3. If the problem still continues, the Technical Director or Coach may temporarily suspend the Player. If the situation warrants, the Technical Director may recommend to the Board of Directors that the Player be removed from the Team. The Parents will be notified of the Board of Directors recommendation.

4. The Parents of any Player recommended for removal from the Team may request to meet with the Technical Director/Board of Directors.

Our desire is to work in a positive, constructive way with our Players. Everyone has problems from time to time and we will make every effort to work with you to help solve the problems you may have. After we have exhausted all efforts to solve the problem, we will be left with little choice other than to pursue disciplinary action as outlined above.

I HAVE READ THIS PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT AND I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES OF THE NORTH COUNTY PACIFIC SOCCER CLUB FOR THE 2010-2011 SOCCER SEASON. AT THE END OF THIS SEASON MY COMMITMENT IS COMPLETE AND I AM FREE TO PLAY FOR ANOTHER TEAM IF I SO CHOOSE. LIKEWISE, THE TEAM'S COMMITMENT TO ME IS COMPLETE AT THE END OF THIS SEASON. I AM FREE TO ATTEND OR TO DECIDE NOT TO ATTEND OPEN TRYOUTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S TEAM.

PLAYER _____ DATE _____

PARENT _____ DATE _____

TEAM COACH _____ DATE _____