



Boerne FC Thunder Select League Handbook



v.12.22.11

Thank you for allowing your child to play with Boerne Soccer Club (dba Boerne FC Thunder and FC Thunder). Our club, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is managed by parent volunteers who are committed to foster a safe and fun environment for children in our community to enjoy and learn more about the great sport of soccer.



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1. OPERATIONS

Boerne Soccer Club, Inc. (DBA Boerne FC Thunder) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All FC Thunder leadership, with the exception of professional trainers, are volunteers.

1.1 Board of Directors

The FC Thunder Board of Directors (BOD) is the governing board and is responsible for the internal structure and policies.

FC Thunder members are encouraged to attend BOD Meetings; check our website for the most current schedule.

1.2 Staff

FC Thunder practice staff, consisting of professional trainers and parent volunteer coaches, is led by the Director of Coaching (DOC)

To learn more about and obtain contact information for FC Thunder Board of Directors and Staff, please visit www.boernesoccer.org.

2. COMMUNICATION

2.1 Methods

In order to ensure players and families receive the most current information in an expeditious manner, FC Thunder primarily uses electronic methods (ie, email, text messages, telephone and Internet sites); FC Thunder treats player and family information in a confidential manner and does not provide email distribution lists external to the club.

2.2 Website and Social Media

The following links are official Internet sites for FC Thunder:

- Website: www.boernesoccer.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Boerne-Soccer-Club-BSC-OFFICIAL-PAGE/247038891978762
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/boernesoccer

2.3 Team Webpages

FC Thunder Select and Academy teams will have a designated webpage located within the club website (see the “Teams” page). Team managers (or designees) will be responsible for maintaining the webpage with team-specific information including: current events, and practice session, game, and tournament schedules.



Player confidentiality is very important, so discretion should be exercised when posting information to the team webpage. Player privacy will be respected if players elect not to be included on the webpage. Team managers (or designees) should adhere to the following guidelines when posting player information:

Prohibited	Acceptable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First and last name• Address• Phone number (of any kind)• Name of school• Uniform Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last name only• Team picture*

* Players will not be identified; individuals in pictures will not be tagged with their specific names or numbers

2.3.1 Administration

Team managers (or designees) should contact the FC Thunder webmaster to request write access to the team-specific webpage; recommend one person per team allowed write access.

The FC Thunder Webmaster, at his/her discretion, may request revision to content of webpages and/or may revise accordingly.

3. FC THUNDER SELECT LEAGUE

3.1 Overview

The FC Thunder Select Program is designed for U11-U19 (see Age Group Table below) to determine your child's designated soccer age group) players interested in strengthening their skills and gaining additional knowledge in a competitive environment, while receiving coaching by professional trainers. All FC Thunder Select Coaches are compensated professionals who are nationally certified by United States Soccer Federation (USSF) or National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Players are required to try-out in order to become a member of a FC Thunder Select Team that will play matches against intra-association counterparts from South Texas. Travel will be required for approximately half of the games. Tryouts are hosted annually in May – June and teams are re-established each year. It is possible a player who completes the tryout process may not be offered a spot on a Select Team, however if spots are available, players may be accommodated by adding them to a recreational team in their age group.

Players accepting a spot on a FC Thunder Select Team are required to commit to the team from July 1 through May 31. During this 11-month time period, players will be



trained according to United States Soccer Federation (USSF) curriculum. Switching teams between the Fall and Spring is discouraged, however, rare circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Upon completion of the season, FC Thunder staff will evaluate individual players and provide feedback regarding current skill level while highlighting progress accomplished over the seasonal year. In addition, guidance will be provided for areas for development.

To remain in good standing, players and families are required to adhere to rules, agreements, and policies of the following:

- FC Thunder
- Alamo Area Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA)
- Western District Division One Association (WDDOA); Division I players and above
- South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA)
- United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

3.2 Level of Play

The Competitive League includes the following Divisions: Division I, Super II Competitive, & Division II

3.2.1 Division II (Competitive or Select, age levels U11 – U19)

Considered a competitive level of play and generally includes the more skilled players from within the club. These teams will play intra association through AAYSA. These teams may hold tryouts and select their players.

3.2.2 Division SII (Competitive, Super Blue, age levels U11 – U19)

A more competitive level of competition than Division II, these teams may hold tryouts and select their players. Teams must qualify for this level of play according to their District requirements and play a District-wide schedule.

3.2.3 Division I (Competitive, age levels U11 – U19)

The third highest level of competition, these teams are generally comprised of the top players within the regional association. Tryouts may be held and players selected for this level of play. Teams must qualify according to their District requirements and play a District-wide schedule. League play for these teams is administered through the Western District Division One Association (WDDOA).

3.2.4 STYSA State Classic League (SCL) (Age levels U13 – U19)

This level is intended to provide the highest possible level of competition for the STYSA competitive teams. It will serve as the league from which teams will qualify to participate in Premier League West (PLW). League play for these teams is administered through the Western District Division One Association (WDDOA).



3.2.5 Premier (Age levels U13 – U19)

Highest level of competition and is made up of the top SCL teams within each association/region. League play for these teams is administered through the WDDOA.

3.3 Parent and Player Commitment Agreement

FC Thunder will offer a player a spot on a Select Team after tryouts have concluded. If a player accepts a spot on a FC Thunder Select Team, he/she is required to complete a Parent and Player Commitment Agreement which reflects his/her commitment for a full seasonal year.

3.4 Exclusivity

During the aforementioned time period, players accepting spots are required to play exclusively for the FC Thunder Select Team (with the exception of school coordinated sports); thus, players should not play for more than one team (despite level of play) at the same time in any league unless written authorization (eg, Club Player Pass) is provided by the DOC

3.5 Age Groups

Age will be determined by the player's age as of midnight on July 31st of the year in which the player could be registered for fall season play. Teams are normally formed so that players are placed on the youngest team for which they qualify.

U11-U18; see the following Age Group Table to determine your child's "soccer age group" using year and month of birth. For example, a child born in September 2000 is in the U11 age group.



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	COMPETITIVE Premier, Division I, Super II, Division II, or Recreational Division III										RECREATIONAL Division IV					
	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07
JAN	Too Old To Play															
FEB																
MAR																
APR		U19	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	U6	U5
MAY																
JUN																
JUL																
AUG																
SEP																
OCT	U19	U18	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	U6	U5	Too Young to Play
NOV																
DEC																

3.6 Aspects of the Game

	Level of Play	Age Group	Co-Ed ³	Goal Keeper	Game Format	Max Players per Team	Minimum to Avoid Forfeit	Game Length (min)	Ball Size
Recreational¹	Division IV	U5-U6	Yes	No	3 v 3	6	3	Four 8 min quarters	3
		U7	No	No	4 v 4	7	2	Four 10 min quarters	3
		U8	No	No	4 v 4	7	2	Four 10 min quarters	3
		U9	No	Yes	6 v 6	10	4	Two 25 min halves	4
		U10	No	Yes	6 v 6	10	4	Two 25 min halves	4
Competitive²	Premier Division I Super II Division II Recreation Div III	U11	No	Yes	8 v 8	14	6	Two 30 min halves	4
		U12	No	Yes	8 v 8	14	6	Two 30 min halves	4
		U13-U14	Yes	Yes	11 v 11	18	7	Two 35 min halves	5
		U15-U16	Yes	Yes	11 v 11	18	7	Two 40 min halves	5
		U17-U19	Yes	Yes	11 v 11	22	7	Two 45 min halves	5

¹Inter-club; ²Intra-association; ³Academy and above are considered co-ed since girls may play on boys teams.



3.7 Tryouts/Team Formation

FC Thunder hosts Select Team tryouts following the Spring Soccer Season. During tryout sessions, FC Thunder Director of Coaching (DOC) and professional trainers evaluate players using age group-specific United States Soccer Federation (USSF) guidelines that include:

- **Technique (skill):** The ability to dribble, pass, shoot, receive, and head the ball under variable levels of pressure conditions.
- **Tactics (speed of play):** Decision-making with and without the ball.
- **Fitness and Athletic Ability (athleticism):** Speed, endurance, strength, power, and agility.
- **Psychology (coachability):** Mental toughness and competitiveness.

Upon completion of the tryout sessions, the DOC and trainers collaborate to determine team placement, where applicable.

Players are required to try out for their age-specific groups. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Director of Coaching.

3.8 Registration

The Team Manager will coordinate all matters of team registration with the Club Registrar. Players will begin registering 45 days after the end of the preceding season or as otherwise set by FC Thunder, AAYSA, WDDOA, or STYSA and no later than four weeks prior to the first game. This includes but not limited to:

- Ensuring completion of On-Line Registration for all players w/birth certificate for all players new to FC Thunder.
- Adult On-Line Registration (KidSafe) must be completed by all coaches, manager, and trainers.
- Transfer/Release Forms should be submitted, as needed, to the Registrar with accompanying penalty points accrued.
 - Exception: All Transfer/Release Forms should be signed/completed by the player and parent. In the event that neither the player nor parent returns the signed form, then sufficient proof (in the form of certified mail) of the attempt to secure the signed form will be considered acceptable only for the release of players prior to the Roster Freeze date.
- Competitive teams will submit an annotated Roster (or list marked) with known pending Transfers and Releases from the Fall to the Registrar prior to the first Spring tryout to ensure correct rostering of returning and new players for Spring registration.

3.9 Recruiting

Competitive teams may approach players beginning the first Monday after the last day of the playoffs until the player has accepted an invitation from a competitive team or they have been rostered to a recreational team and it is within two weeks of the start of



seasonal play with the prior approval of the Vice President of Recreational Program and consultation with the Club Registrar regarding the impact to recreational team.

Once a player has accepted an invitation from any team, a Player Release Form will be required in order for another coach, team or club representative to approach the player. Approach means any contact with a player, including but not limited to inviting the player to practice or tryout, talking to the player about changing teams, or any other form of recruitment initiated by the coach or team representatives. Violation of this rule may result in a disciplinary hearing and suspension of coaching privileges for the involved party(ies). However, if a team is disbanded prior to the start of seasonal play, players may be released or reassigned without requesting a transfer.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and/or any team representative may not request or allow players other than ones on their team roster to practice or participate in any soccer activities unless it is with the prior knowledge and consent of the player's primary coach.

3.10 Coaching

Each team will have a Professionally Certified Trainer who will serve as the Head Coach whose responsibilities includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- Obtain a 'KidSafe Card' after successfully completing a background check
- Conduct training sessions
- Coach during games
- Complete player evaluations
- Host team meetings during the seasonal year
- Serve as the primary point of contact for parents regarding the communication of a potential grievance
- Communicate with the team manager regarding practice & game schedules, tournaments, and other team-related activities.

*FC Thunder trainers typically coach more than one team, thus conflicting game schedules may prevent the coach from attending a game. In these instances, FC Thunder will ensure another professional trainer is available to coach the team.

3.11 Team Manager

The role of Team Manager is typically fulfilled by a volunteer parent whose responsibilities (see Roles and Responsibilities Policy for cumulative list) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Obtain a 'KidSafe Card' after successfully completing a background check
- Communicate information to the team in a timely manner
- Maintain the team webpage calendar for use as primary source of scheduling



- Ensure the team complies with expectations, as specified in the Roles and Responsibilities Policy, established by FC Thunder

Volunteers interested in serving in this role should communicate with VP of Select and/or team coach.

3.12 Season

Fall (July to December) and Spring (January to May) is a season

3.13 Games Frequency & Playing Time

Aim to have as many as 8 matches per season; however, the number of games is subject to schedule changes by our governing body, weather, and other unforeseen circumstances. FC Thunder strives to provide at least 50% playing time (not applicable to Division I), however, it may be impacted by several factors including punctuality, attendance, and attitude.

Following are Division-specific guidelines:

3.13.1 Division I U11/12, Super II, and Divisions II

Coaches are required to play each registered player that is present one-half of the game unless unable to do so due to player's illness or injury or for disciplinary reasons. In the event that a player is present, but will not play, then the coach must inform the referee and the opposing coach as to the reason that player will not participate.

3.13.2 Division I >U13

There is no minimum playing time for each registered player on the team.

3.13.3 Team Standings

Season standings in Division I, Super II, and Division II inter-association games will be determined by the rules of the competition or as administered by that Division's Commissioner/VP and rules, including intra-association play.

3.14 Practices

Twice weekly training sessions for 16 weeks; may occur on Monday thru Thursday. Attendance is mandatory. Missed practices may be made-up with another team.

3.15 Cost

See website Registration page for details.

3.16 Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for players who have been offered, and accepted, a spot on a FC Thunder Select Team. Funds for assistance are limited and the amount of an individual award will be determined by the number of qualified applicants requesting assistance and the total amount of funds available. Assistance is only awarded to reduce an amount of the registration fee and may not be applied toward costs of



uniforms or any other team-specific additional expenses. Learn more about financial assistance by going to the website Registration page.

3.17 Team Photos

Optional team photos are scheduled to occur on the second or third weekend of the season, before the scheduled game of the day.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

4.1.1 End of Season Party

Teams may convene for an end of season party at their discretion. This is a great opportunity for us to show support for FC Thunder sponsors by hosting the activity at their facility. We encourage the team to split the cost of the party among all team members.

5. FC THUNDER PROGRAMS

5.1 Olympic Development Program

FC Thunder is proud to have players who participate in the Olympic Development Program and to have our Director of Coaching to be part of the staff. Additional information regarding this program may be found at www.stxsoccer.org.

5.1.1 Benefits

- Development as a player. The opportunity to train and play with the best player's in one's age group.
- Quality instruction from nationally licensed coaches.
- Quality competition. Games against other state association ODP teams.
- Exposure to regional and national team coaches.
- The opportunity to represent one's state, region, or country in competition.
- Exposure to college coaches.

5.2 College Development (U15-U18)

The FC Thunder College Development Program prepares children, beginning with the Select League, to play competitively in high school and college. College-focused preparation begins as the player enters high school and concludes at graduation. Our program is a culmination of organized activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Visits at schools with NCAA programs to learn more about the next level of play, required preparation, and demands and expectations of being a collegiate soccer player
- Host guest speakers and coaches who run college training sessions for players and provide guidance on the college recruiting and playing experience. Previous



guest speakers/coaches include Houston Dynamo's Brian Ching, NCAA coaches, and past and current college players

- Showcasing players by participating in tournaments attended by college coaches
- Development of a player-specific profile (soccer resume)
- Initiating and managing contacts with college coaches

6. INSURANCE COVERAGE AND MEDICAL INJURIES

Excess accident coverage is automatically provided to registered members of South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) as a part of the registration fee paid to the State. This policy provides for coverage for registered players, coaches, trainers, and other officials, during sanctioned events including regularly scheduled practices and games. For players or members who have health insurance coverage this insurance acts as secondary coverage. For players or members that do not have other health insurance coverage, this coverage acts as primary insurance. Members are covered:

- While participating in the STYSA sanctioned play, practice or other scheduled soccer group activity under the supervision of a authorized official acting on behalf of STYSA.
- While traveling as an organized group directly and uninterruptedly to and/or from such play or practice at the direction of an authorized STYSA official.

Use the following South Texas Youth Soccer Association (STYSA) website link for details regarding insurance coverage: www.stxsoccer.org/Risk/Insurance/index_E.html

7. FIELD CARE

Trainers, coaches, players, and parents are responsible for assuring all game and practice areas are clean from trash and/or debris prior to vacating the premises. Many of the fields are provided by schools, city, county or private institutions, thus, it is in our best interest to care for the fields so we may continue to access them for future use.

All coaches, volunteers, and parents are expected to comply with parking rules of each facility used by the FC Thunder for soccer activities.

FC Thunder prohibits practicing on waterlogged fields; the club in conjunction with the facility owner may close fields due to weather-related conditions.

8. FC THUNDER POLICY

8.1 Zero Tolerance

- ❖ FC Thunder enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding behaviors, comments, and actions that endanger or threaten the environment of good sportsmanship and safe play for all soccer participants. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Use of foul language, criticism, abusive or derogatory comments toward referees, coaches, team managers, volunteers, commissioners, parents, board members, or any other individuals
 - Interference with referees, coaches, team managers, or opposing teams



Important:

FC Thunder actively enforces this policy. Individuals violating any aspect of the policy will be immediately dismissed from FC THUNDER soccer facilities and may be permanently banned for the remainder of the season, and/or from the league. FC Thunder will notify law enforcement officials regarding circumstances involving physical altercations and/or assault or battery of any players, referees, coaches, or parents regardless of the claimed purpose or age of the offender(s).

FC Thunder strives to create a safe and fun environment where youth may come together to play and learn physical and leadership skills. Please help support this environment by adhering to the policy while enjoying your child(ren) playing the great sport of soccer.

8.2 Equipment

8.2.1 Uniform Kit

Players should only use FC Thunder-approved uniforms, warm-ups, and back packs. Uniform modifications are prohibited.

Parents should label all soccer-related clothing and equipment to facilitate their return should they be lost or misplaced.

Contact the Uniform Coordinator to order additional uniform items.

8.2.1.1 *Uniform Numbers*

❖ **Number Selection**

- Requests for uniform numbers should be communicated to the Uniform Coordinator during the uniform sizing session.
- Players belonging to the Legacy Team* are allowed first choice to retain their previously assigned number or choose another number. Thereafter, players new to the team may choose their numbers.

*Legacy players are determined by the majority of returning players forming the team

8.2.2 Practice Kit

Practice kits (consisting of two practice shirts, shorts, and socks) are required.

8.2.3 Winter Gear

8.2.3.1 *Practice Sessions*

Players should wear FC Thunder warm-ups with required practice uniform underneath.



8.2.3.2 Games

Players should wear FC Thunder warm-ups, with required uniform underneath, during warm-up and if on the bench. Players are prohibited from wearing warm-ups during games; however, exceptions may be made in extreme cold conditions (warm-up bottoms may be worn in this circumstance).

If undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt” and “if undershorts or tights are worn, they must be the same main color as the shorts.

Gloves and ear banks are allowed; however, hats are discouraged.

8.3 Refunds

FC Thunder will offer a player a spot on a Select Team after tryouts have concluded. If a player accepts a spot on a FC Thunder Select Team, he/she is required to complete a Parent and Player Commitment Agreement, which reflects his/her obligation for a full year (Fall and Spring).

Upon receipt of the completed Parent and Player Commitment Agreement, FC Thunder will not issue refunds (partial or full) for players who choose not to participate at any point after the commitment is made, who are suspended, or who have been removed from the program due to policy violation.

The FC Thunder Board of Directors, at its discretion, may issue a refund for players unable to play for at least 8 weeks resulting from relocation or medical reason. Written requests for refund in these cases are required to be submitted to the Treasurer; request is required to be accompanied by written proof of relocation or medical condition.

Excess funds resulting from overpayment will be credited to the annual fees for the subsequent season. If a player does not return for the subsequent season, then a refund will be administered at that time.

8.4 Roles & Responsibilities

The following list includes rules and expectations for FC Thunder parents, players, parent coaches, trainers, and team managers:

8.4.1 Player

❖ Behavior & Attitude

- Respect parents, coaches, referees, opponents, and fellow players.
- Remain ‘coachable’; be open to constructive criticism
- Work with a ball at home everyday
- Do not use profanity, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
- Play the game fairly, minimizing behavior that warrants yellow and red cards.



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- Demonstrate good behavior at all FC Thunder activities. Players failing to do so may be suspended from future practice sessions and games.
- ❖ Practice Session & Games
 - Attend and arrive at practice sessions and games at designated times.
 - Attend all practice sessions and games; inform coach (or designee) if you will be tardy or absent for a practice session or game
 - Be prepared by wearing/bringing proper uniform & equipment
 - Practice Shirt (practice sessions), both jerseys (games), shorts, and socks, shin guards covered fully by socks, soccer shoes (turf or cleats as specified), warm-ups (as applicable), inflated soccer ball (see Game Format for correct size) and water
 - **Remove all jewelry** (e.g., earrings, rings, necklaces, watches, bracelets, hard hair bands/clips), sunglasses (recommend using sport glasses, if needed, for medical prescriptions). Considering the prohibition regarding earrings, parents should consider not having a child's ears pierced in advance of the season such that the child is unable to remove the earrings before practice sessions and games.
 - **Players are prohibited from practicing or playing with casts** of any type; player is required to provide a signed medical release from player's doctor or legal guardian before returning for play.
 - **Players who are bleeding or have blood on themselves or uniforms** must be treated, cleaned, and change uniforms, if necessary, before returning to play
 - Align equipment neatly on player side of field

8.4.2 Parents

- ❖ Supervision
 - Supervise (be available in case of injury) your child at all activities (ie, practice sessions, games, etc); do not interfere (unless for emergency) with coach and/or player practice sessions/games until team is dismissed
- ❖ Alcohol & Tobacco
 - Do not consume alcohol or use tobacco at soccer facilities where practices and games occur; including parking lot)
 - Do not attend any soccer-related activity (or visit facilities) if intoxicated
- ❖ Positive Support
 - Be a parent, not a coach or referee.
 - Respect fellow parents, coaches, referees, opponents, and players.
 - Support your son/daughter in a positive manner.
 - Give consistent encouragement and support to children regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill or time on the field.
 - Stress the importance of respect for coaches through discussions with children and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.
 - Leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance.



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- Avoid placing pressure on children about playing time and performance.
- ❖ Pre-Practice Session & Games
 - Assist player in attending and arriving practice sessions and game kickoffs at designated times.
 - Properly equip players with shin guards, soccer shoes, shorts or warm-ups (as applicable), and water
 - **Remove all player's jewelry** (e.g., earrings, rings, necklaces, watches, bracelets, hard hair bands/clips), sunglasses (recommend using sport glasses, if needed, for medical prescriptions). Considering the prohibition regarding earrings, parent should consider not having a child's ears pierced in advance of the season such that the child is unable to remove the earrings before practice sessions and games.
 - Inform coach (or designee) if player will be tardy or absent for a practice session or game
- ❖ Practice Sessions & Games
 - Please do not:
 - Coach during games or practices (to prevent player confusion).
 - Interfere, after your child has joined the team for practices or games, until the team is dismissed by the coach
 - Go onto field during practice sessions and/or games
 - Sit on top of or beyond the sideline; instead, sit 5 feet from the sideline in the designated area, which is typically on the opposite side of the field from the team
- ❖ Grievances
 - See Grievance Policy section

Important:

It is noteworthy to emphasize FC Thunder actively enforces this Roles and Responsibilities Policy. If necessary, FC Thunder will convene a Board of Directors Committee to review, evaluate, and determine if policy was violated. Based on the outcome of the committee meeting, individuals may be suspended from future club activities.

FC Thunder strives to create a safe and fun environment where youth may come together to play and learn physical and leadership skills. Please help support this environment by adhering to policy while enjoying your child(ren) play the great sport of soccer.

8.4.3 Trainers

FC Thunder Trainers are required to adhere to the following rules, responsibilities, and expectations:

- ❖ Policy



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- Adhere to and enforce Zero Tolerance and 24 Hour Cool-Down Policies
- Ensure team follows FC Thunder policies
- Follow rain-out policy as communicated by authorized FC Thunder representative; trainers should not unilaterally decide to cancel practice
- Follow the FC Thunder style of play and philosophy
- ❖ Availability
 - Be available at times that include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 75-90 minute practice sessions twice weekly; age-group dependent
 - All seasonal games
 - Tournaments
 - Staff Development Practice
 - Be punctual for all meetings, practice sessions, and games
- ❖ Player Management
 - Meet FC Thunder goals established for players
 - Provide FC Thunder with a season plan outline, including objectives
 - Provide player evaluations at the end of each season
- ❖ Team Management
 - Oversee all aspects of your assigned team during the season year
 - Ensure 'Kid Safe Badge' is visible at all times on game days
 - Ensure only those required individuals with 'Kid Safe Badges' accompany the team at practice sessions and games
 - Use FC Thunder-approved practice equipment for all practice sessions and games
 - Have all necessary equipment (e.g., goals, balls, cones, and practice vests) available and prepared in advance of the practice session and/or games
 - Prepare and review session plans in advance of the each practice session
 - Refrain from using a cell phone (unless for an emergency) during practice sessions and games
 - Decide all player line-ups and playing times
 - Comply with the '50% Rule' regarding minimum playing time; for applicable age groups
 - Players may play less than 50% of the game in certain circumstances. Exceptions to the '50% Rule' may result from display of negative/poor player attitude as demonstrated by absence from or tardiness to practices and games
 - If an exception to the '50% Rule' is anticipated, the trainer is required to inform the player and parents of the decision and supporting rationale at least 48 hours in advance of the game. In addition, the trainer is required to inform the referee and opposing coach of the disciplinary action on game day.
 - Provide summary to DOC within 72 hours of game completion which should include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Opponent name, final score, location, and brief match analysis
 - Incidents with players, parents and/or opposing coach



- Ensure team managers do not run or facilitate practice sessions
- ❖ Communication
 - Notify the Director of Coaching immediately upon receipt of a parent complaint
 - Notify the Director of Coaching 48 hours in advance of the following:
 - Unable to attend a practice session or game(s)
 - Meetings with players and/or parents
 - Contact the Director of Coaching if interested in working with any team outside the season

8.4.4 Team Manager

- ❖ Manage administrative activities
- ❖ Act as the primary source of timely email communication with the team
- ❖ Ensure soccer-related questions are directed to the coach/trainer
- ❖ Calendar: Maintain team webpage; including calendar as primary source of activity schedule
- ❖ Player ID Cards: obtain cards from Registrar and develop for team
 - U11 and above: Cards are required to have a photo and player signature. Please begin taking or collecting player photos upon receipt of your roster. Players participating in the Spring season may use their Fall season ID cards; only new players will receive ID cards in the Spring.
- ❖ Game Cards: Division II and above: contact league-specific commissioner. When playing as the Home Team, complete game card accordingly, then ask the visiting team to include their information. Thereafter, the game card should be provided to the referee before the game. After the game, cards should be handled in accordance with League/Division rules.
- ❖ Penalty Point Report: Player, who should wear uniform with pinny while sitting-out due to red card, should be documented on game card. Referee should be informed of player who is sitting-out before start of game.
- ❖ Uniforms: offer Uniform Coordinator assistance and act as liaison for your team
- ❖ Parent Contact List: develop and distribute
- ❖ Policy Compliance: Adhere to and ensure the team complies with expectations established by FC Thunder

8.5 Practice Sessions & Games

8.5.1 Absence

- ❖ Players are required to attend team practice sessions and games
- ❖ Players may be excused from practice sessions or games due to the following:
 - Family emergencies, medical illnesses or injury, or accidents
 - School functions (non-athletic)
 - College-related activities
 - Religious activities



8.6 Guest Playing

Players wishing to guest play with another club are required to obtain approval from their coach and DOC.

8.7 Fundraising

Unless authorized to do so, FC Thunder members are prohibited from soliciting businesses using the club name.

Reproduction of the FC Thunder logo or design is prohibited unless written authorization has been obtained from FC Thunder BOD.

8.8 Inclement Weather

8.8.1 Home Games

While we strive to adhere to practice session and games schedules at Boerne City Park, inclement weather may cause cancellations. A club designee is responsible for assessing field conditions. If a decision is taken to cancel a practice/game, the cancellation notice will be communicated (via text and/or email) to VPs/Commissioners, then to Team Managers and finally to parents. In addition, a notice* will be posted asap on the first page of club website. We strive to communicate cancellations by 4pm and 7:15am on practice and games days, respectively.

*Field Status:

- Green: open; all practice sessions and games will proceed as scheduled
- Red: closed; all practices sessions and games are cancelled
- Yellow: pending; field conditions under evaluation - update forthcoming

Sessions will be cancelled or postponed if lightning is observed.

8.8.2 Away/Visiting Games

8.8.2.1 *Division I*

Reference Western District Division One Association (WDDOA) website (www.wddoa.org) for field status and maps, in addition to rainout numbers. WDDOA, not FC Thunder, is responsible for deciding upon field closures.

For bracket-specific News and Game Field Status (click Schedule link on WDDOA page), we recommend parents sign-up to receive electronic alerts (via email or text) due to high frequency of travel.

8.8.2.2 *Super II and Division II*

Field closures are decided at the discretion of each hosting club or association. Team managers should monitor field status and communicate to teams accordingly.



8.9 Complaints, Grievances and Protests

Complaints are required to be provided, in written format, to the FC Thunder President and/or Executive Vice-President (contact information is available at www.boernesoccer.org) who will evaluate the basis of the complaint in an effort to determine appropriate action.

FC Thunder shall comply with AAYSA and STYSA policies and procedures with regard to grievances and protests; see FC Thunder By-Laws for details. FC Thunder uses the STYSA Discipline and Protest Procedures and the AAYSA D&P Committee. These procedures may be found on the STYSA website at www.stxsoccer.org. It is highly recommended the originator of the protest discuss the matter with a member of the FC Thunder BOD prior to filing the protest.

8.9.1 Referees

Referee-specific issues or concerns regarding referees may be communicated to the Referee Assignor (or Senior Referee) on-duty. Thereafter, issues or concerns may be communicated to the age-group Commissioner.

8.9.2 Coaches

8.9.2.1 '24 Hour Rule'

FC Thunder enforces the '24 Hour Rule' which requires 24 hours to pass before parents are allowed to communicate with the coach/trainer to address issues or concerns. The Rule was established to allow emotions to settle for one day before issues are communicated with the coach/trainer via phone, email, or during a meeting.

Soccer-specific issues (i.e., those regarding practice sessions, games or coaching) should be communicated to the coach/trainer (not the Team Manager). Thereafter, issues may be escalated to the Age-Group Commissioner and/or Director of Coaching.

Contact information for all FC Thunder management and staff may be found at www.boernesoccer.org.