



Santa Rosa United Player and Parent Agreement

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Santa Rosa United Soccer Club (SRU). Our mission is to provide a quality soccer experience for our youth in the community.

To ensure a quality experience for everyone, it is important that each player and parent understand the philosophy of SRU as well as the rules and policies that guide our Club. It is also important that everyone shares the same high expectations for SRU coaching and our play.

PHILOSOPHY

SRU'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 his/her development as a person. Winning soccer games is important, but sometimes, there are other important outcomes such as SRU or team interests, player development, or showcasing players for college coaches, which guide the decision-making for coaches and SRU leaders.

In keeping with the Club's Mission Statement, SRU provides a comprehensive program for the youth soccer player. The Director of Coaching assigns coaches to teams, with input from the coaching staff as to which ages the coach believes that he/she is best suited. It is SRU's policy to rotate coaches every couple of years.

SRU's Board of Directors and Director of Coaching have a long-standing policy directing how decisions are made:

1. What is in the best interest of the Club, then;
2. What is in the best interest of a Team, then;
3. What is in the best interest of a Player, and then;
4. What is in the best interest of a coach or parent.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS:

1. Attendance and effort at practice affects playing time.
2. Playing time during most tournaments and games should be shared with all players.
3. SRU coaches and leaders will sometimes make decisions, and players may be instructed to do things, that parents may not understand. Parents and players may not always agree with coaching decisions, but in order to maintain a healthy team environment for all players and coaches, SRU expects all parties to be respectful at all times.
4. 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. More importantly, if the results are most important at the younger ages, then a player's technical development will suffer. For example: for younger age groups, coaches may ask the players to perform certain technical aspects that result in a game where the team loses.
5. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for your coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities. No one other than those listed on official game rosters may sit on or near the team bench during games.
6. No one on the sideline should complain to officials or instruct players during or after a game, which includes shouting, "Shoot" or "Pass it!" These instructions can be contrary to what the coach is teaching or has instructed the team to do. Instructions by parents can also

be a distraction to young kids and may cause a player to ‘tighten-up’ with stress. SRU insists members of the coaching staff be the only instructive voice at all games and practices.

7. Positive vocal support and encouragement are welcome during the game.

SRU Terminology Guide for Parents and Supporters

Parents and Supporters are encouraged to cheer and support the players and team through praise and, most importantly, in a positive manner. Research shows that when parents and teachers work together a child tends to do better in school. The same applies in a soccer-learning environment and we want this to be true with your child’s experience at SRU. Please recognize the commitment the coach has made to your child and their team. Negative comments or body language directed towards the play, player, or team are unacceptable. Please refrain from making comments directed toward the opponent and/or referees. Please allow for ALL of the coaching towards the SRU players to come only from the SRU coaching staff. Do not give your child and/or their teammates instructions. This will only serve as a distraction and will not help the player succeed.

Questions or Comments for Home or the Car ride

It is more helpful to ask your child what their experience was like rather than offering your opinion. These comments should never be seen as coaching or done around a game or practice. Please allow the coach to perform their duties in an undeterred environment.

Did you work hard?

Did you have fun?

Do you play or practice on your own at home?

What did you learn that would help you improve?

What did you find difficult?

Are you becoming a ball master? Are you becoming more comfortable with the ball?

Are you becoming more confident in your tasks/role on the field?

What worked well?

What didn’t work out so well?

Can anything you are learning on the field help you in school or life?

I’m proud of you!

Additional Comments

“Are you being creative (create)” or “Try your moves”

“Keep working, it will come”

“Keep going”

“Be confident. To get better, you will hit some setbacks along the way”

“Have fun”

“Good/great move”

“Good/great pass”

“Good/great shot”

“Good/great tackle”

“Good/great header”

“Great/great attack”

“Stay positive!”

PARENT-PLAYER-COACH COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Parents and players should feel free to communicate with the coach and ask questions but should do so at the appropriate time.
2. Players are encouraged to speak up and communicate for themselves at appropriate times.

3. Coaches are expected to communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with each player about their progress.
4. Player-coach and player-parent-coach conferences are encouraged at appropriate times during the year.
5. Coaches will provide an annual written evaluation of each player. The timing of the evaluation is the coach's decision, but SRU suggest it be given toward the end of the season with verbal feedback throughout the year.

SRU IN TOURNAMENTS AND SEASON:

1. Choosing which tournaments to attend will be based on the level of the team and the goals of the team for the season or a particular time of year. These goals may range from player/team development (attempting to do their moves, trying out new formations and tactics, equal playing time, confidence building), to ensuring players are showcased to college coaches for older ages and individual players' development at the younger ages.
2. Some tournaments may involve major expenses and decisions that need to be made before the new season starts. The coach and manager should propose the season's schedule and expenses to the parent's of the team in a team meeting. Though, a team cannot be guaranteed entrance to a tournament(s), it is important that the parents and coach have a clear understanding what the season will look like from a travel and financial standpoint. In the team meeting, the parents should focus primarily from budgetary issues, while the coach's input should come primarily from the technical side. The coach should consider the concerns from the parent group, especially when it comes to financial constraints. When a decision has been reached on the year and schedule needs to go to all parents. If a change is made later in the year, it should be done in a 'timely' manner and only after all parents have been communicated to and had a chance to respond with concerns and/or support. It is recommended that this is done a team meeting. When needed, the E.D. is there to provide guidance on all issues regarding tournaments and season.
3. During Semi-finals and Finals at tournaments (e.g., State Cup or regular tournaments), playing time will be at the sole discretion of the coach. Leading up to the Semi's and Finals, it is the goal of the coach to include all players with sufficient playing time.
4. The most important tournament commitments are for college recruiting for older players such as: Nike Friendlies, Houston Shootout, Surf Cup, Nomads, Laguna Hills, WAGS, and the Las Vegas College Classic to name a few. Some other important tournaments that require advance planning are the President's Cup and Dallas Cup. The college recruiting process is different for each player and in some cases can vary by up to 18-24 months. All players and families are expected to support each other in the college recruiting process—each needs the full support of teammates to be successful. The most important tournament commitments for younger players are mostly within the Northern California area. Prior to committing to the year's tournament schedule, there will be an opportunity to express opinions and provide input. However, once the schedule for the year is set, SRU expects all families (parents/players) to honor their commitments to each other within the team and to SRU. Also, SRU has established special relationships with the important tournaments and a team's failure to participate in a tournament after they have been accepted can damage these relationships. In addition, how the team, parents, and coach act at that tournament can affect future tournament participation.

Policies and information can be found on SRU's website at www.srunitied.com

PARENT-PLAYER-COACH COMMUNICATIONS

Please **follow the 48-hour rule**, if you have a problem with a player, parent, or coach. Give a problem two days to settle down before initiating communications. Often just waiting a day or two to digest the events, allows someone to put things into perspective. When a concern exist still, the player, parent, and/or coach should follow these steps:

- **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 Board.**

***If it is an emergency that cannot wait 48 hours, please contact the coach.**

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 as they may be taken out of context. Please do not copy SRU admin, President, Board members, or the Director of Coaching, 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, more appropriate way.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Each player registering to SRU assumes a two-part financial obligation: payment of Club registration fees and payment of Team Account fees. Club registration fees includes registration fees, insurance, coaching salaries, facility rental fees, field expenses, league registration and referee fees, and other costs as determined by the Board of Directors. Team Account fees include team entry fees to various tournaments as determined by the team's coach and the Executive Director. The specific team pays the coaches' travel reimbursement costs and miscellaneous team expenses directly.

Payments In Arrears

Should a player fall in arrears for either Club registration fee payments or Team Account payments, the player may be suspended from play until all accounts are brought current. Further, being in arrears could subject the player to not having their pass released by the club.

Refunds

Players may leave the Club and/or transfer in accordance with CYSA rules. In all cases, when a player leaves the Club prior to the end of the season, a checkout procedure with the Team Manager must be followed. The Club will consider, but not guarantee a refund of registration fees; however, refunds shall not be made upon the basis of playing time; a change in coaching; opposing views with coaching decisions; discord between player, parent, or coach; or alleged mistreatment of a player by a coach. A player is in good standing if he or she has met all financial obligations with the Club *and* their Team, and has also returned all Club uniforms and other Club items.

**** Refunds to be considered only if a player is leaving *because either the family has moved out of the geographical area or the player has suffered a season-ending injury on or before August 1.***

SRU CODE OF CONDUCT

As a player and parent, you are part of a team and a Club and your actions reflect not only upon yourself, but also on your team, the Club, and the rest of the Santa Rosa United Soccer Club organization.

Parents are expected to:

- Conform to the rules established by your team and the Club, as well as for fields and parking;
- Arrive on time, as determined by the coach, and give coach timely notice if child will be late or going to miss;
- Avoid inappropriate behavior during practice, games, team or Club sponsored events, tournaments, and travel;

- Follow the Club's Conflict policy with regards to the 48-hour rule;
- See that child attends practices, and games, and tournaments to which your team is committed;
- Abide by travel rules of the team or Club, including child attending team meals and team activities, traveling as a team, complying with team hotel room assignments, etc.;
- Treat your child's teammates, members of the Club (including parents and family members), opponents, coaches, referees and other officials with respect, avoid foul or abusive language;
- See that care is given for child's uniform, Club equipment, Place to Play and Trione fields;
- Inappropriate behavior by parents or supporters, may cause a game to be forfeited;

Coaches are expected to:

- Follow SRU's curriculum;
- Provide one written evaluation per soccer year/season and at least one oral evaluation. It is important that one of these happens in the middle of the season so the player can work on their game;
- Set high standards for their own and their players' conduct;
- Set team rules, including attendance rules, while fairly and equally applying these rules;
- Treat all players honestly, fairly, positively, and with respect;
- Be committed to helping each player develop soccer skills and game understanding;
- Communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with players and parents and in a 'timely' manner;
- Represent the Club in a professional manner with any actions being beyond reproach;
- Avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco around the players;
- Act professionally at all times; and
- Abide by team and Club rules.

TRIONE FIELD RULES

The use of the Trione Fields should be viewed as a privilege. Over a million dollars went into developing the fields, along with the time and hard work of many volunteers to finish the fields. It is important that we respect and care for the fields. Also, maintaining a healthy relationship with the City of Santa Rosa and its Park Services requires adherence to these rules:

- Drive slowly.
- Park only in designated areas. If unsure, ask.
- No food, no gum, no sunflower seeds, no soda allowed on fields. Only water/Gatorade is permitted and allowed.
- Stay on and around fields; do not use other fields, unless given permission by the Club Admin.
- Drop off or pick up in the parking lot, not at the entrance.
- Stay in designated practice areas.
- Pick up your trash and keep the area clean.
- No dogs or other pets are allowed.
- The cost of repairing any damage caused to Trione Field equipment or facilities by a player or a player's parent or sibling shall be the responsibility of the player and the player's parents. They shall reimburse the Club for repair costs paid by the Club to the Fields.

TRAVEL POLICY

The Club assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever for travel associated with SRU training, practices, league or tournament play. Carpooling and other cooperative transportation arrangements solely involve players and parents. 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 appropriate driving age as stipulated by the law, 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 for players driving, it is our recommendation that there should be no unaccompanied minors in a vehicle.

As a player within the Club, travel outside of the county is anticipated and expected; and all players will be required to participate in every event unless injured. Certain travel rules are Club specific, but other rules and guidelines can and will be set by individual teams. Travel rules for the Club include:

- Players and parents are expected to not smoke, drink alcohol, or use illicit drugs;
- Respect for fellow players, families, chaperones, and all others in authority;
- Respect for the property of others, including hotel property, etc. and respect for other guests and hotel staff;
- Players need to be accounted for at all times with either a parent, chaperone, coach, or other designated person;
- All movie selections at a hotel will be approved by the parent, chaperone, or other designated person;
- No costs will be levied against a room account without permission of a parent, chaperone, or other designated person;
- Curfew will be set by team coach, honored by all players, and supported by parents and chaperones;
- Team meetings, training, meals, and other activities set by the coach are mandatory and players are responsible for being punctual, with absence or tardiness limited to situations where prior permission has been given by the coach;
- Teams are expected to stay together in the same hotel whenever possible;
- If rooming assignments are necessary, players are expected to honor assignments made by the coach or manager;
- As representatives of the Club, decorum and manners are expected through the entire trip;
- Players are to travel as a team when instructed to do so;
- Players will not, under any circumstances, operate rental vehicles; and
- Dress requirements while traveling or at special events such as opening ceremonies at regional or national tournaments may be set and must be adhered to as instructed by the team coach.

Additionally, families of Club players are also expected to observe Club travel rules and any other applicable Club or team specific rules while traveling and staying in hotels with a Club team. Parents should be mentors and leaders for the players and teams!

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 may involve the Board, if deemed necessary. The Director of Coaching will conduct a review of the situation and may 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, service work, suspension from playing or attending games as the case might be, or as a final step, expulsion from SRU. If asked to leave the club, both a Parent and a Player may be asked or required to attend a hearing before the Board of Directors of the Club. As a participant, you are responsible for your own actions, and will be held accountable for them.

We acknowledge that we have had the opportunity to have any of these rules explained to us to our satisfaction. By completing the Santa Rosa United Online registration Parents and Player agree to abide by the policies and rules in this agreement.

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