

## Our Culture and Standards

**Mission Statement: "To inspire excellence, unity, and a passion for the beautiful game, our soccer club is dedicated to fostering talent, making club soccer affordable, and creating a supportive environment for players of all ages while striving for success on and off the field."**

1. **FUN & EQUALITY!** - What's the point if it's not fun for you? This is a sport, and we want you to enjoy it. Otherwise, there is no point! We are committed to providing a safe and fun environment where you can thrive. We believe in equality regardless of gender, race, sex, ethnicity, and racial background. We **DO NOT** tolerate discrimination in any manner. Any staff, player, parent, or coach found to be in breach of this guideline will result in immediate removal from the team.

2. **Discipline** is our highest standard. Before and after every practice session and game. As a Valley FC Athlete, we expect you to hold to the standards of Valley FC and conduct yourself appropriately on and off the field. Most importantly, when wearing team-branded uniforms and items. We not only care about you as an athlete, but we also care, admire, and wish the best for you as a person. Therefore, we believe it is vital to implement values such as Respect, Honesty, Humility, TeamWork, and Determination on and off the field. It is expected that ALL Valley FC athletes demonstrate good sportsmanship and encourage fair play.

3. **Commitment** - is **HUGE!** Please note that we take this project very seriously and firmly believe that training comes a long way. For this to work, you must be at practice, ready to work, and attend games. We understand you can't bring yourselves, so we will ensure your parents are also aware. Attendance will have an impact on game time. Players who regularly attend all/most team functions will be rewarded with more game minutes. On game days, players are expected to arrive 30 minutes before the game start. Starting lineups are usually planned a day before, and not arriving on time could result in your removal from the starting lineup for the game. We also expect your arrival 5-10 min before the start of every practice. If you are not planning on attending or cannot commit to these times, we ask that you communicate with the coaching staff of your division.

4. **Respect** goes both ways. Coaches, players, parents, and any other person engaging or attending our club games and events are expected to act respectfully towards other coaches, players, teammates, parents, and other personnel. Fighting is also prohibited. Players found to have physically and intentionally harmed another teammate will result in suspension for one week and a game at a minimum. If the offense happens more than once, removal from the team will be considered. We ask that parents refrain from engaging or speaking with players from the opposing team unless speaking respectfully or from engaging in an altercation verbally with the referee. Please allow us coaches to handle that aspect of the game that deals with referees.

5. **Teamwork** - First comes the team. Your individual growth is also essential, and your coaches are responsible for getting you to the next level. However, you cannot do this alone. TOGETHER AS ONE!

6. **Encouragement** - Parents, we appreciate your support and encouraging words. We also appreciate your help in pushing your child. Perhaps sometimes, only the way you know how it may work. However, we ask that you please not coach your kid from the sidelines. Please help avoid confusion or distractions during the game by allowing the coaches to instruct our players. We know you mean well and encourage positive cheering along with motivational words. Learning soccer can seem simple. However, learning how to play soccer with a High IQ of the sport is our actual goal here at Valley FC. Please understand this is a process that takes time. Every child has a different way of learning new things, which may take longer than others. The goal is to have everyone develop at their own pace doing it the correct way while also not discouraging the child.

7. **Gear Up** - Players, please have your gear ready. Shirts, shorts, and socks must be in Valley FC colors during games. If you need additional pairs of clothing items, speak with one of your coaches. Please wear the right equipment to practice, including shoes, shin guards, and winter clothing when necessary. For the safety and protection of your items, please remove the jewelry and/or earrings before engaging in your soccer activity. This can also prevent injury. Players are expected to wear their assigned Valley FC PRACTICE jerseys starting in 2023.

8. We believe in the **open-door policy**. Parents and Players, If you need to speak with a coach, please do not hesitate. We believe there should be open communication if you have any concerns or would like to discuss any matter regarding the team. We ask that you wait to do so in a setting that won't impact the team's performance. Coaches are expected to bring any concerns up during coach meetings so we can decide on the appropriate action to resolve any issue as a team. If you need to talk to someone regarding something more serious, get in touch with Freddy Vences (club president) as soon as possible.

9. **Annual Party** - We expect to hold a banquet or annual award party to celebrate our kid's success. We will have an award ceremony where parents vote for the best players from every division. We will serve food, play games, discuss our plans for the upcoming year, and hold a Secret Santa for our kids. We will provide more information about the event around 30 days before the event date when we begin to plan. We ask that you inform us if you cannot attend when closer to the event, which will be scheduled for December.

10. **Healthy Choices** - We ask that you please consider your child's health and nutrition for them to perform at their best. They should not play on an empty stomach but also have something healthy and light before engaging in soccer activity. Water is also encouraged over drinks that contain sodium.

11. **Cleaning and Park Guidelines** - Parents, we ask that you do us the favor of cleaning any areas at practice or during the games that include water bottles, snack wrappers, and other items you may have used. We also ask that you follow league or park guidelines discussed previously, such as nothing other than water inside the turf fields. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in public or during a Valley FC game. Parents from opposing teams must also remain separate and on their side. Violation of this league rule can result in the team losing the game. No one is other than the players and two coaches inside on the field during game times. We want to be respectful and hold VALLEY FC to a high standard wherever we attend.

12. **Club Dues** - **As of January 2023, we will collect a \$50 monthly player contribution from all players via automatic debit on the 15th of every month.** This will help fund field permits and usage, referee Fees, training equipment, player practice jerseys, and other training equipment. Please note this monthly fee is in addition to player registration fees, tournament fees, and other club events.

13. **Refund Policy** - Refunds will not be applicable for any reason including but not limited to: injury, change of coach, change of team, location or time of practice, choosing another sport that conflicts with location or time of practices or games, choosing to stop playing soccer, choosing to play for another club or conflict with school sport

Player commitment is vital to growth and club continuity. Once a player has enrolled with the club or registered on a team they are committing to the club with respect to both time dedication and financial obligations. After a player enrolls/registers, a spot in the club is held for that player for the entire year-long season. If a player can no longer keep the commitment to the club, this will impact the team and result in financial strain on the club. It is recommended that a player inquire regarding both club and team costs prior to enrollment/registration so that they understand the financial commitment required for each year-long season.

The club can not guarantee that a player will remain on any one team or promise a player will have any given coach in a given year. Additionally, coaches are continually monitoring the progress of players and coaches may recommend a different level of play specific to a player mid-season or mid-year. If a player is asked to move to another team any time during the season or year and the player elects not to take the position on the newly recommended team and decides to leave the club, refunds will not be granted nor permitted. A coaching change also does not warrant a refund request nor will a refund be granted if there is a coaching change. Refunds are by exception only with the approval of the Club President or Vice President of Operations.

## **14. NO ALCOHOL Policy**

### **"No Alcohol" Policy at Valley FC Soccer Games**

#### **Purpose:**

To create a safe, positive, and family-friendly environment for all participants and spectators, we enforce a strict "No Alcohol" policy during all youth soccer games.

#### **Policy Details:**

1. **Prohibition of Alcohol Consumption:** Alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited within the premises of the soccer field and surrounding areas during youth soccer games. This includes all spectators, coaches, referees, players, and volunteers.
2. **Alcohol Possession:** Possession of alcohol in any form, including but not limited to beer, wine, spirits, and alcoholic beverages, is not allowed on the premises.
3. **Parental Responsibility:** Parents or guardians accompanying young players are expected to comply with this policy and set a positive example for the children by not consuming alcohol during the games.

#### **Rationale:**

1. **Safety:** The presence of alcohol at youth soccer games increases the risk of accidents, altercations, and incidents that could compromise the safety and well-being of players, spectators, and volunteers.
2. **Youth Development:** Youth soccer games should be centered on fostering a healthy, positive, and educational environment for young players. Alcohol consumption is counterproductive to this goal.
3. **Role Modeling:** Encouraging responsible behavior among parents, coaches, and spectators promotes good sportsmanship and a respectful atmosphere for all involved.
4. **Legal Compliance:** Complying with local laws and regulations related to alcohol consumption is a priority for the organization.

By adhering to this "No Alcohol" policy, we aim to maintain a respectful and enjoyable atmosphere where youth players can thrive and grow, and families can gather to support their children's sporting endeavors. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.