

# BURLINGTON UNITED FC: PLAYER REGISTRATION AGREEMENT & CLUB POLICY

*(Season 2026-2027)*

## 1. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & REFUND POLICY

**1.1. Financial Commitment** I, the undersigned parent/guardian, understand that by accepting a position on a Burlington United FC (the "Club") team, I am agreeing to pay the full tuition for the entire seasonal year (Fall & Spring). I understand that the Club's expenses (coaching salaries, field leases, insurance, league fees) are incurred for the full year and are not reducible.

**1.2. Payment Expectation** I understand that if my account is delinquent by more than 30 days, my child's player pass will be deactivated, and they will be suspended from all training and matches until the balance is brought current.

### **1.3. STRICT NO REFUND POLICY. ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

- **Voluntary Withdrawal:** If my child quits the team for any reason (loss of interest, schedule conflicts, dissatisfaction with coaching/playing time), I remain liable for the full year's tuition.
- **Injury:** In the event of a season-ending injury, refunds or credits are at the sole discretion of the Club Directors and are not guaranteed.
- **Relocation:** If the family relocates more than 50 miles from Burlington, NC, a pro-rated refund may be considered upon proof of relocation.

---

## 2. WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

**2.1. Assumption of Risk** will be signed for all players by the parent/guardian of the player acknowledging that soccer is a physical sport that carries an inherent risk of injury, including but not limited to: sprains, fractures, concussions, and in rare cases, permanent disability or death. The risk must be voluntarily assumed on behalf of the minor child.

**2.2. Release of Liability** In consideration of being allowed to participate, The parent/guardian must release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue **Burlington United FC, Inc.**, its owners, officers, directors, employees, agents, coaches, and volunteers (collectively, "Releasees") from any and all liability, claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by my child, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise.

**2.3. Medical Consent** In the event of an emergency where I cannot be reached, The parent/guardian must authorize Burlington United FC staff to obtain necessary medical treatment for my child. The parent/guardian must agree to be financially responsible for any costs incurred for such treatment (ambulance, hospital, etc.).

---

### 3. MEDIA & IMAGE RELEASE

The parent/guardian will grant Burlington United FC permission to use photographs, video recordings, or other digital media ("Images") of my child in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration. It must be acknowledged that it is understood that all photos will become the property of the Club.

---

### 4. CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

**4.1. Adherence to Policies** Parent/Guardian must read the **Burlington United FC Club Policies** and agree to abide by all policies contained therein, including the "24-Hour Rule" regarding grievance discussions.

**4.2. Sideline Behavior** Parent/Guardian agrees to demonstrate good sportsmanship. I understand that verbally abusing referees, opposing players, or Burlington United coaches may result in my suspension from attending matches and/or my child's expulsion from the Club.

---

### 5. CONCUSSION INFORMATION & AWARENESS (NC STATE LAW)

**5.1. Concussion Protocol** Parent/Guardian will confirm that they have received and reviewed the *Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act* information sheet provided by the Club. I understand that if my child is suspected of sustaining a concussion, they will be removed from play immediately and may not return until cleared in writing by a licensed medical professional.

---

# BURLINGTON UNITED FC: CODE OF CONDUCT

**Mission Statement:** Burlington United FC is dedicated to providing a professional, competitive, and supportive environment for youth soccer development. This Code of Conduct ensures that all participants contribute to a positive culture that respects the game, the opponents, and the Club's staff.

## PART I: PARENT & GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. The Role of the Parent: "Support, Don't Coach"

- **Cheering vs. Coaching:** Parents are encouraged to cheer for their child and the team (e.g., "Great effort!", "Go United!"). Parents must **avoid** giving tactical instructions (e.g., "Pass it!", "Shoot!", "Kick it hard!"). This confuses players and directly contradicts the professional coaching staff.
- **Sideline Location:** Parents must remain on the spectator side of the field, at least 2 yards from the touchline. No parent is permitted on the team bench side or behind the goals during matches or training.

### 2. Respect for Officials

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Verbal abuse, harassment, or arguing with referees is strictly prohibited.
- **Acceptance of Calls:** Referees make mistakes. Parents must accept decisions and move on.
- **Consequences:** If a referee ejects a parent, that parent faces an automatic minimum 1-game suspension from Club activities. Repeated offenses may result in a season-long ban.

### 3. Communication Protocol (The "24-Hour Rule")

- **Cooling Off Period:** Emotions are high after games. Parents agree to wait **24 hours** after a match before contacting a coach with grievances regarding playing time, tactics, or game management.
- **Appropriate Channels:** Issues should be discussed privately with the coach or director. never in front of the player or other parents.

### 4. Sideline Etiquette

- **No Negativity:** Comments about opposing players or other parents' children are prohibited.
  - **Alcohol & Tobacco:** Consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or e-cigarettes/vapes is strictly prohibited at all youth soccer fields and training grounds.
-

## PART II: PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. Commitment & Attendance

- **Punctuality:** Players should strive to arrive at training and games at the time designated by the coach (typically 15 mins before practice, 30-45 mins before games but up to an hour for games).
- **Notification:** Parents should notify the coach via the team app at least 24 hours in advance if they cannot attend a session.
  - Players for older teams can notify the coach themselves

### 2. Respect for the Game

- **Opponents:** Treat opponents with respect. Shake hands after every match, regardless of the result.
- **Officials:** Players will not argue with referees. Only the Team Captain may respectfully ask for clarification on a rule.
- **Teammates:** Bullying, hazing, or exclusion of teammates will not be tolerated.

### 3. Training Standards

- **Equipment:** Players should bring their own ball (properly inflated). Players must have shin guards at all times when on the field, water, and shin guards, and wear the official training kit to every session.
- **Focus:** When the coach is speaking, players are listening (eyes up, mouths closed, ball still).
- **Effort:** Playing time is earned in practice. Players are expected to give 100% effort in training.

### 4. Social Media & Digital Conduct

- Players represent Burlington United FC on and off the field. Posting negative, bullying, or inappropriate content about teammates, coaches, or opponents on social media (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.) is grounds for suspension.

---

## PART III: VIOLATIONS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Club operates on a **Three-Strike Policy** for behavioral infractions, though severe violations may warrant immediate expulsion.

### 1. First Offense (Warning):

- **Player:** Verbal warning from the coach; extra fitness or temporary removal from practice if necessary and appropriate for the offense.

- **Parent:** Verbal warning from the Coach or Club Director regarding sideline behavior.
- 2. **Second Offense (Email from the Coach or Director with Suspension Option)**
  - **Player:** Suspension from the next scheduled match.
  - **Parent:** Suspension from attending the next scheduled match and a written warning placed on file.
- 3. **Third Offense (Expulsion):**
  - **Player/Parent:** Removal from the Club for the remainder of the season.
  - **Financial Consequence:** Per the Registration Policy, **no refunds** will be issued if a family is expelled for violating the Code of Conduct.

**Zero Tolerance Offenses (Immediate Expulsion):**

- Physical assault or violence.
  - Racist, sexist, or homophobic language.
  - Theft of Club or teammate property.
-

# Burlington United FC: Health and Safety Policy

**Effective Date:** 12/3/2025

## 1. Policy Statement

Burlington United FC ("The Club") is committed to providing a safe, enjoyable, and positive environment for all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. The health and safety of our youth players is our absolute priority. We strive to minimize risks through proactive protocols, education, and strictly enforced standards.

---

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

### The Club

- Ensure all coaches and staff undergo background checks and safety training.
- Maintain safe facilities and inspect equipment regularly.
- Provide clear reporting channels for safety concerns.

### Coaches and Staff

- Carry a fully stocked First Aid Kit and Emergency Contact information to every session/game.
- Inspect the field and equipment (especially goal posts) prior to every usage.
- Adhere strictly to the "Return to Play" protocols regarding injuries.
- Never leave a child unattended after practice; wait until all players are picked up.

### Parents/Guardians

- Complete the **Medical Release Form** and disclose any health conditions (asthma, allergies, etc.) to the coach.
- Ensure players arrive with proper equipment (shin guards, cleats, water).
- Inform the coach immediately if a player is unwell or recovering from an injury.

### Players

- Wear shin guards and proper footwear at all times.
  - Remove all jewelry (including earrings, necklaces, and watches) before play.
  - Report any injury or discomfort to the coach immediately.
-

### 3. Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

In the event of a serious medical emergency, the following steps must be taken immediately:

1. **Assess the Situation:** Ensure the area is safe (e.g., stop play). Do not move the injured player if a head, neck, or spinal injury is suspected.
  2. **Call 911:** If the injury is serious (unconsciousness, difficulty breathing, severe bleeding, broken bone).
  3. **Provide Aid:** Administer First Aid/CPR only within the scope of your training.
  4. **Notify:** Contact the parent/guardian immediately if they are not present.
  5. **Report:** Complete an **Incident Report Form** within 24 hours and submit it to the Club Safety Officer.
- 

### 4. Concussion Protocol ("Head's Up")

Burlington United FC strictly follows a "When in doubt, sit them out" policy.

- **Suspected Concussion:** Any player who sustains a significant blow to the head or body, or shows signs of concussion (dizziness, nausea, confusion, headache), must be removed from play immediately.
  - **No Return Same Day:** The player is **not permitted** to return to play or practice on the same day.
  - **Medical Clearance:** The player may only return to team activities after submitting a written clearance from a licensed healthcare professional.
- 

### 5. Environmental Safety

#### Lightning Policy (30/30 Rule)

- If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play must be suspended immediately.
- All individuals must seek shelter in a substantial building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- Play cannot resume until **30 minutes** have passed since the last thunder was heard or lightning seen.

#### Heat Guidelines

- Coaches must modify practice intensity and increase water breaks based on the Heat Index.
- **Heat Index > 105°F:** All outdoor activities are cancelled.

- **Heat Index 95°F–104°F:** Mandatory water breaks every 15 minutes; maximum 1 hour practice.
- 

## 6. Equipment and Facility Safety

### Goal Safety (Critical)

- **Anchoring:** Soccer goals must be securely anchored to the ground at all times (using sandbags, stakes, or permanent fixtures).
- **Prohibition:** Players are strictly forbidden from climbing on, hanging from, or moving goalposts. Unsecured goals can tip over and cause fatal injuries.

### Player Equipment

- **Shin Guards:** Mandatory for all practices and games. Socks must fully cover the shin guards.
  - **Eyewear:** Players requiring glasses should wear sports-goggles or shatter-proof lenses.
  - **Casts:** Hard casts are generally not permitted unless wrapped in bubble wrap/foam and approved by the match referee.
- 

## 7. Safeguarding and Conduct

Burlington United FC adheres to SafeSport guidelines to prevent abuse and misconduct.

- **Rule of Two:** A coach should never be alone with a single child in a private setting. There should always be two adults present, or the interaction should happen in an open, public view.
  - **Background Checks:** All coaches, board members, and team managers must pass a background check and complete abuse prevention training.
  - **Anti-Bullying:** The Club has zero tolerance for bullying, hazing, or harassment (verbal, physical, or digital).
- 

## 8. Hygiene and Hydration

- **Water Bottles:** Players must bring their own clearly labeled water bottles. Sharing of water bottles is prohibited to prevent the spread of illness.
- **Bloodborne Pathogens:** Any player with an open wound must leave the field. The wound must be covered, and any blood-stained clothing replaced before returning to play.