

FLORIDA KEYS SOCCER CLUB PARENT/PLAYER CLUB AGREEMENT

2024-2025 COMPETITIVE SEASON

I. OVERVIEW

This Parent/Player Club Agreement is part of your contract with the FLORIDA KEYS SOCCER CLUB (FKSC) and is provided to make club policies and objectives clear.

Each parent is expected to read through and sign the handbook agreeing to the policies, guidelines and protocol of the FLORIDA KEYS SOCCER CLUB. When accepting admission to FKSC by online registration, you will be accepting that you have read, understand, and agree to the terms of this handbook.

A. Team/Player Relationship: Members of FKSC agree to put their team ahead of the individual player. If conflict arises between the team and the player or parent, the team coach under the direction of the Club 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 decision of the team coach will be objective and will be based on his/her best evaluation of the facts. Once a decision has been made, it is deemed final. Players and parents must agree to abide by the final decision and will support the decision without dissension or disruption.

B. Development Overview: FKSC is committed to developing our players into technical players with a strong understanding of how to properly play the game of soccer, while at the same time teaching the fundamentals of teamwork and sportsmanship.

FKSC players are taught to demonstrate good sportsmanship and the importance of team play. We believe that the success of this program is measured by its excellence on and off the field.

FKSC will look to develop players in the club by providing opportunities for younger players to train with older teams throughout the year. In addition, the club will evaluate players to see if there is an opportunity for players to move up the competitive ladder. Such moves are anticipated and are made in the sole discretion of FKSC.

FKSC provides a professional environment for all of our players to develop, train, and play an attractive and age appropriate style of soccer. FKSC coaches shall conduct themselves professionally at all times setting the standards for players to act in a similar manner. FKSC coaching staff will focus on player retention, player recruitment, development and winning, with development of player and team as its primary goal.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

A. Club Commitment: FKSC expects our players and parents to be ethical, civil, cooperative, and honor both their verbal and written commitments to FKSC. Therefore all parent and player decisions should be made thoughtfully and carefully. Once your commitment is made, the club expects your full participation and support for the entire season; even in the event team results, personal playing time, personal relationships, facilities, etc., do not meet your expectations and/or are not to your liking. There is a bigger picture to consider beyond simply soccer – rather, we as a Club are interested in the player's overall development as an honest, committed, competitive, and positive person that strives to be the

best they can be in all that they do. Recognize that the benefit of the professional decisions made in regard to your player may not at times be readily apparent to you as a parent, but are made to foster the long term development of your player, the team, and the Club.

If you have committed to the club, the club will also be ethical and honest, honoring its commitment to you. No player will be released from the club during the soccer season unless it is for disciplinary reasons, breaking club policies, or failure to fulfill financial obligations. A player may also be released due to failure of the parent to adhere to club policies and practices.

FKSC is a competitive youth soccer club. This means that each player is committed to their respective team for the duration of the registration year. Out of respect for themselves and their fellow players/families, who have devoted monetary investment and time into their player's training, each player and family commits fully to the registered season. For optimal development and for commitment to their team and teammates, players must attend training sessions and will refrain from missing sessions and games for other extracurricular activities.

B. Team Placement/Playing Time: Under the coaches' and Club Directors' discretion, players will be placed on appropriate teams, to maximize their development. Parents must understand the first job of our organization is to make sure players are in the proper place to succeed and develop. While parental input is always important to us, these decisions are made in the Club's sole and objective discretion, not on where a parent or player believes they should be.

FKSC is a competitive soccer organization. **Each player within the club earns playing time based upon several factors as determined by the Club and by the coach.** Playing time is a privilege that players work toward through training sessions and games, and is at the coaches' discretion. Your child may not be placed in the position you as their parent deem best, and they may or may not start. To earn a position through being challenged, we believe, is a key to development as players grow into adulthood. **Full attendance at practice, working hard, and having a positive attitude is required. While players will be given the opportunity to play, there are no entitlements or guarantees to play time. Payment of club fees does not mean a player automatically will earn play time. Players will benefit from the FKSC training curricula each week, and from all that the program offers, and will then be afforded an opportunity to play based upon progression, merit, skill level, active participation, attendance, and other factors as determined by the coach and club.**

Parents needing to discuss playing time or issues about their player must have such discussion privately at an appropriate time with the coach, and not before, during, or immediately following a game or training session. **Any issues regarding a particular game may be addressed, no earlier than 24 hours after the game or session. Any aggression or aggressive behavior by a parent toward a coach or other parent is grounds for immediate expulsion from the Club. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in suspension/expulsion from future games and practices.**

III. CLUB AND TEAM DUES

A. Club Dues: All families are responsible for timely payment of their Club and Team Dues. Club dues consist of the player's registration fees as set by the Club at the time of registration based upon age group and program. Failure to pay Club dues in a timely manner will result in suspension of the player's card and ability to train and play with the Club.

B. Team Dues: Team Dues consist of the per-player allotment for team costs, such as tournament entrance fees, coach's per diem expenses, etc. Team costs are the responsibility of the individual teams and will be typically handled by Team Managers. Failure to pay Club or Team dues in a timely manner may result in the player's card being pulled and suspension of the player from training and game play. All players playing on a team will be expected to share in the costs of tournament play whether a participant or not. Exceptions to this include, and are limited to, season ending injury certified by a medical professional and of a nature characteristic of a season ending injury and conflicting schedules (high school players playing during a tournament). These players are exempt from having to pay team expenses during periods noted above. Otherwise, failure to pay tournament fees compromises the team's ability to plan and participate in tournaments and is grounds for suspension of the player's playing card. Tournaments will be set by the Club or Coach and communicated to the parents appropriately at the commencement of, and during, the season.

C. Additional Costs: Additional Costs beyond Club and Team Dues include, but may not necessarily be limited to: (1) Uniform Requirements, (2) Club and optional fan gear, (3) Individual/Family Travel Expenses, (4) Referee fees.

If transferring to FKSC from another Club during the season, FKSC is not responsible for prior fees paid to other Clubs or organizations, nor will it provide a credit for the same, and payment of FKSC fees and dues are independent and unrelated to what may have been previously paid to other institutions.

Players that do not make payments on Club or Team deadlines will have their player card suspended and the player will not be able to participate in practice or games until they are in good financial standing with the Club. In addition, a late fee for delinquent payments may also be assessed.

IV. FKSC REFUND POLICY

Registration commitments are vital to the operational planning and budgeting for FKSC. We as a Club rely upon your registration commitment to plan our season and fund our operational needs such as staff, field maintenance, and equipment. As such, the Club utilizes the following policy, which will be strictly adhered to:

\$100 of the initial registration fee is **non-refundable** under all circumstances.

After September 1, 2024, NO REFUNDS will be provided by the Club. Late requests will not be entertained. This is due in part to roster reservations, roster freeze dates, annual budgeting considerations, and resource allocation. Refunds for a season ending physical injury of the nature of which would be expected to end a season, and supported by credible medical documentation, may be considered at the sole discretion of the Club, and administered on a pro-rata basis consistent with this policy or credit towards future seasons.

Playing time, disputes with coaches or other players, loss of interest, calendar conflicts, other sport opportunities, family relocation, dissatisfaction with a program, suspension or expulsion from FKSC, or school issues or conflicts, are not grounds for a refund.

V. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

A. All players will commit to training with a positive, enthusiastic attitude and will give 100% of themselves each time they step onto the field. If a player doesn't show up with a positive mental

attitude, playing time may be affected. **All players must arrive on time for each session and are expected to attend each training session unless specifically excused by the coach. Player's missing a session must provide specific details justifying their absence.** Failure to attend each session may result in diminished playing time, or in repetitive or extreme cases, dismissal from the team. Abandonment of the team by a player, will result in forfeiture of the ability to return to the team, forfeiture of any financial aid applied, and no refund of Club Fees.

B. All players are to arrive to practice in proper FKSC training gear (turquoise practice jersey, shorts soccer socks, shin guards, and soccer cleats). Shin guards are to be worn at all times. **No shin guards, no practice. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry or hats during training or competition. Players are expected to obey the rules of the game (per FIFA and other appropriate guidelines).**

C. All players must show up at the time requested by the coach for each game. The standard arrival time to all games is **1-hour prior** to kick off. Players must arrive in proper game uniform and must be ready mentally as well as physically to play in a competitive match. If a player plans to be absent during a tournament and/or league game due to a conflict that you cannot change, notify your head coach **at least 2- weeks** in advance so proper and necessary adjustments for the team can be made. Otherwise, attendance at all training, games, and tournaments is a mandatory term of your admission at FKSC.

D. FKSC expects its players to be students of soccer as well as students in the classroom. We believe in the value of academics and expect to be informed when a player's academic standings drop below average. We will honor parents that pull players from soccer due to grades or the need to have the player study.

E. Do not expect coaches to praise everything you do well. 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 deal with both.

F. Respect yourself, respect your teammates, respect the referees, respect the parents, respect your opponents, and respect everything inside the game. Character starts with the little details, such as proper uniform presentation (tucked in shirt, clean gear, etc.). Win without boasting. Be generous when you win, graceful when you lose. Conduct yourself with class and dignity. Be a professional at all times as you represent FKSC.

G. Respect all officials and coaches and accept their decisions without question. Disrespect or aggression toward an official is grounds for suspension or dismissal from the club. Never engage in dissent toward an official or coach nor use profane or vulgar language.

H. Abide by the coach's decision regarding playing time and positioning. Learn and obey the rules of the game, the club policies, and team rules. Never leave a game field or training session without permission from the coach. Approach the coach with any soccer related problems.

I. Take pride in your physical and mental fitness. Immediately report any injury to the coach. Nutrition and rest are part of your responsibility. Players are expected to eat nutritious, healthy food in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with performance. If you need advice about nutrition please consult with the Technical Director or your head coach.

J. Never use a controlled substance (drugs), tobacco products, or drink alcoholic beverages. Violation of this policy may be the basis for suspension from the team, or for requiring a player to return home early from an out-of-state tournament at the player/parent's expense.

K. Have pride in our facility! Leave the fields in better condition than when you arrived, removing or disposing of all inappropriate items (including but not limited to water bottles, tape, and garbage).

VI. PARENTAL GUIDELINES AND COMMUNICATION WITH FKSC AND OTHERS

A. Sideline Behavior

The behavior of our sideline reflects upon FKSC and affects team performance; for this reason we expect FKSC sidelines to exhibit good sportsmanship and refrain from negative behavior.

NO PARENTAL COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES. FKSC is a competitive and professional organization. Parents and spectators are precluded from providing specific coaching or instruction directed at players on the field during any game or practice session. The FKSC coaching staff shall be the only individuals to provide coaching or instruction during games. This policy will be strictly enforced by the coaching staff. Failure to adhere to this policy diminishes not only your own player of the full benefit of the professional coaching staff, but deprives and distracts other team members from the same benefit. As such, failure to adhere to this policy may result in dismissal from the field, and/or suspension or expulsion from the Club.

During games and training sessions, parents and spectators must contribute only POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMMENTS. Unnecessary loud commentary or yelling on, near, or towards the field of play (positive or not) is not permitted. **NEGATIVE COMMENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE SIDELINES OF ANY PRACTICE OR GAME.** Parents, fans, family, friends and relatives must refrain from voicing criticism of players, coaches, and officials, out loud on the sidelines during games, tournaments and practice sessions. Negative remarks are hurtful to the players, their family, and their friends, and is counterproductive to team chemistry. The FKSC coaching staff shall maintain the right to preserve the preferred playing environment through means they deem necessary at their sole discretion. Failure to abide by this policy may result in suspension/expulsion from practice sessions and/or games.

As parents, you are committing to FKSC and need to place trust in the program and the professional coaching staff. Given this, parents must refrain from providing coaching advice, instruction, commentary, or criticism of the professional coaching staff. All decisions made by the coaching staff such as playing time, placement of players, and team tactics are at the sole discretion of the Club and the coaching staff. The head coach is available to discuss why certain decisions are made. If you question decisions, please do so appropriately, one-on-one with the coach **24 hours after a game.**

Parents and players alike are responsible for keeping our training and game fields clean. No sunflower seeds are permitted at our training venues. Please clean up any bottles, trash, or other debris that you observe on the fields.

No alcohol or illicit substance use is permitted at FKSC training or game venues. Parents must adhere to the rules of all venues in which FKSC is a guest or host.

B. NO INTERACTION WITH OFFICIALS AND REFEREES

FKSC parents and players represent the Club during gaming events, and as such, civility, sportsmanship, and acceptable behavior is expected at all times. Negative conduct toward an official or referee reflects poorly on the Club, our players, and our sideline, and is detrimental to our reputation and competitive goals. Negative conduct toward a referee never accomplishes a positive outcome. Moreover, negative conduct is contrary to the example we strive to set for our young players.

Accordingly, parents and spectators, **SHALL NOT**, in word or action, interact or dissent with game and enforcement decisions of referees or officials. Dissent may be penalized with warnings, cautions or dismissal of offending parties at the sole discretion of the referee or FKSC coaching staff. Spectators must understand that there is no basis for disputing a judgment call of an official. An official's misapplication of the laws of the game may lead to protest, however, such proceedings must be left to the Club and coaching staff. Use of profanity, negative gestures, dissenting behavior, encroaching upon the field of play, threatening words or conduct, are impermissible.

Direct contact with an official or coach, is grounds for immediate dismissal from the Club, and could result in criminal charges levied against the offender. Failure to abide by this policy may result in suspension or expulsion from the Club. Additionally, the respective league may banish violators of this policy from future presence at league games.

****FYSA and SFPL gaming leagues have a zero tolerance for poor sideline conduct. Violation of the sideline policy, will result in ejection of the parent from the game, AND MANDATORY EJECTION OF THE ENTIRE SIDELINE THE FOLLOWING WEEK. Such conduct will also likely result in an FKSC ban from the sideline of the offending parent, for the remainder of the gaming season.**

Any and all conduct as set forth above, may be grounds for suspension or expulsion from the sideline, club, or league. By accepting terms of Membership with FKSC, you agree without reservation, to adhere to this policy.

C. No Interaction with Opposing Players or Opposing Spectators

Each FKSC family or spectator is a representative of the Club. As such, the same rules applied to Officials and Referees, is applicable to the treatment and conduct toward opposing players, team families, and spectators. Accordingly, the same penalties for violation of this policy may apply as if the offending conduct was exhibited toward an Official.

C.1 Suspension/Expulsion

FKSC does not have control over gaming league and FYSA rules. As set forth above, individual parents, and sidelines who violate rules regarding referee interaction, and sideline conduct as set forth above, will be subject to individual suspension and expulsion from the sidelines. As a result, the entire sideline may also be suspended for the conduct of one parent, and prohibited from returning to future games. Additionally, such conduct, of one parent, may result in the expulsion of the entire team from competition. As a result, FKSC will also strictly enforce these rules, for the best interests of our players.

D. Communication within FKSC

Clear, concise, constructive communication within the Club is important. If you have a concern or need guidance, set an appointment to meet with your player's coach in private. The coaching staff will listen to your opinions and concerns. However, final decisions on any matter will be determined by the Club

and the coaching staff. As previously noted, any communication with the staff following a game must not be addressed any sooner than 24 hours after the game.

The **protocol for resolving problems or discussing player issues** should follow the proper channel of communication in the following order:

- (1) Discuss any question or concern with the **head coach**;
- (2) If not resolved, discuss the problem with the **Competitive Director**;
- (3) If not resolved, discuss the question or concern with the **Club Director**;

E. Mandatory Email Protocol

E-mail should only be used to communicate factual information to teams and provide a good channel of relaying information. Group Email regarding negative team issues, personal opinions, or distributing complaints over email is counter-productive and detrimental to the efficient operation of a team and the Club. Given this, such improper use of email is against Club policy. Do not copy multiple parties on emails with questions or concerns; only the involved parties. This is a very serious issue and violation of this policy will not be tolerated by the Club. This is a material term of your agreement with FKSC and a requirement of your membership/enrollment with FKSC.

F. Outside Communication affecting Players and Club

FKSC, as an organization, looks to minimize destructive, erroneous, and rumor perpetuating communications. Such non-factual, or speculative communication is harmful to the Club, but more importantly, taints our players and is counterproductive to a proper developmental environment for our children. We expect that as a condition of FKSC membership, all parents refrain from engaging in such communications, whether it be through email, written form, or social media and internet forums. These forums serve no useful purpose, and the Club will take all appropriate steps to prevent any defamatory or erroneous content from affecting the environment in which our players compete. Please be mindful that any appropriate request for information should be directed to proper Club officials, rather than being aired in a public forum or other media, where proper information on a given topic may be lacking or completely erroneous. Such conduct, if disruptive to the Club, team, or an individual player, are grounds for separation from the Club.

By accepting membership and enrolling your player with FKSC, you agree to adhere to this email and communication policy. As noted, violation of this policy is counter-productive to Club and Team operations, and is grounds for suspension or expulsion from the Club.

VII. GENERAL TRAVEL GUIDELINES

A. Travel Benefits: FKSC recognizes the value and special significance in participating in tournaments, which requires travel as a team. Such travel provides the following benefit to players:

- 1. To gain experience playing at higher levels of competition;**
- 2. Playing in a high pressure atmosphere;**
- 3. Building team camaraderie;**

- 4. Exposure to different styles of play;**
- 5. Participating in a professional soccer environment;**
- 6. Preparing our players and teams for the next level of soccer;**
- 7. Showcasing our teams and players to the outside soccer community;**
- 8. Providing your player with a travel experience.**

B. Hotels: It is FKSC policy that all players stay together, as much as possible, at the same hotel when traveling as a team. Part of Club travel is for the players to bond as a team in an unfamiliar or new environment. From a coaching standpoint, we want to teach our player's proper preparation while traveling for games on the road. In this way we also assure greater unity when showing up for games and practices, while reducing potential problems.

Rules of the hotel must be observed and parents are responsible for their children, both players and siblings, and any other players they chaperone. FKSC insists on making player safety the top priority when players are traveling. No Player may leave a hotel, or travel alone, without the express permission of the Head Coach, responsible chaperone, or parent.

VII. TEAM ADMINISTRATION

A. Managers: At the beginning of each seasonal year, a Manager shall be appointed for each team. All managers operate in a volunteer capacity and are not compensated. Managers are a vital part of Club administration and set a positive example to fellow parents, players, and their own families. Past experience as a manager will be taken into consideration, however the final selection will be made by the Team Coach and Competitive Director.

The Team Manager may manage the team as a single person, or assign additional parents to assist in his, or her, duties. The Team Manager, along with the other designated parents on the team, facilitate the operational plans of the professional coach, operate a team budget and checking account, help coordinate team meetings and social functions, and enter and coordinate team tournament play. No two teams are organized exactly the same. The coach must be aware and approve all significant team decisions and team assignments.

To keep information accurate, all correspondence pertaining to the team must be channeled through the Manager and/or Coach of the team. Managers will not be asked to collect club fees during the year, as all fees will be collected and determined at the time of registration by the Club. However, from time to time, managers may be asked to assist in communicating collection issues with their respective families. Managers will be responsible for coordinating the collection of the Team dues, and setting appropriate collection dates for such dues.

By accepting membership within FKSC, all families and players agree to abide by team policies, and to cooperate responsibly and respectfully with Team Managers and Coaches to fulfill team goals, deadlines, tournament payments, and policies.

VIII. THE FKSC UNIFORM

Whenever an FKSC player is in uniform, he/she represents the Club and should wear the uniform properly and with pride. All players must purchase approved FKSC Nike gear, including a training shirt, 2 game shorts, 2 game socks, and 2 game jerseys. As with most Clubs, uniform purchases are the financial responsibility of each family, and orders are placed by each family through www.floridakeysoccer.com and Soccer Locker. Prior to placing an order, each player will be provided with an assigned jersey number by the team Manager or Coach. Conflicts in number assignment will be decided by team managers/coaches. Movement from one team to another may require the purchase of new uniform jerseys, which remain the player's responsibility.

Families are responsible for correct sizing, as Soccer Locker will not replace or exchange incorrectly sized apparel. Uniform styles may be changed from time to time by Nike or the Club, and in such an event, players remain responsible for obtaining the most current version of the FKSC uniform.

Unless otherwise mandated by each team, uniforms will be the player's responsibility to maintain in clean and good repair. Old or damaged uniforms must be replaced.

On game day, all players must be properly attired in the club game jersey, game shorts, and socks. Players are responsible for bringing all uniform equipment to each game including all shirts, shorts, socks, shoes (appropriate cleats depending on conditions and field surface). Sliding pants should be the same color as the shorts, and are not to extend visibly below the uniform shorts. Uniform socks are to be pulled up and always cover shin guards.

Players must bring a water bottle to all practices and games. At games, place your water bottle behind your bag when not in use. To prevent passing on illnesses to teammates, do not share water bottles!

Personal items such as rings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, other jewelry and hairpins (except for rubber bands or other elastic bands) are not permitted during training or games. Players should be dressed alike during all team activities.

IX. PAST DUE FEES

As a prerequisite to activation by the Club of your players enrollment in FKSC, all delinquent and past due fees, both in regard to Club and Team fees, must be brought current. Any current registration will not be activated, and a roster spot will not be reserved, until such time that past due fees are current and paid.

X. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This Handbook constitutes, in part, your agreement with FKSC, and by your participation in FKSC, you agree to adhere to the terms, conditions, and policies of this handbook. In reviewing the Club's handbook, we hope that you find the information helpful. The purpose of the handbook is to communicate FKSC club guidelines and policies. All FKSC members, both parents and players, are expected to uphold these guidelines and standards of excellence, respect, commitment and sportsmanship.

By enrolling in FKSC, I acknowledge the guidelines and policies of FKSC. I acknowledge the content of the handbook and represent that I will follow the policies set forth therein, setting a good example and representing the Club with sportsmanship and respect. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the

aforementioned rules, policies, and guidelines, I will be subject to potential disciplinary action set by the Club or respective league, which could result in my, and my player's, removal from the Club.

SIGNED BY ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION

In consideration of being permitted to compete or for any purpose participate in any way in the related activities, I, the parent or legal guardian of the named player, in consideration of myself and the named player, his personal representatives, heirs, next of kin, acknowledges, agrees and represents as follows:

1. HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE the state association (Florida Youth Soccer Association, Inc. "FYSA") and all of its affiliated organizations, FKSC, as well as their officers, directors, and agents, or their employees, consultants, the promoters, participants, operators, officials, sponsors, advertisers, owners and leasees of premises used to conduct the activities (collectively, the "Released Parties) from all liability to the named player, his personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin for any and all damage, and any claim or demands therefore on account of injury to the person or property or resulting in the death of the named player, whether caused by the negligence of the Released Parties or otherwise while the named player is competing or for any other purpose participating in the Activities. HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE or for any other purpose participating in the Activities.

2. I, the parent or legal guardian of the named player expressly acknowledges and agrees that the Activities may be dangerous and may involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. I, the parent or legal guardian of the named player further expressly agrees that the foregoing release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of Florida in which the Activities are conducted and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I, the parent or legal guardian of the named player HAS READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNS THE RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, and further agrees that no oral representation, statements or inducement apart from the foregoing written agreement have been made.

This waiver, release and indemnification agreement specifically embraces each and every activity sanctioned, authorized or promoted by said Released Parties and applies to each and every activity, hereinabove mentioned, and has the same effect as if executed after each and every activity in which the named player participates so that the parties herein intended to be released and indemnified shall be fully and effectively released and indemnified to each and every activity hereinabove described.