

Policy Number: PFFC010

Policy Date: April 4, 2026

Revision: 1

Policy Name: Player Participation and Playing Time Policy (Academy & Select)

1. General Principles and Club Authority Pike Fury FC is a competitive development club for the Academy (U11–U12) and Select (U13–U19) tiers. Participation in matches is an earned privilege, not a guaranteed right.

- **Coaching Discretion:** Final authority on all game-day decisions—including, but not limited to, positions, substitutions, and minutes played—rests solely with the Head Coach under the guidance of the Director of Coaching (DOC).
- **Operational Reliance:** The Guardian acknowledges that registration fees cover the cost of professional training and club infrastructure; fees do not constitute a "purchase" of specific minutes of playing time.

2. Registrar's Administrative Authority (Card Pulling) The Club Registrar maintains the ultimate authority over a player's eligibility to participate in any sanctioned match or tournament.

- **The "Card Pull" Rule:** The Registrar reserves the absolute right to **withdraw a player's US Club Soccer Player Card** (physical or digital) and/or place the player on an administrative "Ineligible" list at any time.
- **Triggers for Ineligibility:** This authority will be exercised if **including, but not limited to:**
 - **Financial Delinquency:** The account is past due according to the schedule in **Policy PFFC007**.
 - **Behavioral Issues:** There is an active disciplinary investigation or a violation of **Policy PFFC001** (Player Conduct) or **Policy PFFC002** (Parent Conduct).

3. Playing Time Guidelines (U11 – U19)

- **Academy (U11 – U12):** While equal playing time is **not guaranteed**, each field player in good standing will participate in at least one (1) segment of each game. **Note:** Goalkeepers are excluded from this requirement.
- **Select (U13 – U19):** Playing time is strictly at the discretion of the coaching staff. Minutes are awarded based on performance, attendance, and the competitive requirements of the SCCL environment.

4. Attendance, "No-Shows," and Formal Intervention

- **4.1 Mandatory Notification and Responsible Party:** The Parent or Legal Guardian who completes the online registration ("Signing Guardian") is the **sole party responsible** for all attendance communications. The Signing Guardian must ensure that any other parents, guardians, or family members involved in the player's transportation are aware of and adhere to these notification rules.
- **4.2 Game Notification:** The Signing Guardian must provide a minimum of **48 hours' notice** if a player will be absent from a scheduled game or tournament.
- **4.3 The "No-Show" Rule and Escalation:** A "No-Show" is a failure to attend a game without prior notification or a documented emergency.
 - **Mandatory Reporting:** If a player is a "No-Show" for **two (2) or more games** (consecutive or patterned), the Head Coach **must notify the Club Registrar and the Director of Coaching (DOC).**
 - **Administrative Review:** Upon notification, the Registrar or DOC will schedule a mandatory meeting with the Signing Guardian and Player. Next steps—including, but not limited to, suspension or reassignment—will be determined by Club leadership in the **best interest of the team and the Club.**
- **4.4 School Sports Exception:** Multi-sport athletes will **not** be penalized for missed sessions due to mandatory school-sanctioned sports (e.g., GHSA soccer), provided the Signing Guardian communicates the conflict directly to the Head Coach at least 48 hours in advance.

5. Communication Protocol for Playing Time Concerns

- **The 24-Hour Rule:** Per **Policy PFFC005**, no discussion regarding playing time may occur within 24 hours of a match.
- **Step 1:** Meeting with the Head Coach.
- **Step 2:** Referral to the **Director of Coaching (Chris Garland)** or **Club Registrar (Niki Garland).**

6. Acknowledgement and Binding Agreement By completing the online registration for Pike Fury FC, the Signing Guardian acknowledges they have received, read, and fully understand the terms of this policy. The Signing Guardian explicitly agrees to the following:

- **Responsibility for Others:** The Signing Guardian assumes **sole responsibility** for ensuring that all other family members and guests abide by these communication and attendance requirements.
- **No Refund for Participation Changes:** The Guardian acknowledges that "low playing time" or administrative actions taken in the best interest of the Club are **not** valid reasons for a refund under **Policy PFFC008.**
- **Electronic Signature:** Pursuant to the **Georgia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (O.C.G.A. § 10-12-1, et seq.),** this digital submission serves as a binding legal signature.
- **Venue and Jurisdiction:** Any disputes or claims shall be handled exclusively within the jurisdiction of **Pike County, Georgia.**