



# Parent/Player Handbook

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*NOTE: This document will be updated as necessary by the board of directors.*

**Mission Statement:**

“To provide a positive atmosphere for players to develop their soccer skills both technically and tactically as well as to develop positive off-field characteristics such as sportsmanship, dedication, honesty, commitment, respect for others, a strong work ethic and a sense of self-worth.”

**Key Facts:**

- The Club is governed by an elected Board of Directors and its membership includes parents, players, coaches, referees, and other volunteers.
- The Club was founded in 1985 and is run mostly by volunteer labor. It depends on the participation of ALL parents for its success.
- The Club consists of both boys and girls teams from U-8 up to U-18.
- U-8 through U-11 (and some U12) teams are considered “developmental” with emphasis on technical skill development.
- U-12 through U-20 teams are considered “competitive” with emphasis on technical and tactical development.
- Colors: Red/White.
- Affiliated with IYSA (Idaho Youth Soccer Association).
- Teams can compete in a variety of leagues including: IYSA’s State and Local Leagues, multiple levels of PSPL-Puget Sound and Far West Regional League.
- Member of US Soccer Club and US Youth Soccer.
- Alliance Club of the Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns

## **Parent and Player Program Commitment**

Players: When players join the Sting Timbers FC, they are making a commitment of becoming better soccer players and individuals both on and off the field. They are expected to be positive figures to their teams and in the community.

### Player Responsibilities:

- Treat teammates, opposing players, coaches, referees and spectators with respect.
- Every Sting Timbers FC player must read and sign a “player code of conduct” form as part of the registration process, and abide by that code.
- Arrive at minimum 10 minutes before practices start with all the proper equipment (shoes, shin-guards, shorts, inflated soccer ball and water bottle).
- Arrive at game fields promptly when your coach requires (usually 45-60 minutes prior to kickoff).
- Have a timely ride home from games and practices.
- Have your home and away (alternate) uniforms with you at ALL GAMES. Failure to bring both uniforms may result in a player not being allowed to play. All players must wear matching uniform and not conflict with the color of the opposing team.
- Take responsibility for communicating with your coach. If you have an issue or concern, speak directly with your coach about it.
- Play within the rules of the game of soccer.
- Demonstrate self-control.
- Support your teammates.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Accept the decisions of the referee without gesture or argument.
- Win without boasting, and if you lose, do so gracefully and without excuses.
- Honor your commitment to the team and attend all practices and games, unless special circumstances, injury or illness prevent it. Whenever possible, an absence from a practice or game should be discussed with the coach before the absence occurs.
- Maintain a sense of dedication to the team. Keep competitively sharp and in good condition. Strive for improvement.
- *Never* quit or walk off the field from a game or practice.
- Report all injuries to the team coach as soon as possible.
- Keep your uniform clean and in good condition.
- Follow and adhere to the Sting Timbers FC travel and tournament rules.
- Take responsibility for organizing time to ensure that adequate time and attention is devoted to your studies/academics.

## Parent Responsibilities

- Avoid coaching from the sidelines. Cheer but do not coach. Coaches do not need conflicting messages being sent and players need to be able to hear the team coach.
- Parents who cannot display appropriate behavior on the sidelines will be asked / expected to leave the game and may be asked to appear before the board of directors.
- Players and parents should be flexible and supportive of their team coach. Remember these coaches are for the most part, *volunteers* and give an incredible amount of their own time for the good of the game. Head coaches receive a small stipend at the end of the season.
- Be considerate as to when and when not to speak to the coaches. Ask if there is an appropriate time to talk. Avoid calling coaches after 9:00 p.m. or any time on Sunday.
- All parents are expected to volunteer to serve the club in some capacity.
- This will include mandatory volunteer duties at the Hot Shot Tournament. Those who fail to fulfill this obligation will be fined \$100 per player. This includes failure to volunteer, and failure to report to your volunteer position.
- To complete the player registration process, parents must sign the parent expectation form and sign off on their player's code of conduct form.
- There is a financial commitment for joining the club that includes registration fees, purchasing uniforms, tournament fees and travel expenses to games and tournaments. Players not current on their fees to the club or to the team will be placed on a "no pay, no play" list.
- Help your player take responsibility for rest and meals.
- Encourage your player to solve his/her own problems and take responsibility for his/her own actions, rather than doing it for them. In general, players should communicate with the coach regarding injury, absence, playing a different position or playing time before the parent does.
- Get your player to and from practices and games on time.
- Respect the competition – without them, we would have no one to play and no way to improve.
- Be respectful of referees. This is crucial – the referees range from new to seasoned referees and turnover in the referees is directly connected to critical comments from the sidelines.
- Realize all players must compete for their spot on the field, the bench and the roster.
- In Idaho, parents must remain on the opposite side of the field from the players. At no time should a parent be present on the team's side unless summoned by the coach.
- Avoid making negative comments regarding the Club, referee, other players, parents or the coach in front of your player or any other Sting Timbers FC member. Make the positive effort. Parents who cannot be a positive role model as set out herein will be asked / expected to leave the game and may be asked to appear before the board of directors.

## **Club Directors**

The director of coaching, DOC, is involved in the day to day operations of the club including strategic planning for growth and how it fits in the local, regional and national soccer scenes, fund raising, and community relations. He or she is in charge of positioning the club in the best way possible to grow and develop players and coaches to make a positive impact in the community. The DOC helps prepare those players wishing to play at the next level and maintains contact with college coaches. The DOC is in charge of all player and coach development and works closely with the board of directors. The DOC is a paid employee of the club and oversees the philosophy and direction of the teams and coaches. In addition, the DOC works closely with US Club Soccer in relation to its leagues and tournaments and place Sting Timbers FC teams in them when appropriate.

The director of coaching fulfills or assigns responsibility to fulfill the following activities. Facilitates and is present at ALL tryouts and provides oversight for team selection. (Note: Any questions regarding player selection should be addressed directly to the director of coaching.) Is in charge of leading the coaching selection. Administers coaching clinics before, during and after the season. Organizes “technical training” at the beginning of each season. Ensures an appropriate training schedule is offered to ALL of the club teams. The DOC will be reasonably available for individual team clinics as requested by teams. Provides mini camps and team development. Works in conjunction with IYSA in scheduling games for the Intermountain Premier League or other leagues.

## **Assistant Club Director(s)**

The assistant director(s) will assist the director in player and coaching development. The assistant director(s) are paid employees of the club and oversee the philosophy and direction of the teams and coaches. The assistant director(s) work closely with the director to develop coaching curriculum for the U-8 through U-20 teams. Works as a liaison to the city Parks and Recreation departments. The assistant director(s) also manage the technical programs for the boys and girls teams. This includes implementing and managing, clinics and other technical programs. Works with the director to coordinate access for teams into tournaments, events and leagues.

## **Club Registrar / Assistant Administrator**

The Club Registrar and Assistant Administrator handle most of the administrative side of the club which includes but is not limited to, all of the incoming phone calls, e-mails and other inquiries to the club. The Registrar completes all player, team, coach and volunteer registration for the club and is a paid employee of the club. The Registrar also facilitates the administrative side of tryouts and complies with the guidelines of the Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA). The Registrar works with team managers providing assistance and training for their duties as team managers and helps finalize all state cup rosters. (Including: Rosters, Insurance Forms, Player Cards for IYSA and US Club.) The club administrator is also an advisor of our annual spring “Bill Eisenwinter Hot Shot Soccer Tournament”. The Assistant Administrator organizes all team volunteer rep information, works at the club office and is a paid employee of the club.

## **Board of Directors**

All positions on the Sting Timbers FC Board are volunteer positions. Anyone interested in becoming a board member must notify the board president 30 days prior to the annual general meeting held each June. Board elections are held at the annual general meeting with results becoming effective immediately. Board members serve two-year terms that begin and end at the annual general meeting.

The board of directors discusses and makes decisions for the entire club. All parents are welcome to attend board meetings to share comments or concerns. If parents would like to address the board they must notify one of the board members 24 hours before the meeting so board members have the chance to read any items being presented and can give their full attention to the discussion. Individuals addressing the board will be given a set amount of time by the club president to address their issue.

The Board will consist of at a minimum President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. This portion of the board will also serve as the executive committee.

Other positions on the board may include but are not limited to: Business Development Officer, Tournament Director, Fields Director, Fundraising Director, Referee Director, Public Relations Director, Parent Player Advocate, and Volunteer Director. The Immediate Past President shall offer support and guidance to the new board.

As needed, the board may also assign members to the following areas of interest: Park and Recreation, Land Procurement, and Long Range Planning.

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held once a month (except July and December) on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Sting Timbers FC Office. During daylight savings time, (typically November – March) of the off season, meetings start at 6:00 p.m.

The club director, assistant director(s) and administrator attend board meetings but are NOT voting members on the board.

## **Parent Volunteers**

Each team must have a parent assigned to each volunteer area. These positions are subject to change but are most likely to include:

1. Team Manager – **This job must be approved by the Club President, Registrar and Team Coach.** This job is as important as the coach's job. If your spouse is a coach, we encourage you not to volunteer for this spot. You'll be overseeing the players and parents, organizing all paperwork, tournaments, travel and money. You will work hand in hand with your coach. The coach will do all the work on the field and you will make sure everything else gets done. You can delegate volunteer positions as needed; it is your responsibility to make sure you have all positions below filled and keep them filled if someone leaves the team. This person will report to the Registrar.

2. Referee Rep – Each team will need two referee reps (preferably ADULTS). Reps will need to monitor the Sting Timbers FC Club calendar for information on referee training and certification classes. Reps will be expected to attend a certification class. Both positions must be filled so we can ensure referees for all games (no officials = no games!). Referees will be trained to start as ARs (assistant referees) who work on the sideline of the field. Once established as an AR, referees may train to become center referees if they choose to do so.

NOTE: Teams not providing two active referees may find themselves with fewer home games. Referees are encouraged to bring all their ref gear to away games. At times those games will be short refs and there will be a chance to fulfill this spot for the match. This person will report to the Volunteer Rep on the Board.

3. Field Rep – Field Reps will set up and take down goals and nets, mark fields during the season, make sure the field is ready before each of your games, including, corner flags, any touch up paint that may need done, ensuring nets are secure and goals have appropriate sandbag weights. This volunteer also helps to prepare the fields for tournaments (mid-May).

Additionally, this volunteer will be the team field marshal for both home and away games. As Sting Timbers FC parents, we need to set the example for our players. If the need arises, this person will provide a gentle reminder to any parent who has a "lapse" in sportsmanship. This person will report to the Field Rep on the Board.

4. Club Board Rep – This volunteer will attend the monthly Board meetings and report information from these meetings back to the Coach and Team Manager. Although attendance is not mandatory, all board reps are encouraged to attend the monthly board meetings. This person will report to the Board Secretary, be in contact with him or her to make sure they receive the board meeting minutes, and distribute the minutes to their team members.



5. Raffle Ticket Rep – Sting Timbers FC holds an annual raffle fundraiser. The raffle ticket rep must be available from March through May to coordinate their team's raffle ticket activity. This includes distributing raffle tickets to each player/family on the team and ensuring all raffle tickets and money are collected and accounted for. This person will report to the Sting Timbers FC PR/Fundraising Director.

6. Hot Shot Tournament Rep – The Hot Shot tournament reps will work together to support the Hot Shot Director. Currently the Sting Timbers FC Club hosts the Hot Shot Tournament on Mother's Day weekend in mid-May. Volunteers will need to be available for scheduled meetings from July through mid-May. Activities will include, but are not limited to: participation on tournament sub-committee, scheduling team families for volunteer shifts at the tournament and any additional help the Hot Shot Director may need. This person will report to the Hot Shot Director and Co-Director on the Board. Teams may decide to assign this position to two people.

7. Medical Kit Rep – This person will make sure the medical kit and ice are always at games, practices and tournaments. This person will report directly to the Team Coach and Manager.

8. Public Relations and Team Pictures Rep – This person will report outcome of league play and tournaments for their team to the Coeur d'Alene Press newspaper (youth sport section) and work with the Club PR Committee as necessary. Additionally, this person will coordinate transfer of team photos to the Club Board Website Manager for uploading to Sting Timbers FC website. This person will also be responsible for making sure the team knows about upcoming Sting Timbers FC gear sales. This person will report directly to the Club Public Relations Director.

9. Hotel Travel/ – This person will coordinate hotel room blocks any time the team needs to book a hotel for road games or tournaments. This person will report directly to the Team Coach and Manager.

10. Bench/Shelter Rep – Each team should have a bench and/or a shelter for their team. If the team does not have a bench, consider collecting funds from all the team parents to purchase one. This person is responsible for bringing the bench and shelter, if applicable, to each team game. This person will report directly to the Team Coach or Manager.

## **Tryouts and Playing Season**

Tryouts for all age groups are held following the spring season, typically the first weeks of June before summer vacation. The date range for tryouts is set by IYSA. Check the website for actual dates.

*Players must try out each year. No spot is “guaranteed” because they have played previously.* The U-8 to U-14 ages are year round and include two seasons of league play. Fall league play runs from early September through the end of November. Spring league play runs from January through May. Additionally, tournament play can occur in July or August, between league play and following league play in the spring.

The U-15 and older teams begin play immediately following the fall High School season and continue through the summer.

*Play-ups on teams will only be allowed if the club director feels the situation is best for the player. This will be decided on a case by case basis.* Players who wish to tryout for an older age group must submit their request in writing via a letter or email to the Director of Coaching and club registrar.

Tryouts for all teams older than U-18 will not be typically scheduled, due to the inability of players in these age brackets to be present for a tryout. Teams in these age brackets will be selected from a pool of players who have identified in writing to the club their intent to participate, or from players from a younger age bracket, as necessary, to field a competitive team.

## **Supplemental Tryouts**

These are tryouts that are coordinated to help teams pick up additional players before the fall or spring league play starts. These tryouts are offered during the year if necessary. A coach requests a tryout from the director at any time before the IYSA spring roster “freeze” date. The director, assistant director or designated coach must be present at all tryouts. If an “A” team offers a tryout, a “B” team player can attend and try out for any open spot(s).

## **Tryout Procedure and Policy**

All players are expected to attend all tryout days as designated by their age group. Any player who moves to the area after tryouts are completed may be considered at the next scheduled tryout or at a supplemental tryout.

If a player is unable to attend and/or participate in tryouts, the Club Director must receive in writing a letter indicating the reason PRIOR to the start of tryouts. All letters must be sent the Director of Coaching three days prior to the start of tryouts to be considered. If a temporary medical condition or injury necessitates a waiver from tryouts, a statement of same may be required from a doctor at the discretion of the club director. A player who is temporarily unable to try out because of a medical condition may only be considered for a team if that player’s

ability can be ascertained by the club director. In cases of medical conditions or injury, if possible the player must register and check in at tryouts and is encouraged to be present on the sideline during the tryout.

### **Player Selection**

Player selection is the responsibility of the club director, assistant director(s) and the designated Sting Timbers FC coaching staff.

### **Playing Time**

The Sting Timbers FC is a *competitive* youth soccer program with the purpose of promoting and developing the game of soccer. As a competitive program equal playing time for all players is not a necessity as it is in recreational programs.

Teams below the U12 age groups are considered developmental, and shared playing time for all players is essential in their development. Every player should attend every practice and compete as if it is a game. Every player gets 100% playing and development time when they attend practice. Players not attending practices, may be penalized in playing time. Skill level, attendance and work rate at practices helps determine playing time.

All players who attend practices and work hard need playing time to develop their skills. It is very difficult to get everyone equal playing time on the field. The rules of the game, roster size, position, and injuries can affect this.

As teams get older with increasing competition (U-12 and above), it becomes necessary to play the better players more. As a result, there may be a greater disparity in playing time between players.

Regardless of age group, there is no guarantee of playing time for players on *any* team that advances to the State Cup or Regional Tournaments.

### **Practices**

In general, teams will practice two to three times per week.

Practice days and times are decided by the coach. Younger teams typically practice two days per week while older teams may increase their practices to three days per week. Practices are usually one and a half hours for the younger teams and up to two hours for the older teams. This is approximately the same amount of time players will be on the field from start to finish during a game.

Day of the week and times for practices will vary depending on the schedule of the coach and field availability. Every effort will be made to maintain consistency in practice schedules to enable parents and players to plan accordingly.

Appropriate training attire must be worn for practice. Uniforms are NOT appropriate training attire. Soccer clothing – shorts, socks, shin guards and designated practice shirts – must be worn for training. No tank tops or jeans allowed.

Practices are normally held rain or shine. If you do not receive notice that a practice is cancelled, you should assume that practice is on. If necessary, the coach can cancel practice at the field. The coach and/or club director have the right to cancel any practice if he/she believes the safety of players is at risk.

Although teams can practice and play in all kinds of weather, lightning is cause for immediate suspension or termination of play. The '30/30' rule for lightning safety could save lives. The first '30' means that you need to take cover (in a sturdy building or a car) if you hear thunder within 30 seconds of the lightning flash ('flash to bang' ratio). Then wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or thunder in order to resume normal activity.

All players are expected to make an investment in their own development beyond the formal training time scheduled with the team. Players are encouraged and expected to discuss ideas for skills improvement with their coach and practice and play on their own outside of regular practice.

The Club Director will develop a master schedule for the calendar year so that each team receives its share of professional staff coaching.

If a player cannot make practice, it is **the player's** responsibility to contact the coach before the practice begins. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and reduction of playing time for the next game. If the player does not attend any of the practices, they will not play that weekend but will be expected to attend the game and support their teammates.

### **Tournaments and Summer Training**

When available, players are encouraged to participate in all Sting Timbers FC technical training programs (fall/winter/spring/summer). This includes Sting Timbers FC academy training, camps, tournaments, and leagues.

### **Team Registration Meeting**

After teams are selected, families may check the website on the designated date to see if their player was selected. With this information, there will be direction given on completing a medical release, volunteer representative information sheet and a list of items to be brought to the registration meeting.

Parent(s) should attend this meeting with their player. This is the time when parents and players will meet their teammates and fellow parents. All volunteer positions are filled at this meeting. Missing this meeting, will result in an assignment of a remaining parent volunteer position for the team. Any additional registration paperwork is handled at this meeting. This is also the time that players and parents can meet the coach(s) for their team. The coach and parents will discuss upcoming tournaments and which tournaments the team will be attending. Each team manager is responsible for registering the team for tournaments.

Note: The cost of all tournaments is equally divided among all players whether, the player can attend all of the tournaments or not. Tournament fees are non-refundable.

### **Team Roster Guidelines and Guest Players**

It is the policy of the Idaho Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) that players, can only be registered on one team roster in any state at any given time. Players are committed to the club for the entire seasonal year (July 1 to June 30). Players may play as guest players within our own club with the approval of both team coaches. Players wishing to play as guest players for another club must receive permission from the club director. Coaches and DOC from other clubs must obtain permission from the Sting Timbers FC DOC, prior to asking the player to guest play. Those violating this policy are subject to illegal recruitment penalties.

### **Club Equipment Sponsor**

The Sting Timbers FC has an exclusive apparel contract through the Portland Timbers FC and MLS (Major League Soccer) which currently uses Adidas brand apparel. They agree to give us special pricing on all equipment and uniforms as well as being the official sponsor of our Hot Shot Tournament. In return we agree to have all of our teams wear Adidas exclusively throughout the year. **All players and goalkeepers are required to wear Adidas (shorts, shirts, socks) for all games and tournaments. Players will not be allowed to play until they adhere to this policy.** Players are not required to wear Adidas shoes or goalkeeper gloves. Players practice shirts are included in the uniform package and will be worn for all practices. The length of the contract usually runs for two to three years after which we evaluate the relationship.

### **Uniforms and Uniform Costs**

Uniforms are purchased approximately every two years, and the cost is determined at that time. The uniform package includes two sets of game uniforms (one red and one white), shorts, socks, team warm ups, practice shirts.

Only club-approved uniforms can be worn for regulation games, including both league play and tournaments. Uniform colors and styles are coordinated with the Sting Timbers FC colors. Each player has a home and away uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts and socks. The DOC's approve the new uniforms every two years in February prior to the June tryout to ensure uniform availability for the club. There will be no deviations from the DOC-approved Sting Timbers FC club uniforms.

Based on the contract with Adidas, the Club requires players to purchase new uniforms every two to three years. If a manufacturer unexpectedly discontinues a style, players may have to purchase more than one uniform in a season. The

club makes every effort to limit the number of uniforms each player must purchase.

Additional shirts, sweatpants, thermals, hats, headbands and even light gloves should be kept in the player's bag in case of cold weather.

### **Player Equipment**

Every player is expected to come to practices and games prepared. Minimally, this means wearing the proper uniform or practice clothing, cleats (or appropriate shoes for the playing surface), and shin guards, and bringing an appropriately sized, properly inflated soccer ball, and a water bottle. Mouth guards are recommended for all players but are not required. All players should always bring both uniforms to all games in case their uniform color must be changed to accommodate the opposing team.

All players in all games and practices must wear shin guards. Eyeglasses, jewelry, and earrings may be deemed dangerous by referees and should not be worn during practices or games. Approved protective eyewear or contact lenses should be worn instead of eyeglasses.

### **Tournaments and League Travel – Coach Reimbursement**

There are a few local tournaments throughout the year. Tournaments are selected by coaches with the recommendations of the club director. Sting Timbers FC strives to enter our teams in tournaments that complement league play. Most teams compete in two tournaments in the fall and two to three in the spring. Most applications are due six to twelve weeks prior to the tournament. The coach or manager must be sure the tournaments they attend are sanctioned by the state in which the tournament is held. Travel papers are only required for tournaments outside the United States, such as those in Canada.

When a tournament or league game is outside Kootenai County, team parents are expected to cover the head coach's travel expenses. This includes paying for a standard hotel room (if needed), mileage reimbursement at a rate of \$0.40 per mile, and \$40 per day for meals.

### **Travel**

All teams need to expect to travel. Traveling to competitive soccer tournaments is a key component for the development of players and teams. When our teams and players are matched against strong competition, it requires them to elevate their level of play and performance. Travel for younger age groups is typically closer to home. It exposes players to traveling and improves their ability to focus as a team. Travel for older teams focuses on competition and exposure to college coaches.

Commitment to a Sting Timbers FC team means commitment to league play and tournament travel. Planned tournament and league discussions will be made available at the first parent-coach meeting before the upcoming season. Players who make a commitment to a team should commit to attend all team events, including league play and tournaments. If a player decides not to attend a tournament that the group has agreed on, they will still have to pay their portion of the tournament fees.

Player who are old enough to drive are only allowed to drive to practices and games in the county in which they live in. Per Idaho State law, all drivers need to carry their own automobile insurance. IYSA insurance does not cover travel to and from games.

Hotel arrangements for games and tournaments requiring an overnight stay will be made by the travel rep for the team. It is strongly encouraged that all players stay at the same hotel.

## **Club Fees and Payment of Fees**

### Club Registration

Club registration fees will be determined by the board of directors prior to June 1 of each year. Soccer fees are for a full soccer year (July 1 to June 30), including a fall and a spring season. Registration fees are collected at tryouts. Club fees may change from year to year.

Registration fees cover professional coaching, referee fees, registration with the Idaho Youth Soccer Association and League Fee Registration.

If payment has not been received by the designated date the player will be placed on the “no pay; no play” list, be ineligible to play and may lose their spot on the team.

### *After a player makes a team:*

When a player is selected for a team, they have taken a position that could have been occupied by another player. Club registration is non-refundable if the player leaves a team voluntarily. Non-voluntary withdrawal from a team (moving, death in the family, season-ending injury and other extenuating circumstances beyond the direct control of the family) is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

If a player is not selected for a team, registration fees will be refunded in full.

All parents are required to pay their child’s registration and tournament fees regardless of their position within the club.

Medical Kit: Each team is to supply their own medical kit. Medical kits should be replenished on an as-needed basis and is a shared cost of the parents on that team. This typically costs \$5 to \$10 per player, per season.

### Tournament Fees

Team tournament and travel fees must be paid by the deadlines established by the manager who is registering the team for the tournament. (Usually by mid-July for the fall season and by mid-December to mid-January for the spring season. Teams are also responsible for collecting sufficient funds from each team player to cover the travel expenses of the team's head coach (gas, hotel, meals, etc.). These costs will be divided among all players on the team whether the player is attending the tournament or not.

If payment has not been received by the designated date, the player will not be allowed to play in games, practices and tournaments until payment has been made.

### **Delinquent Accounts**

When faced with a delinquent account, the club director/board of directors has the discretion to impose sanctions including restricting travel to tournaments and/or requiring the player to sit out games and practices until payment is made in full or arrangements are made to pay the delinquent account in a timely manner. No player will be restricted from play based upon a delinquent account without adequate prior notice to the player and the player's parents. Adequate notice will include an email or letter provided a minimum of seven days prior to playing restrictions being imposed.

### **Nonsufficient Checks**

The board reserves the right to charge a fee for any check payable to the club that was returned for nonsufficient funds. The fee will include actual bank charges plus an administrative fee for extra work required to clear up the account.

### **Financial Aid**

A financial aid fund is available to provide assistance to Sting Timbers FC players who would not be able to play competitive soccer without such assistance. The scholarships are based on need, not priority. Aid is available to Sting Timbers FC players on a first-come, first-served basis after the Sting Timbers FC Financial Aid Committee has received a completed application from the parents of the Sting Timbers FC player and the committee has reviewed and discussed the application. Financial aid is only available to alleviate registration fees. It is not intended to cover tournament fees or uniform costs. An individual player sponsor may be available to assist with tournament fees or uniform costs. Contact your team manager or a board member for more information.

### **Functional Training**

Functional training is training that focuses on a specific position or group of positions (i.e., defenders, midfielders, forwards, etc.). It is only appropriate for 11v11 teams and may be conducted with multiple teams present. Players are expected to



attend functional training sessions even if they are provided outside of a team's usual practice time.

## **Fundraising**

The financial commitment required to play traveling and competitive soccer can be significant. Sting Timbers FC is committed to fundraising for both the club and individual teams. It has been our experience that a great percentage of costs can be decreased with proactive fundraising. Parent volunteers are the primary drivers behind the fundraisers and full participation by those players receiving scholarships is expected.

The club has two annual fundraisers that all teams and parents are expected to participate in:

Hot Shot Tournament – This tournament is hosted by our club. The funds raised from this tournament go toward field development and toward the Club Director, Assistant Director and Club Administrator salaries. 180+ teams participate each year at this event. Each family takes on duties to ensure the success of the tournament. Duties may include team check-in, field marshalling, field set up/take down, clean up, etc.

Spring Raffle – This event usually starts in March, and the drawing is held in May each year.

## **Referees**

It is extremely important that parents are supportive and encouraging to referees. Without referees we will not have anyone to officiate games and they will be cancelled. Yelling at the referee will not change a call that has already been made. Due to the constant shortage of referees, each team **MUST** have a minimum of two referee representatives that will referee and assistant referee games during the season. Teams without active representatives may be unable to find referees and therefore have fewer home games.

## **Olympic Development Program (ODP)**

ODP is a statewide program for all players who want to improve their play. It serves as an identification program for U.S. youth national and regional teams. There are occasional district trainings, but most of the training takes place in Boise. ODP requires a separate fee for participation. Families interested in entering their player in ODP should discuss the program with the DOC and their team coach.

## **Indoor and Futsal Soccer**

Winter indoor soccer leagues are not affiliated with or sponsored by IYSA or the Sting Timbers FC. However, the Club encourages all teams to participate in winter indoor soccer leagues. Indoor soccer is a great way to stay in shape during the winter months. The more a player plays the game, the better that player becomes.

## **Communication on Issues of Concern**

When issues and concerns arise at the team level, the board recommends the following process:

1. Players should be encouraged and expected to talk directly to the team coaches and discuss the specific issue of concern.
2. If this is not possible or is unsuccessful, then both the player and the parent should talk with the team coaches.
3. If the issue is still not resolved, the player and parent should contact the club Parent/Player Advocate. The Parent/Player Advocate will contact the DOC if needed.
4. The President and the Board of Directors should only be used as a last resort to resolve coach/player/team issues. If parents would like to present a concern to the board, they should provide a brief (no more than one page) written summary of the situation to the Board President at least one week prior to the board meeting. The parents may attend the board meeting, but they are asked to be respectful of the board's time and other agenda items.

## **24 Hour Rule**

The 24 hour rule states that parents who are upset must wait 24 hours before contacting their team coach. This protects coaches from inappropriate parent behavior gives parents' emotions time to cool, and helps preserve a positive environment for all players.

Parents should strictly avoid discussing any issues they may have with a coach before, during, or immediately after matches. This includes face to face conversation, email, or phone communication. Parents who have a concern should honor the 24 hour rule, then schedule a time to meet with the coach.

The 24 hour rule is strictly enforced by the Club's board of directors. Failure to adhere to this rule may lead to banning parents from matches and loss of club membership. All coaches need to contact the DOC if a situation has occurred.

## **Academics**

Sting Timbers FC expects all players to strive to perform their best on the field and in the classroom. The Sting Timbers FC has a strong tradition of academic excellence and we encourage all players to organize their schedules to ensure they have adequate time to devote to their studies. Having homework is not an acceptable excuse for missing practice. Players who miss practice miss the

opportunity to get better individually and hurt their team. All players have homework and as athletes they must manage their time wisely. If players are having issues in school they need to have their parents talk with the coach to work out an acceptable plan.

### **Multisport Athletes and Year-Round Soccer**

We do support our multi sport athletes and we work with players and parents to work out a fair and equitable plan for those players that wish to pursue other sports and interests. STING TIMBERS FC has always been willing to “share” its players with other sports and interests and have found that success comes in those situations that are fair and equitable for the player’s Sting Timbers FC team, the player and the competing activity. It must be known that to earn playing time, players must attend at least one practice per week.

However, for those players who wish to play full time soccer, the Sting Timbers FC provides that opportunity on a year round basis with continued professional guidance.

### **Club Bylaw Information**

For purposes of the bylaws, members are considered: parents of players, players, directors, all team coaches and assistant coaches, referees, administrative personnel and volunteers. Listed below are sections of the bylaws listed verbatim.

Section 3.4 of the bylaws states:

Section 3.4 Member Discipline: The Board shall have the authority to deny or revoke membership status to anyone having a moral character inconsistent with the stated purposes of the Club; whose participation in the Club is potentially disruptive to the operations of the Club or dangerous to the other Members; or who has failed to abide by or violated the provisions set out in the Sting Timbers FC Parent Expectations Form, the Sting Timbers FC Code of Conduct, or the IYSA Coaches’ Code of Ethics (if applicable) as determined by the Board.

Section 7 of the bylaws states:

Section 7 The Board shall have the power to impose reasonable nonmonetary penalties and/or suspensions of the Member’s rights (e.g., voting rights, playing rights, or other rights of participation in Club activities) or other appropriate discipline for failure to comply with the Bylaws or duly adopted Policies; provided that all such discipline shall be imposed in accordance with duly adopted Policies, and that the accused shall be given notice and the opportunity to be heard by the Board with respect to the alleged violations before a decision to impose discipline is reached (provided that temporary discipline may be taken by the Board in the event of an emergency, where based on reasonably reliable evidence that such discipline is warranted).

## **Illegal Recruiting**

USYSA considers contact with a player or parent of a player who is affiliated with another IYSA club during a playing season an attempt to recruit that player, and therefore constitutes illegal recruiting (IYSA has no jurisdiction over non IYSA affiliated players and organizations).

Accepted methods of notifying potential players of tryout dates are through mass media sources such as websites, TV and newspaper advertisements, in other words, indirect contact.

Below are the other instances of illegal recruiting as listed in the Participation Rules.

- a. Anyone who benefits from recruiting can violate the rules, i.e. parents.
- b. The parents must be contacted prior to approaching players under 18 years of age.
- c. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player or player's parents or guardians with offers of material goods, gifts, free trips, scholarship or a similar benefit is illegal recruiting. Nothing herein shall prohibit teams or -clubs from helping players with fees and equipment when documented financial need exists.
- d. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any player, or player's parents or guardians to leave a USYSA team with which the player is registered for the current seasonal year in order to play with another USYSA team during the seasonal year is illegal recruiting. A player is registered with a IYSA team for a full seasonal year when the signed player pass card, fees, and USYSA registration are submitted to IYSA as part of a IYSA Team Roster form approved by the State Registrar.
- e. Recruiting or attempting to recruit any team to leave a USYSA club with which the team is affiliated for the current seasonal year in order to play with another USYSA soccer club during the seasonal year is illegal recruiting.
- f. Tryouts can only be held during appropriate times as established by IYSA.
- g. Allegations of illegal recruiting may be subject to a hearing by the IYSA Appeals and Protest Committee.
- h. Any individual or club found guilty of illegal recruiting shall be subject to discipline by the IYSA Appeals and Protest Committee.