



# Club Expectations

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Welcome to the club! We are excited that you are joining our family and look forward to working with you for years to come. Flagstaff Revolution is a youth soccer club that primarily focuses on long-term player development using a possession-based methodology. Revolution players will not only learn technical and tactical skills, but also to make appropriate decisions on the field. Learning technical, tactical, and decision-making skills takes a significant amount of time and effort from coaches, players, and families. As such, this document will establish expectations for coaches, players, and families so that each group can do their part to develop players and build a strong club.

## Coaches

Coaches have the responsibility to actively lead their teams and to be ambassadors for the club. All coaches are expected to use clear and consistent communication, exhibit positive behavior, demonstrate a commitment to scheduling and running training sessions and games, and show a clear dedication to improving their own knowledge and understanding of the sport.

Coaches should be upfront and consistently express to both players and parents the demands of club soccer and expectations of Flagstaff Revolution. Players and families need to know from the start about the rigors of club soccer and that while Flagstaff Revolution does everything it can to minimize travel and financial commitments, every roster spot is crucial to the team's success. A lack of commitment at even one roster spot can cause issues with development and scheduling scrimmages and tournaments.

Lastly, coaches are expected to be well versed in the Individual Player Development Plan and actively work to develop all their players according to the guidelines and methodologies therein. Coaches are allowed latitude in training methods as long as their players and teams develop within the possession-based methodology and their teams show improved performance over time.

Coaches are expected to hold regular parent meetings where they address the season schedule, player and parent expectations, explanations of the club's training methodology and the Individual Player Development Plan.

## Players

Our club exists for players. All efforts made by coaches, families, and club administrators are to help the players develop and play better soccer. Given the many sacrifices coaches, parents, and club administrators make, players are expected to demonstrate both focus and effort at all training sessions and matches.



Players are also expected to both play and train at home, away from the club. An important part of the Individual Player Development Plan is the player's personal commitment to playing pick-up soccer with friends and family, and training on their own. Many individual skills cannot be addressed during team training and therefore must be developed at home. Examples of some of these skills are: first-touch, skill moves, and advanced personal fitness. Players should also properly maintain their bodies, ensuring they get enough sleep consistently and eat well. Refer to the Flagstaff Revolution Nutrition Guide for more information on eating for soccer.

Players are expected to arrive at all training sessions, scrimmages, and matches with all required equipment: proper footwear, socks, shin guards, prescribed uniform, pinnie (if applicable), ball, waters, and any other equipment required by the coach.

## Families

Given that our players are adolescents and children, family support is critical to the success of each team and the club as a whole. A large part of each player's development will take place at home with his or her family—thus family support is also critical to the success of each player. Families also play a major role in shaping the culture of each team and can turn the team into a close-knit community through their active involvement as not only a supportive family member but also by volunteering to help support the team and club.

Families should ensure their players are at all training sessions and matches on time and with the appropriate equipment. While players will undoubtedly miss practices and scrimmages here or there, families should make every effort possible to attend all tournaments. When players do not attend tournaments, coaches must alter game plans and roster selections. If your player is unable to attend any club event it is the family's responsibility to communicate the absence with the coach. If finances are ever a limiting factor in your player's participation for anything, please let your coach know so the club can help.

Families should also aim to create a soccer culture in the home. It doesn't have to be all-consuming but families can foster their player's love for the game by watching professional matches, following a club and/or national team, and playing together. Refer to the Individual Player Development Plan for more information on the importance of the home environment on player development.

Lastly, families must demonstrate positive attitudes and patience. Players go through rough patches, develop at different rates, and possess unique skills. Families may want their child to play a certain position or play more than another player; however, families are expected to allow the coaches to do their job by training them according to the club methodology and then putting them in the best position to succeed.



The necessity for positive attitudes extends to the sidelines. Families should give encouragement and cheer raucously but leave tactical instruction for the coaches. Sidelines that jeer players and referees are a poor reflection on the club and put coaches in the difficult position of managing both the game and the sidelines.





# References

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