



Averill Park Football Club Competitive Soccer Agreement

One key ingredient to a successful youth soccer experience is clear, consistent communication between the Club, its teams and coaches, and all Club players and parents. This Player/Parent Agreement is one way of explaining, in detail, the Averill Park Football Club's (APFC) expectations of you as a member of the Club and what you, in turn, can expect from the Club. The Player/Parent Agreement (the "Agreement") is intended to help answer questions about APFC's competitive soccer program and prevent common issues that could arise. Please read the following pages carefully. This Agreement must be accepted and followed in order to participate in the competitive soccer program at APFC. This Agreement covers the full year of our program- the Fall season that runs from August 1st-October 31st (for levels U8-U12), the winter season that runs from November 1st to March 31st (for all levels), and the Spring season that runs from April 1st-June 30th (for all pending appropriate roster numbers).

TRYOUTS

APFC hosts tryouts each June for the following year. Primarily registration for the year takes place in July, with families being able to change their player's registration status until July 31st. After that date, rosters are considered finalized and families will no longer receive a refund if their child withdraws from the program UNLESS there is a medical reason the child cannot continue to play (doctor's note required). Players MAY be allowed to join once the season has started depending on their skill level, roster numbers, and the level at which the team is playing. Unlike Rec soccer, participation in competitive soccer is not guaranteed. During tryouts each prospective player will be given a fair opportunity to make the team he or she tries out for. APFC will invite players to join a team shortly after tryouts have been completed. Players will also be notified if they are waitlisted or do not make the team, and a justification will be provided.

COMMITMENT

APFC has a competitive soccer program geared toward players who love the sport of soccer and are serious about their development as soccer players. It is important to recognize that players and parents invest significant time and resources in playing competitive soccer and expect APFC to create and foster an environment that will allow players to compete at the highest level of soccer appropriate for the team. Your commitment to APFC and APFC's commitment to you are on a yearly basis. At the conclusion of the year (end of June) your child is free to leave APFC. If a player is not able to play during a specific season (fall, winter, Spring), the parent must notify the coach at least 30 days before the season begins. Specific requests for exemption from a season will be considered and approved on a case-by-case basis. Once a player has committed to one of the teams the expectation is that he or she will be at all practices and games, unless there is an unavoidable conflict. Participation in, and commitment to, practices will be reflected in playing time during games. Also, no player will be cut from an APFC team during a season except as a result of disciplinary issues or failure to fulfill financial obligations.

REFUNDS

Once you have committed to your child playing on a team for the year and registration has closed (July 31st), APFC cannot issue a monetary refund unless your child has an illness or injury (doctor's note required) that prevents them from competing for the season. Please also consider that teams are created with roster sizes in mind. We are a small, community-based club and sometimes our roster numbers are very close to the minimum number of players. While it may not seem that your child's participation makes a difference, if one or two players decide not to play at the last minute it can potentially affect the viability of an entire team.



CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

APFC is committed to providing a high level and quality of soccer for our competitive players. We do our best to plan seasons in advance and communicate all the information to parents in a timely way. Practice schedules will be set in advance, and practices will occur as scheduled unless unforeseen circumstances prevent them from happening. Coaching staff are also set in advance and receive formal and informal training in technical, tactical, and the principles of soccer development.

We consider “play up” requests and opportunities for players individually based on skill, size, and team numbers and needs. We cannot control the game schedules for the leagues in which we play. We are responsible for communicating these schedules to parents as soon as we get them, however we often do not receive game schedules until a few days before the scheduled game. We are also responsible for communicating any changes or additions to schedules (including tournaments, practices, games, and practice sessions) in a timely way. We use the Playmetrics app to communicate with families.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

APFC coaches are committed to helping your child grow as an individual soccer player and teammate. Coaches are responsible for communicating frequently and timely with parents through the Playmetrics app. They are responsible for creating practice plans that consider the developmental principles of soccer training as set forth by the United States Youth Soccer Association. Practices will be organized and intentional and occur on schedule unless unforeseen circumstances prevent them. Coaches are responsible for staying on top of current best practices and incorporating them into training sessions and practices. The Club provides ample opportunities for coach training and development, both formally and informally. Coaches are responsible for communicating to players their strengths and weaknesses, and helping players reach their full potential. Coaches are responsible for creating field plans for games and implementing those plans on game days. They are not responsible for giving equal playing time to all players. At the competitive level, playing time is based on player effort, skill, positioning, attitude, and team needs. Coaches are responsible for making sure all players get at least some playing time each game unless the player’s behavior or attitude prevents them from contributing to a positive team experience. Coaches are responsible for communicating to players and parents any concerns they have about a player’s behavior, attitude, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

There are some coaches who coach two or more APFC teams. All such coaches will attend practices and games to the extent possible. There will be times when conflicts occur and, in those situations, the Assistant Coach or another qualified parent will be asked to cover the practice or game.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance at practices and games is mandatory. Tournament participation is voluntary. Exceptions to this are prior arrangements made with the coach, illness or injury, an unavoidable school commitment, or not being rostered for a game due to game day roster size. Each player or parent is expected to give the coach as much notice as possible if a practice or game must be missed. Players not on the field are expected to sit and watch their teammates from the sideline. Players are expected to try their best and compete to the best of their ability at all times. Players are expected to come to all practices and games with a positive attitude. Players should be prepared to train when they arrive, with shoes tied, shin guards in place, and adequate water to drink throughout practice. **MOST IMPORTANTLY PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A RESPECTFUL, POSITIVE MANNER AT ALL TIMES, WHETHER ON**



OR OFF THE FIELD. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT TOWARD THEMSELVES, THE COACH, TEAMMATE, OR AN OPPOSING TEAM MEMBER, COACH, REFEREE, OR PARENT EITHER ON OR OFF THE FIELD WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE TEAM.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As the parent or guardian of an APFC player, you are responsible for your own behavior. We expect you to come to games and cheer for your child and the team, create a supportive environment for your child, and help support the team and coach in any way you can. Honesty, reliability and appropriate communication will be expected at all times. There may be times during the season when coaches make decisions you do not agree with. If you have issues or concerns such as the amount of playing time your son or daughter is receiving, whether or not he or she is starting, what position he or she is playing, etc., please do not hesitate to speak with the coach. All APFC coaches, many of whom are parents themselves, have an open door policy with respect to such issues or concerns. Players are also encouraged to talk with their coach so they can better understand what is expected of them. Your son or daughter and your coach may not ultimately agree, but everyone should have a better understanding of each other and what needs to be done to resolve any issues through open communication. Ultimately, if your discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, you may contact the Competitive Program Coordinators at apyslcompetitive@gmail.com, or APYSL President at apyslpres@gmail.com (in that order).

You are responsible for knowing what is going on with your team. There are times when changes are made (sometimes last minute) to practice and/or game dates, times and/or locations. APFC uses the Playmetrics app to communicate with families, and it is expected you will download and use this app to communicate with the coach and team. If you are unable to attend a practice or game (or if you plan to arrive late or leave early), you must notify the coach as early as possible.

There will be no coaching by parents. No matter how good your intentions are, shouting of instructions to your child or any other player on the team will not be tolerated. Yelling or complaining to referees or officials during or after games will also not be tolerated. Your positive encouragement is welcome. It is important that players are given only one set of instructions by one voice before, during, and after games. Those instructions should come from the coach. No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the team bench or behind the goal before and during games. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for the coaches and team to carry out their game responsibilities. Please respect your child's coach and do not make negative remarks to others about coaching decisions. APFC's first priority is the growth and development of our players as individuals along with their soccer abilities under pressure. Team and player development take priority over winning, especially in the younger age groups. Remember that your child and the other children on the team hear what you say, see the faces you make, and ultimately learn how they should act by watching you. Any disrespectful or other negative behavior by parents will be taken extremely seriously by APFC and may result in a parent not being allowed to attend games or, in extreme cases, the family being removed entirely from the club.



Progressive Discipline

Players who do not adhere to the behavioral standards set forth in this Competitive Soccer Agreement considering age and any learning, physical, or behavioral challenges the coach is aware of will be subject to Progressive Discipline including:

- First offense: the coach will take the player aside, tell the player specifically what they are doing wrong and how to correct their behavior. Players will be allowed to continue practicing or playing in the game.
- Second offense: the coach will talk to both the player and the player's parent/guardian about what they are doing wrong and how to correct the behavior. Players may be given a "time out" from practice or game play appropriate to their developmental level. *Fitness (pushups, running) should not be used as a punishment at the U10 and younger levels, and minimally at the U12 level. We do not want players to associate healthy and strengthening behaviors with punishment*
- Third offense: the coach will talk to both the player and the player's parent/guardian about what they are doing wrong and how to correct the behavior. The player will be removed from remainder of practice or game play, plus the subsequent game if age/developmentally appropriate. The coach will follow up with the the Competitive Program Coordinator(s) to discuss any additional follow-up that may be needed.
- Fourth offense: the coach will provide any additional feedback that is needed to the player and parent/guardian. The coach and the Competitive Program Coordinator(s) will discuss a potential action plan including removing the player from the team for the remainder of the season or permanently.

FEES

APFC and teams are financially supported through seasonal player dues and fundraising. Partial or full payment is due at the time of registration unless other arrangements are made. Mandatory fundraising activities will be conducted at several times throughout the year. Financial support and scholarships are available on an as-needed basis. Fees typically cover the cost of training space, professional training/ coaching, CDYSL/Afrims team registration fees, and administrative and equipment costs. We are primarily run by volunteers, which helps keep our costs low compared with other local clubs, but we also try to offer high quality training and opportunities similar to other clubs.

APFC's attempt with this Player/Parent Agreement is to present in clear detail what will be expected of you and what you can expect of the league, the team and the coach. If you are uncertain as to what is expected, please email apyslcompetitive@gmail.com. Knowing and understanding these things, your participation in APFC will be positive for you and your child as they develop their soccer abilities to the highest level possible. We have high expectations of everyone involved. It is imperative that all players abide by the rules, regulations and policies, including those contained in the Club's By-Laws and this Agreement. Everyone has issues that arise from time to time, and we will make every effort to work with you to help resolve any issues you may have. We are a community-based organization and want all our players to have the option to play a high level of competitive soccer with their friends and teammates and within their own community. Together we can give our young players skills and experiences that will last a lifetime.

