



Denver United FC Parent Policies & Expectations

At Denver United FC, we believe youth soccer should provide a safe, positive, and challenging environment where every player has the opportunity to develop both on and off the field. Achieving that environment requires a shared commitment from players, parents, coaches, referees, volunteers, and club staff.

The following policies and expectations are designed to promote player development, sportsmanship, safety, and respectful communication while helping ensure a positive experience for every member of the Denver United FC community.

Practice Field Policy

For the safety of our players and in accordance with NCYSA insurance requirements:

- Parents, family members, and spectators are **not permitted** inside the fenced training area or on the field during practices.
- Only approved Denver United FC coaches and staff who have successfully completed background checks and NCYSA-required certifications are permitted on the field during training sessions.
- Parents are encouraged to observe practices from outside the fenced area unless specifically invited by club staff.



Attendance & Communication

Parents should:

- Notify the coach as soon as possible if a player will miss practice or games.
 - Arrive on time.
 - Be prepared with proper equipment.
 - Respect team communication deadlines.
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Player Pickup & Drop-Off Policy

Classic: Parents are encouraged to meet their children at the field entrance or the top of the walkway for pickup.

Academy: Parents or an authorized adult must pick players up directly from the designated field at the conclusion of training.

Coaches will remain with players until they are picked up by a parent, legal guardian, or other authorized adult. If someone other than a parent or legal guardian will be picking up a player, parents must notify the coach in advance via TeamSnap, text message, or email. This policy applies to both Academy and Classic players.

Players should not be dropped off more than 15 minutes before their scheduled training time unless another responsible adult is present. Coaches are responsible for players only during scheduled team activities.

Respect for Referees & Zero Tolerance Policy

Denver United FC is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all match officials. Referees are an essential part of the game and deserve the same respect as players and coaches. All parents, players, coaches, and spectators are expected to treat referees with courtesy and respect before, during, and after every match. Referee decisions must be accepted without abusive comments, gestures, threatening behavior, or attempts to influence officiating.

Denver United FC strictly follows all North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) disciplinary policies regarding referee abuse. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal abuse.
- Threatening behavior.

- Physical intimidation.
- Physical contact or assault.

Many of our referees are Junior Referees (17 years of age or younger). NCYSA has strict policies protecting these young officials. Any individual accused of abusing or assaulting a Junior Referee may be immediately suspended from all NCYSA-sanctioned activities while the incident is investigated. Individuals found responsible for abusing a Junior Referee are subject to significant disciplinary action, including lengthy suspensions, in accordance with NCYSA rules.

Please remember that referees are **not required to issue a warning** before removing a player, coach, parent, or spectator for misconduct. Misconduct occurring before, during, or after a match may result in immediate removal from the facility and additional disciplinary action by both Denver United FC and NCYSA.

Misconduct Toward Match Officials

Denver United FC has a **zero-tolerance policy** for misconduct toward referees and match officials.

While not everyone will agree with every decision made during a match, disagreements must remain respectful and within the expectations outlined in the NCYSA Code of Conduct.

Parents, coaches, players, and spectators must **never**:

- Use abusive, insulting, or profane language toward a referee or match official.
- Make threats or intimidating remarks.
- Initiate any physical contact with a referee or official.
- Continue arguing after being instructed by the referee to stop.
- Follow referees after the match, including to the parking lot, restrooms, or other areas of the facility.
- Engage in any behavior that could reasonably be perceived as intimidating, harassing, or confrontational.

Please understand that misconduct toward a match official is treated as an extremely serious offense by DUFC, NCYSA, and USSF. Aggressive, intimidating, or confrontational behavior toward a match official—including refusing to stop after being directed to do so—is considered serious misconduct and may result in immediate disciplinary action.

Violations may lead to:

- Immediate removal from the facility.

- Suspension from all Denver United FC activities.
- Formal review through the NCYSA Discipline & Appeals Committee.
- Lengthy suspensions or additional sanctions imposed by DUFC & NCYSA.

We ask every member of the Denver United FC community to remember that referees are an essential part of the game. Demonstrating respect, even when you disagree, helps create a positive environment for our players and sets the standard of sportsmanship we expect throughout our club.

Spectator Conduct

Parents and spectators represent Denver United FC every time they attend a match.

Parents should:

- Cheer positively and encourage all players in a respectful manner.
- Never coach from the sideline.
- Allow coaches to coach and players to make decisions.
- Refrain from criticizing players, coaches, referees, or opposing teams.
- Allow referees to officiate.
- Avoid negative comments directed at any child.

Coaches are responsible for helping manage the behavior of their team's spectators. If requested by the referee, coaches may ask a spectator to leave the facility.

Failure of spectators to behave appropriately may result in:

- Removal from the facility.
- Suspension from future matches.
- Match abandonment by the referee.
- Additional disciplinary action by NCYSA.

Please remember that adults are held to a higher standard of conduct and are expected to model sportsmanship for our players.

Sportsmanship Policy

Players and parents should:

- Respect opponents.
 - Respect facilities.
 - Respect volunteers.
 - Win with humility.
 - Lose with dignity.
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Bullying / Harassment

Denver United FC has zero tolerance for:

- Bullying.
- Harassment.
- Discrimination .
- Hazing.
- Retaliation.

This applies in person, online, at practices, games, tournaments, and club events.

Uniform & Equipment Expectations

Players should arrive with:

- Proper training uniform.
- Gray training shirt (first training day).
- Navy training shirt (second training day).
- Shin guards.
- Soccer cleats.
- Inflated soccer ball (age appropriate).
- Water bottle.
- Weather-appropriate clothing.

Injury & Medical Emergencies

Parents should notify coaches of any injuries, illnesses, allergies, or medical conditions that may affect participation. If a player is injured, coaches and club staff may remove the player from participation if they believe it is in the player's best interest.

Concussion Policy

Any player suspected of having a concussion will be removed from participation immediately and may not return until cleared in accordance with applicable NCYSA and medical guidelines.

Return to Play Policy

Denver United Futbol Club is committed to providing a safe environment for all participants. This policy establishes expectations for when a player may return to participation following an injury or illness.

Parent Responsibility

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for informing the coach of any injury or illness that affects a player's ability to safely participate.

Players should not attend training or matches if they are unable to participate safely.

Minor Injuries

Players may return without medical documentation following minor injuries such as:

- Minor cuts or scrapes.
- Bruises.
- Muscle soreness.
- Minor sprains or strains that have fully resolved.
- Minor illnesses once symptoms have resolved and the player can safely participate.

The coach may still limit participation if they believe the player cannot safely train.

Medical Clearance Required

Written clearance from a licensed healthcare provider is required before returning to soccer following:

- Concussion or suspected concussion.
- Fractures.
- Surgery.
- Hospitalization.

- Dislocations.
- Serious ligament injuries.
- Any injury requiring a brace, cast, splint, crutches, or walking boot.
- Any injury or illness for which a healthcare provider restricted participation.
- Any condition where emergency medical services were activated during a club activity.

The documentation should state that the player may return to soccer participation and include any restrictions or limitations

Progressive Return

When appropriate, coaches may gradually increase a player's participation over multiple sessions rather than returning immediately to full activity.

Coach Authority

Coaches may remove or restrict a player from participation if they believe continued participation presents a safety risk.

If there is uncertainty regarding a player's readiness, the Director of Coaching may require medical clearance before the player resumes participation.

Concussion

Any player suspected of sustaining a concussion during a club activity:

- Must be removed immediately.
- May not return the same day.
- Must follow all applicable North Carolina Youth Soccer Association (NCYSA) concussion requirements.
- Must provide written medical clearance before returning

Club Responsibility

Denver United Futbol Club does not diagnose injuries or determine medical fitness to participate.

The club relies on healthcare providers and parents to determine medical readiness while reserving the right to withhold participation when safety concerns exist.

Weather Policy

Weather decisions come from the club.

- Coaches do not make independent cancellation decisions.

- Lightning, heat, and field closures are determined by DUFC.
- TeamSnap One is the official communication platform.

At DUFC, player safety is our top priority. Our general approach is to hold practice unless conditions are deemed unsafe.

Playing Time Policy

Denver United FC is committed to developing players while competing at a high level. Coaches are expected to follow the club's age-specific playing time guidelines as outlined in the Player Development Model. Within those guidelines, playing time is determined by the coach based on attendance, effort, attitude, training performance, tactical needs, player development, commitment to the team, and the best interests of both the player and the team.

The club's playing time guidelines represent developmental expectations, not automatic entitlements. Coaches may adjust playing time when warranted by disciplinary issues, safety concerns, injuries, illness, missed training, or other circumstances that affect a player's readiness to participate.

Positional Development & Team Placement

Denver United FC believes in developing complete soccer players. Throughout the developmental pathway, players are encouraged to experience multiple positions to build a broader understanding of the game. As players progress through the club, positional responsibilities gradually become more specialized based on age, development, and team needs.

Players are encouraged to discuss their development goals and positional interests with their coach. Coaches will consider the player's development, the needs of the team, and the player's readiness when making positional decisions. Not every request can be accommodated immediately.

Team placement and movement between teams are determined by the Director of Coaching in collaboration with the coaching staff based on player development and club needs. Parents should not request team changes directly with coaches. All roster decisions are made in the best interests of both the player and Denver United FC.

The 24-Hour Rule

If you have concerns regarding:

- Playing time.
- Team decisions.
- Coaching methods.
- Other issues involving your child's coach or Denver United FC staff.

Please wait **24 hours** before contacting the coach or staff member.

This cooling-off period allows emotions to settle and encourages respectful, productive conversations. Parents should never approach coaches immediately following games or training regarding concerns about playing time or coaching decisions.

Reporting Concern

If a parent witnesses unsafe behavior, abuse, discrimination, bullying, or policy violations, they should report it promptly to the Director of Coaching or appropriate club leadership.

Our Shared Commitment

By participating in Denver United FC, all families agree to support an environment built on:

- Respect.
- Sportsmanship.
- Player Development.
- Positive Communication.
- Safety.
- Integrity.