



SUMMIT UNITED FC

CLUB ATTENDANCE POLICY

Every player on the roster is a piece of the team, and consistency is what makes a team actually come together. This policy lays out what we ask of players and families when it comes to showing up – and what happens when life gets in the way, because we know it will.

Why Attendance Matters

Coaches plan each training around who's expected to be there. A missed practice doesn't just affect one player – it affects the drills, the lineup, and the team's ability to prepare together. Consistent attendance is how we build real team culture, not just a group of individuals who happen to wear the same jersey.

Notifying Your Coach

Life happens, and we get that. What we ask is simple: communicate early.

- Notify your coach at least 24 hours in advance of any planned absence from a practice or game, whenever possible.
 - For known conflicts (vacations, school events, other commitments), let your coach know as soon as you're aware, ideally at the start of the season or when the schedule is set.
 - If illness or an emergency comes up same-day, notify your coach as soon as you can – before the practice or game starts, not after.
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Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Generally excused:

- Illness or injury
- Family emergencies
- School commitments or academic conflicts
- Prearranged family plans communicated in advance
- Other sports commitments, consistent with our multi-sport athlete policy

Generally unexcused:

- No-shows without any notice to the coach
- Late cancellations with no valid reason
- Repeated late arrivals without communication

Punctuality

Players are expected to arrive on time and ready to play, with all required gear. Consistent late arrivals disrupt warmups and team preparation, and may be treated the same as an unexcused absence at the coach's discretion.

How Attendance Affects Playing Time

Playing time is never guaranteed and attendance is one of several factors coaches consider when building lineups, alongside effort, performance, and readiness to compete. A player in good standing with attendance and behavior can expect fair, consistent playing time across the season, in line with the club's coaching guidelines. Unexcused absences and repeated late arrivals may affect a player's playing time in the following game.

This isn't about punishment – it's about fairness to the teammates who do show up consistently, and about giving coaches the information they need to prepare the team to compete.

Multi-Sport Athletes

We welcome multi-sport athletes, and we know balancing two sports takes real communication. Multi-sport athletes are held to the same attendance expectations as every other player. Talk to your coach early in the season about your other commitments so a plan can be built together – the earlier this conversation happens, the easier it is for everyone.

Repeated Unexcused Absences

If unexcused absences become a pattern, your coach will reach out directly to talk through what's going on and find a path forward. Continued unexcused absences without communication may result in reduced playing time, and in more serious or ongoing cases, removal from the team roster, at the discretion of the coach and club leadership.

We're On the Same Team Here

This policy isn't about being rigid – it's about respect. Respect for your teammates, respect for your coach's time, and respect for the commitment everyone else on the roster is making. When in doubt, communicate.