



CLUB RULES

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300 11.1.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the key ingredients for a successful club is to provide clear, consistent communication between the Houston Dynamo/Dash Youth Soccer Club, the coaches, the players and parents. This document explains our expectations for our members. Please read the following pages carefully.

300 11.1.2 THE CLUB AND THE TEAM

The Dynamo/Dash will always attempt to make decisions with players central in mind. Player Development and enjoyment are most important to our organization. Members of the Dynamo/Dash Youth must understand at times we must put the club before the team. When decisions are made regarding conflicts between the club and a team, the club will come first. Club decisions will be made by the appropriate member of the Dynamo/Dash Youth staff.

300 11.1.3 THE PARENTS

Parental support and involvement in the club is essential. If a player is selected and commits himself/herself to the Dynamo/Dash Youth, the parent's commitment is also necessary. Parents should make every effort to ensure that players attend all possible club and team functions. At times, conflicts cannot be avoided, and other more important events will take precedence. The club requires your communication, planning, and understanding so we can minimize conflicts. The club will periodically present a schedule to allow time for your planning. When parents or players have an unavoidable conflict; the club expects timely communication.

300 11.1.4 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS

Upon registration, competitive players are committed to participate in the Houston Dynamo/Dash Youth Soccer Club competitive program for the entire soccer year (fall and spring). As a participant, a registered player is not allowed to join or be involved in any official activities with any other Club from registration through the last game of the league Spring season. Registration with a Houston Dynamo/Dash Youth team is considered an annual commitment and fees are due whether the player participates or not.

Every member is expected to be current with their financial standing by paying their club fees and team fees on time according to the payment plan set up by the club. Your financial commitment payment plan/information can be accessed by logging into your Blue Sombrero account. If you have any questions or issues regarding your account or your payment plan, please contact the Dynamo/Dash office at 281 298 2180 and speak to a club administrator.

- All member families are expected to pay their share of the team's tournament fees regardless of whether the player attends the tournament or not.
- If members fail to meet his/her financial obligations in paying club or team fees the player will be suspended from participating in all training sessions and games until payment is made.
- If members fail to or become well behind in their paying their club or team fees dismissal from club may result.
- The Technical Director shall review and approve any disciplinary actions that involve temporary suspension and or dismissal from the club. The Board of Directors shall review and approve any disciplinary actions that involve dismissal from the club.



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300 11.1.5 UNIFORMS

All players must wear the designated uniform of the club. Uniform numbers range from 0, 00, 1 and 18 for the goalkeepers and 2 through 17 or 19 through 99 for the field players. Players who are currently on existing teams retain priority in choosing uniform numbers. Team Coaches/Managers will organize the uniform purchase and the numbering of uniforms.

300 11.6 PLAYER TRAINING ATTIRE

Each player must have the following equipment for each team training session:

- Appropriate shoes.
- Club sky blue training t-shirt (for girls) or club grey training t-shirt (for boys), black shorts and black socks.
- Club t-shirts must be worn to each team training session and as a warm-up shirt for games.
- Shin guards are required for team training sessions and games.
- Ball that is properly inflated.
- Running shoes in case of inclement weather.
- Bring water/sports drinks

300 11.1.7 PLAYER BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

All players are expected:

- To compete with toughness and intensity within the rules of the game.
- To show sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents and officials always.
- To be honest and respectful of others.
- **BULLYING OF ANY NATURE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE CLUB AT ANY TIME.**
- All Dynamo/Dash Youth parents and guests must demonstrate good sportsmanship always as well.
- We will instruct players to ignore the following:
 - adverse conditions such as poor calls made by referees, name calling, foul language, rough play, cheating, poor weather, negative behavior by parents or opponents.

The failure of a Dynamo/ Dash Youth member to behave in an appropriate manner consistent with the Club's rules or expectations will result in possible suspension or dismissal from the club.

300 11.1.8 PLAYER COMMITMENT/DEDICATION

Every competitive player and their family must be fully committed in developing his/her potential to its maximum to set and achieve the highest goals as a team. At a minimum, each player must do the following:

- Attend all training sessions. Even if players are injured, they should attend to remain familiar with team tactics and progress.
- Arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of each session to begin warm-up activities.
- Train and compete with 100 percent effort and intensity.
- Attend all club, league and tournament games. Team managers/coaches will be recording player attendance on a weekly basis.
- Attendance at all team meetings and events.



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300 11.1.9 PLAYER COMMITMENT TO A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Players should maintain a healthy lifestyle. Any use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is unacceptable and will result in discipline and possibly dismissal from the club. Nutrition and rest are also part of the players' personal responsibility. Players should eat nutritious, healthy food in a timely fashion so as not to interfere with performance. If a player has questions about which foods are best for performing athletes, please ask their team coach.

300 11.2.1 PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Player performance will be evaluated by observing the player under the pressures of practices, scrimmages, games and sometimes tryouts. The professional coaching staff and the team coach will confer in matters of player evaluations primarily in the "four pillars":

- Technical (dribbling, shooting, heading, ball handling skills, etc.)
- Tactical (runs, reading the game, decision making, etc.)
- Physical dimensions (endurance, strength, and speed, etc.)
- Psychological dimensions (attitude, character, discipline, leadership, etc.)

We may not always agree on issues as sensitive as player evaluation and selection, but it is important that our professional decisions in these matters be respected.

300 11.2.2 TRYOUTS AND PLAYER PLACEMENT

The main objective of the Dynamo/Dash Youth Soccer Club is to develop soccer players at all levels. In order to do this, we must place players on a team commensurate with their ability. To achieve this, the following will happen:

- Current players are evaluated every day throughout the year which is used to place them more accurately within the Dynamo/Dash Youth system.
- New Players will be compared to the current members to determine their placement. This will take place at tryouts or during team training sessions or games.
- Evaluations will be based on the "four pillars" of the game in addition to player and family commitment, attendance, attitude, team chemistry, and consistency.
- Team Head Coaches, DOC's of the respective age groups, DOC Competitive and DOC of Player Development will pick the respective teams.
- During the year, a player may be asked to transfer, or may request a transfer to another Dynamo/Dash Youth team. Depending on the circumstances (e.g., injuries, player/coach conflicts, financial status, consideration to the implications of the entire age group, ability level, etc.), the professional staff will decide whether to transfer a player.
- Tryouts will be conducted for U11 to 18/19 age groups with all current members being expected to attend.
- Player placement and movement may occur throughout the year based on certain circumstances and under applicable STYSA roster rules.

300 11.2.3 PLAYER PLAY-UP POLICY

The Houston Dynamo/Dash Youth Soccer Club technical staff will evaluate each case on its own merits based on the player's abilities, the level of play of the teams the player may play with and common sense. The DOC's will make the final decision in moving a player up after consultation with the Team Head Coach.



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300 11.2.4 EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM TRAINING SESSIONS AND GAMES

A player may be absent from either team training sessions or games only in extraordinary circumstances and with the coach's permission. Acceptable reasons include the following:

- Family emergencies. Please contact team coach/manager as soon as convenient
- Attendance at a mandatory school function directly affecting an academic grade
- School soccer games, but this excused absence does not apply to school training sessions or other school sports
- Religious functions
- Illness

When a player misses training or a game(s) whether it is excused or unexcused the players playing time will be adjusted to reward those team members that were in attendance. All circumstances will be evaluated and acted upon under the coach's discretion.

300 11.2.5 NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES FROM TRAINING SESSIONS AND GAMES

- Notification is required for all absences.
- Please make every effort to notify your team manager/coach as early as possible. Ideally, a minimum 72-hours prior notice should be provided for training sessions.
- Planned absences from games require at least a ten (10) day notice.

300 11.2.6 PLAYING TIME

- Playing time is evaluated on a weekly basis based upon **attendance, effort, behavior, performance** at both team training sessions and previous games and **commitment from the player and family to all team events**.
- If all commitments, attendance and behavior policies are followed, then performance will be the sole factor considered when determining playing time.
- In all situations, the team coach will determine playing time on game day.
- If the team coach is not present on game day, the coaching staff member who has been assigned to cover the game is responsible for following the policies of the club on playing time.
- Team Head Coaches are responsible to provide team line-up information and tactical information to the coaching staff member covering the game.

300 11.2.7 PLAYING TIME FOR STYSA TEAMS

After the club's policies on attendance and behavior are considered, the coaching staff will make playing time decisions based on player performance, commitment and **what is in the team's best interest**. It is very important to understand the following:

- The players should utilize a team's training session as a place to excel and to demonstrate their abilities.
- Each player is expected to compete for playing time at team training sessions through attendance and performance.
- A player's failure to attend any of his/her team events, meetings and training sessions demonstrates a lack of commitment and playing time will therefore be awarded to those that did attend.



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- The Coaching staff will make substitutions when it benefits the team. Substitutions will not be made to simply provide playing time. This is especially true for close games as multiple substitutions may disrupt the team's play and affect the team's performance.
- Players who do not play as much in certain situations as others should support the team in a positive manner as should their parents.
- Also, be aware that players will be asked to play in different positions to aid in their development and in certain situations to help the team. In this situation, they are expected to do their best for the team by putting aside their individual goals and focus on the team.
- As a staff, we will make every attempt to play each player, if it benefits the team.

300 11.2.8 PLAYING TIME FOR PLAYERS ON STYSA D2 BRACKET TEAMS AND LOWER

These players are responsible for their attendance, effort, behavior and performance. If each player follows club policies, then they will be rewarded with a minimum of 50 percent playing time regardless of performance and ability as per USC rules. **This will only occur if attendance, commitment and behavior policies are followed on a weekly basis.**

300 11.2.9 GAME DAY PROTOCOL

- Players must be at the field of play 45 minutes before kick-off. Play time for players who are not timely will be adjusted to reward those players that are on time at the coach's discretion.
 - Players must be dressed and ready to participate in warm-up activities 35 minutes before kick-off. Players who are not ready will have their playing time adjusted to reward those players that are on time at the coach's discretion.
 - The team or staff coach has in his/her discretion the ability to start a game with a reduced number of players should many players fail to follow the game day playing time protocol.
 - Players must wear the Club training t-shirts and uniforms during the warm-up activities.
 - Each team is encouraged to provide a tent for their team bench.
 - Players must bring their own water and/or sports drink(s) to the game. To avoid disruption, we ask that parents not to bring these items to the players during the game. Water and sports drinks should never be shared with fellow players as this is not hygienic and can spread germs.
 - Players must continually re-hydrate their bodies before and after games, especially during tournament play. Soda or other caffeinated drinks should be avoided as they dehydrate the body further.
 - Players should eat a post-match meal/snack within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the game. Again, junk food should be avoided.
 - Players are responsible for cleaning team bench area following each game.
 - A post-match stretching, and cool down session will be held to help the players prepare for the next game.
 - Players must stay out of the heat/sun between games. At no time, should players sit in hot tubs and/or saunas because of the risk of further dehydration. Players should rest and relax when not playing a game.

300 11.2.10 TEAM TRAVEL AND CONDUCT

In some cases, a competitive team may need to stay overnight for an out of town tournament. The following are the expectations of the club:



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- Players are expected to travel and stay and participate with the team for the entire event. The entire event is classified as when the player arrives at home departure point (airport, Bear Branch fields) to when the team returns to the home arrival point (airport baggage claim, Bear Branch fields). Any exceptions will be at the team coach's discretion only.
- During overnight trips, team members should stay together in player hotel rooms unless otherwise agreed upon by the team coach/DOC.
- When travelling by air teams are expected to travel together on the same flight.
- Decisions regarding team travel, including timing of arrival and departure to and from locations (hotels, restaurants, game fields, etc.) will be approved by the team coach or DOC.
- Teams and players must travel the night before tournament play to attend team meetings at a time set by the team coach. Arrival the night before ensures all team members are present in case of any last-minute tournament schedule changes.
- The team will be required to eat together unless otherwise instructed by the team coach.
- **If a player decides NOT to travel, the player/family is still responsible for his/her share of the coach's expenses and the tournament fee.**
- If a player travels, and a parent does not, then the parent is responsible for organizing player supervision with the Team coach/manager.
- As players represent the club when they travel they are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. Please avoid cut offs, hats, clothes with disrespectful wording, slogans or political statements, as well as clothes that are too tight or loose.
- Players are responsible for bringing all their equipment. Should air travel be required all equipment should be carried on and not included with checked baggage.
- No soccer balls can be kicked inside hotel lobbies, hallways or rooms.
- Players should act in a manner that will reflect positively on the team. There will be no running through the hallways or excessive noise at any time. In addition, there will be no misconduct in the elevators. Remember we are "guest" of the hotel and there are many other "guests" staying in the hotel to be respected.
- Players/families will be held responsible for any items that are damaged on the hotel property and are responsible for notifying the team manager/coach and hotel management of damage.
- Players are expected to follow all team curfews and attend team meetings on time as directed by the Team Head Coach or DOC.
- No player shall leave the hotel property without permission from the team coach/manager.
- Parents need to notify the team coach/manager if they are taking their son/daughter from the hotel property.
- No member of the opposite sex that is not an immediate family member shall be allowed in a player's room.
- All telephone charges will be the responsibility of the player/parent.

Playing time will be adjusted at the Coaching Staff's discretion IF players do not follow the above points.

300.2.11 GUEST PLAYER POLICY

The Houston Dynamo/Dash Youth Soccer Club does not allow a member to guest play with another club. If a player wants to guest play with another Dynamo/Dash Youth team the protocol is as follows:



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- The request for a player to guest for another team should be made to the Team Head Coach AND the DOC for their team. **NOTE: Member must be in good financial and behavioral standing with our club for the member to be evaluated for this opportunity.**
- The Team Head Coach and the DOC will then review the request and inform the member of their decision regarding the approval or denial of the request.
- If the Dynamo/Dash Youth team has opportunities for players to play in a tournament with Dynamo/Dash Youth teams from other locations the Coaching Staff will offer this to players who are in good standing and who possesses the ability level to play at the level of ability needed for the team and the tournament.
- Within the Dynamo/Dash Youth Club, a coach/manager should not solicit the availability of a player without the prior approval of the Team Head Coach and DOC of the team.

300 11.2.12 STATE SELECT TEAMS OR OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP)

During the soccer season, players from the Dynamo/Dash Youth will be given the opportunity and encouraged to try out for Olympic Development Program (ODP), US Clubs ID 2 program. These programs shall always have priority unless a Director of Coaching and the program leaders agree on an alternate resolution.

300 11.2.13 BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE GAMES

Before, during and after the games the players are under the supervision and guidance of the coach. Parents must refrain from coming over to the team side of the field until the coach dismisses the team. Players need to come prepared with everything they need for the game. In case of injury, if the coach needs a parent's assistance, he/she will ask the parent over to assist their child.

300 11.2.14 PARENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLAYER PICKUP AT ALL DYNAMO/DASH YOUTH EVENTS

Dynamo/Dash Youth events frequently occur at public facilities (e.g., Bear Branch and Gosling Sports Park) that is open to any member of the community. Parents are responsible for ensuring that players are picked up immediately upon the conclusion of any Dynamo/Dash Youth events in which the player participated (e.g., games, practices, try-outs, etc.). Parents or designated adults must drop-off and pick the player from the side of the field and **NOT THE PARKING LOT.** The Competitive Program cannot monitor players upon the conclusion of an event and cannot be responsible for the safety of a player once that player has been dismissed by his/her Dynamo/Dash Youth coach/manager.

300 11.2.15 PARENTAL BEHAVIOIR AND SIDELINE COACHING

- Every Dynamo/ Dash YSC parent is expected to behave in an appropriate, respectful manner consistent with the Club's rules and expectations. Failure to do so can result in possible suspension or dismissal from the club for both the parent and their child.
- Coaching by parents is **not allowed**. No matter how good a parent's intentions, instructions should not be shouted to players. **Coaches are instructed by the club to remove players from training sessions or games if their parents are coaching their child during training sessions or a game.**
- Vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play.
- Parents are not allowed on the sideline of the coaching staff and team bench at any time.



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- If a player is injured, the coaching staff will evaluate the injury. If a parent's presence is needed, the coach will ask for the parent at that time.
- No smoking or alcohol is allowed in areas where players are present.

300 11.2.16 COMMUNICATION/48 HOUR RULE

Please be cautious in your discussions with your son/daughter regarding the team and their teammates. Comments should be constructive. The professional coaching staff is always willing to respond to any concerns and to answer questions regarding a player. It is very important, however, that these discussions occur at the proper place and during the proper time. If parents have issues or concerns regarding the technical aspect of their child's game, they should contact their team coach via e-mail, personal appointment or phone call. **Parents should NOT approach coaching staff either at the training field or game site to discuss concerns. In addition, parents should wait 48 hours prior to contacting their team coach should an issue arise from game play.** If you need to take your issues to a higher chain of command, then the Dynamo/Dash has a system in place. Please follow the following system below:

- Head Coach
- Respective Director of Coaching for that team
- DOC of the Program
- Technical Director

If parents have administrative issues or concerns, they should contact their team manager. Should further assistance be required, they should contact the administrative staff at the Dynamo/Dash office.

300 11.2.17 SUMMARY

We believe that organized athletics is an essential component of a child's or young adult's development. The lessons and skills learned in sports (e.g., the importance of commitment, teamwork, sportsmanship, etc.) help a player overcome other challenges in life. Our aim is to help our athletes become solid citizens who contribute to society and behave in a way that affects others in a positive light. A joint commitment is needed to accomplish our goals from the player, parents and the club to achieve these goals!!