



North County Alliance Football Club Player & Parent Agreement

2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

Youth soccer provides an opportunity to create long lasting memories and develop skills applicable in all areas of a young athlete's life. One key ingredient of success in achieving the full potential of the select soccer experience is clear, consistent communication between the club; its teams and coaches, players and parents. This document is one way of explaining, in detail, our expectations of you as a member of The Alliance and what you can expect from the club. It will help you identify some potential problem areas and at the same time answer questions about the club's decision-making process. As you have committed to become a member of The Alliance, please take the time to read the following pages carefully. The signature page must be by signed the player and a parent to be accepted to the club. This agreement covers the seasonal year that runs from June 2019 to May 2020.

PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Players are evaluated throughout the season during practices, scrimmages, and games. There are many terminologies used to categorize and describe soccer abilities. Present and potential team members are evaluated in four areas:

- 1) Psychological dimensions (character, discipline, and leadership)
- 2) Physical dimensions (endurance, strength, and speed)
- 3) Technical competence (offensive and defensive skills)
- 4) Tactical awareness (runs, reading)

If you have any questions about the meaning of these terms, please ask the coaches. Coaches or independent evaluators will base their decisions solely on the four areas of evaluation and they are responsible to make decisions for the good of the club and team. It is most likely we will not always agree on issues as sensitive as player evaluation and selection. We hope you will respect our attempt to be objective in these matters and that the feedback provided is to help our players continue their development.

PLAYER COMMITMENT

North County Alliance is a competitive soccer club geared towards players who love the sport of soccer and are committed to their development as soccer players. It is important to recognize that players and parents invest significant time and resources in playing club soccer and expect the club to create and foster an environment which will ultimately allow players to compete at the highest levels of high school and possibly college soccer and beyond. Your commitment to the club is for one soccer seasonal year and at the end of each year, players will be re-evaluated through tryouts for team placement. No player will be cut from a team during a seasonal year unless it is for disciplinary reasons or failure to fulfill financial obligations. Players are expected

to make their commitment to The Alliance as their first recreational activity priority during the league season. However, the club encourages members to take up other sports that are not in conflict with our soccer program.

Summer (June-August): Summer is preparation and tournament season. It is also time for relaxation and family vacation. Training and tournament scheduling during the summer is not mandatory but is critical to team development and unity. Absence from trainings most likely will impact playing time during the tournament games. Please be sure to communicate early with your coaches regarding conflicts. Tournament dates should be established by your coach before trainings start in June. Club cost is not reduced if you are unable to participate in a selected tournament.

Fall (Sept-Mid Nov): During the fall, we ask that Alliance soccer takes precedence over all other sports - except if you're playing soccer for your school. Compromises should be discussed with your coach proactively if another sport is desired to be played. It is recommended that you and your child, with the coach, layout expected practice and game schedules before the season for both sports. Then, together, agree on a commitment level for the player.

Winter (Mid Nov-Jan): This is the club's required downtime for players and coaches. It is highly recommended that players take the opportunity to relax, recover and try another sport during the winter season.

Spring (Mar-May): During the spring, there may be conflicts with other sports. Our coaches are willing to compromise during the spring to allow kids to participate in multiple sports, especially if they're on their school team. Please be proactive and talk to the other sports' coaches to work out a compromise. We do ask that for the month of April, Soccer State Cup play take precedence over other activities. Again, plan ahead with your coach and player and try to eliminate any days where they are going from one sport to another. This will make the player highly susceptible to injury and mental burnout.

It is expected that our players and parents to be ethical, honest and to honor their commitments both verbal and written. An open dialogue with coaches and board members is the best way to avoid conflict or frustrations throughout the season. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Players should arrive at all games 45 minutes early with both full game kits available. During games, players are expected to follow the instructions of their coaches. Players not on the field are expected to be engaged in the game and encourage their teammates from the bench.

Players are expected to condition themselves both during the season and in the off-season. Failure to be in good physical condition will affect a player's ability to perform and will likely cut a player's playing time during the season. Likewise, players are expected to work on soccer skills year round either on a formal or informal basis. Players need touches on the ball as much as possible throughout the year in order to develop. Practices are crucial and should only be missed on account of illness, religious obligation or special circumstance. Please inform your coach in advance if you can't make a practice via text, call or TeamSnap. Players are expected to

arrive at practices 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time with lots to drink, a ball and all training gear.

As a member of The Alliance, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, communication, and reliability are expected at all times. The club asks that you care about yourself and the sport of soccer. This requires that you maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy team attitude. Any use of drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes is not acceptable to the club and may result in temporary suspension or even removal from the club. In addition, our club will insist you maintain a positive team attitude and a personal sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

OFF THE FIELD

Alliance players are expected to carry themselves as gentlemen and ladies on and off the field. At tournaments, player behavior is expected to be exemplary and act as ambassadors of the club. As elite athletes, players are further expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect at home and at school. Disrespect of adults, including teachers and parents, will not be tolerated. Poor behavior by one player is a bad reflection on teammates and the club.

SCHOOLWORK

Part of the commitment of playing for The Alliance is a commitment to being able to handle all the obligations that a student has in his or her daily life. It is expected that all players be prepared to play soccer at games and practices. This demands that players do their best in school and budget their time in order to fulfill their obligations in their primary role as students. Players who are not doing their best in school and/or are not meeting their homework obligations are jeopardizing their position on their team and potentially letting their fellow teammates down.

COMMUNICATIONS

As a member of The Alliance, you are responsible for your own performance and conduct. Honesty, reliability and communication will be expected at all times. There will inevitably be times during the season when coaches make decisions and players will be instructed to do things they may not understand. During such times, players are encouraged to talk with their coach so they can gain a better understanding of why certain decisions are being made and what is expected of them. If you have issues or concerns such as the amount of playing time you are receiving, whether or not you are starting, what position you are playing, etc., please do not hesitate to speak with your coach at the appropriate time. All of The Alliance coaches have an open-door policy with respect to such issues or concerns and they encourage and expect you to communicate when you have such issues or concerns. You and your coach may not ultimately agree on such matters but you will both have a better understanding of each other and what needs to be done to resolve the matter. Ultimately, if you feel your coach is treating you unfairly, you may contact your team manager who will contact the Board to look into the matter or simply contact someone on the board directly.

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. All teams will communicate through the TeamSnap app so please check email and text messages for any updates. If you are going to miss a practice or game (or be arriving late or leaving early) you must notify your coach or the designated person at the earliest possible

moment. In case of inclement weather your team will communicate through the TeamSnap app.

THE PARENTS

Parental support and involvement in the club are essential. Team parents please make sure your child attends all possible club and team functions (practices, meetings, games, etc.). We understand there will be times when conflicts cannot be avoided and other, more important, events occur. The club asks for your communication, planning, and understanding so we can minimize conflicts. It is the team's responsibility to present a periodic schedule to allow time for your planning. When parents or players have an unavoidable conflict, please provide timely communication to see if the club or team can make any necessary adjustments. The team manager will make final decisions on scheduling after careful consideration of your needs and those of the club or team.

SIDELINE COACHING

Please be very loud in your encouragement from the team. A positive, rambunctious atmosphere can help players feed off your energy and perform at a high level. Plus, it is just really fun. Please keep the cheering to positive reinforcement and avoid coaching from the sidelines. No matter how good your intentions are; we ask there be no shouting instructions to your child or any other player on the team. We also insist there be absolutely no yelling at referees or officials during or after games. Your vocal support and positive encouragement will make this season great.

No one other than those listed on the official game roster may sit on or near the team bench before and during games (please respect the space and privacy necessary for the coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities).

Please respect all of the other players on the team; please do not make critical remarks to others about specific players on your team. These comments may be overheard by the players or others and can be quite hurtful and foster an unhealthy team environment.

Please respect your coach and manager and do not make negative remarks to others about coaching decisions. The club's first concern is for the long-term growth and development of our players as individuals along with their soccer abilities under pressure. There will be times coaches make decisions and players are instructed to do things parents may not know or understand how it incorporates into their development.

Parents, always at the appropriate moment and time, should feel free to communicate and ask questions about your child. Also, please take the initiative to encourage and teach your player to speak up and communicate for themselves whenever possible. We believe in and teach players the benefit of having mental toughness to guide their intense focus on the game of soccer. We will instruct your child to ignore adverse conditions such as bad referees, name calling, foul language, negative behavior by parents or opponents, etc. We expect our parents (as well as our coaches) to have this same mental toughness.

THE MANAGER

Managers are parents with players on the team, who have volunteered to manage the team's scheduling, rosters, tournaments, game day prep, etc. They do a lot of things parents and

players don't realize and you are asked to cooperate if asked. Please return calls and e-mails in a timely manner as most questions are time sensitive.

THE COACH

The coaches for The Alliance are instructed to conduct themselves first as role models and second as soccer trainers. All coaches, assistant coaches and team managers are cleared through a third-party background check.

Nothing positive will come of the club's efforts if we produce world-class players who do not know how to conduct themselves as successful human beings. In this regard you can expect Alliance Coaches to conduct themselves as positive role models and display appropriate behavior. Our coaches recognize they are dealing in an important way with young people and cannot overlook the impact they have on players' lives. Coaches, together with the team managers are responsible for the conduct of the team on and off the field whenever the team is together. We insist our players are polite, well behaved and respectful. Players and parents can expect honesty, communication, consistency, and reliability from the coach. The club and the coaches are committed to giving players the tools and skills to enable them to become as good as their ability, desire, commitment, and effort allow. Coaches are committed to creating an environment that is conducive to the development of quality competitive soccer. We recognize there are things more important in life than soccer. In terms of priority, family and school work come first. However, if the coach sees you are not willing to put in the work necessary to improve during the season, it may affect your playing time and/or your status with the club. There are times when the coaches will say very little, and times they may yell out instructions. There are times they will be critical of players, and other times they will be generous with praise. Players and parents are expected to take constructive criticism along with praise for a job well done, and be able to incorporate both into overall development of the player. The Coach will attend practices and will coach at games. In situations where conflicts do occur, and they will, the assistant coach will cover that particular practice or game.

The coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, player positions, amount of playing time, etc. Players must be positive in fulfilling the role they are asked to perform for the team at any moment, even if that role has them not playing at all, coming off the bench, or playing a different position. These decisions will be made in the coach's sole and absolute discretion.

There are some coaches who coach two or more Alliance teams. All such coaches will attend all training sessions and will attend all possible team games as the schedule permits. There will be times when conflicts occur and, in those situations, the assistant coach will cover one of the games or practices. The decision as to which team is covered by the coach, will be determined solely by the club. We hold our coaches to the highest standards and there will be times when you do not agree with the coach's conduct. If you tried everything to rectify the situation and still not satisfied, you may contact the team manager or a Board member directly.

PLAYING TIME

There is no guaranteed amount of playing time and there are many factors that can affect the amount of playing time for a particular player. The policy of the club is that playing time is earned and not given. Starting positions and playing time are both earned by coming to practice regularly and by working hard, competing and concentrating during practices and games. Should you have any questions or concerns, please talk with your coach at the appropriate time.

FEES

The club and teams are financially supported through seasonal player dues. The amount per player for the 2019-2020 season is listed on our website for the current season by age group. Included in this fee are state and league registration fees, team kits, referee fees, insurance coverage, training equipment, league dues, tournament entries, professional training and club dues, field rentals, etc. **Should a player quit or leave their team to join another club or team after any payments are made, there will be no refunds.** Failure to make club scheduled fee payments when due may result in the player's inability to be issued a player card for the subsequent game until all fee payments have been made.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Our attempt with this agreement is to present in clear detail what will be expected of you and what you can expect of the club, the team and the coaches. If you are uncertain what is expected, please ask your coach or a board member. Knowing and understanding your expectations in the club will be positive for you as you develop your soccer abilities to the highest level possible. We have high expectations of the club, the teams, the coaches, and you. These expectations are the rules, regulations, and policies of North County Alliance Football Club. In order for you and every player in our club to get the maximum benefit, we need you and every player to abide by the club Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies. Everyone has problems from time to time and we will make every effort to work with you to help solve the problems you may have. After we have exhausted all efforts to solve the problem, we will be left with little choice other than to pursue disciplinary action as outlined below. The same procedures will apply to situations where parents or coaches may require warrant disciplinary steps.

- 1) The team coach will discuss the problem directly and privately with the player, with the assumption the problem will be corrected immediately.
- 2) If the problem persists, the coach will communicate with the player's parents to discuss the problem and lack of response on the part of the player. Parents will have the opportunity to be involved with correction of the problem at this time.
- 3) If the problem continues, the coach may temporarily suspend the player. If the situation warrants, the coach may recommend to the Board that the player be removed from the club. The parents will be notified by the Board of the coach's recommendation.
- 4) The parents of any player recommended for removal from the club may request to meet with the Board and will be granted a meeting.

North County Alliance FC Player & Parent Agreement Signature Page

I have read the Player & Parent Agreement and I agree to abide by these rules and policies of NC Alliance FC.



PLAYER INFORMATION

Player Name: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Team: _____

SIGNATURES

Player: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____