



JAGUARS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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Jaguars United FC Player/Parent Handbook

This handbook has been developed to communicate to players and parents the procedures, policies, and expectations of the Jaguars United FC (herein referred to as JUFC or the Club). Our parents and players are required, at the time of player registration each season, to read the current version of this handbook, and sign an agreement to abide by the JUFC's policies. This document cannot fully cover every situation or question that may arise; in all instances the Board of Directors of JUFC will be the final decision-maker in all club operations, pursuant to the organization's adopted Bylaws.

About JUFC

Jaguars United FC (JUFC) is a non-profit competitive youth and senior soccer club whose primary focus is to provide a total, well rounded and positive soccer experience for the player, coach and parent. The emphasis will be on the education, technical development and sportsmanship of each and every player and coach so that their experience with JUFC will encourage them to continue their participation in soccer with renewed enthusiasm and a sense of accomplishment.

JUFC strives to encourage and assist in the development, growth and improvement of soccer at all levels within the community. It is our firm belief that the only way JUFC can survive and grow is through the active participation of you, the people involved in soccer. JUFC's colors are yellow and black. The Club's logo (shield) is considered to be intellectual property and is not to be utilized without approval of its Board of Directors.

JUFC aims to field competitive soccer teams for boys and girls in the U9 through high school age groups up to men's and women's teams. Players must meet the eligibility requirements to be registered with JUFC.

JUFC provides a recreational league for teams and/or players ranging from U4 to U19 ages.

JUFC will select coaches, secure training locations, register players as well as applicable leagues, as well as maintain player/coach credentials, collect player fees, and conduct other activities as deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure proper operation of the Club.

JUFC Coaches/Trainers

Coaches and trainers are selected by the Club and must agree to follow policies and procedures of the Club and other applicable agencies. Decisions about roster assignments are to be made by the team coaches in consultation with the Director of Coaching (DOC). Playing positions and playing time are at the coach's discretion. Each coach is free to develop his/her own set of rules/expectations for the team, as long as those rules/expectations do not conflict with Club policy or mission. Coaches should consult with the DOC when developing said rules/expectations. Coaches are encouraged to clearly share those expectations with players and parents at the start of each season.

The Club expects coaches to attend team practices, games, and tournaments in which his/her team participates. The club also expects coaches to show respect towards parents, players, opposing coaches, and referees. Coaches are required to attend mandatory meetings called by the DOC. The coach's primary responsibility will always be player safety and well-being.

JUFC Players

Participation in travel soccer imparts an expectation that the player is serious about his/her soccer career. Consequently, JUFC players are expected to: Attend practice faithfully; notify your coach or team manager if you are to miss a practice. Be prepared to practice, including having proper gear as outlined by your team trainer/coach.

Practice is the most critical component of your training and you are expected to take it seriously, work hard and pay attention at all times. Players who miss practices, come late/leave early, or who are regularly disruptive may have their playing time limited or may be dismissed from the Club at the discretion of the team trainer/coach. Attend scheduled events and tournaments. Players must notify their coach/team manager if he or she will miss a scheduled event.

Training Recommendations and Expectations for Players:

- Be "coachable."
- Be a good teammate; encourage others, respect your opponents, referees, and maintain a positive demeanor.
- Accept wins and defeats with equal grace and goodwill.
- Become a student of the game; watch soccer on TV and in person, listen while others are being instructed, become familiar with different styles of coaching and game strategy, teach the game to less experienced players.
- Players at this level are expected to take an increasing level of responsibility for themselves. The Club expects that questions about playing time and position should first be directed from the player to the coach in a positive fashion. A player who is disappointed by not receiving enough playing time should ask the coach for a conference. At the conference the Club suggests the player approach the coach as follows, "Coach, what do I need to do to get more playing time?"
- Players must also understand that they may be asked to play at another position from the one they are accustomed to. Sometimes this is done for development of the player, and sometimes it's done for the benefit of the team. If a player doesn't understand why s/he is playing in a particular position, we encourage the player to discuss this with the coach.

The soccer year runs from August-July. Any player who is rostered and subsequently registers with the Club is expected to remain with the Club through the end of the soccer year.

JUFC is committed to player development. We want our players to improve their soccer skills and game knowledge. However, the overriding goal of our Club is the development of young men and women of character. Therefore, we expect our players to maintain good academic standing, be good citizens of their communities, respectful towards parents, teammates, coaches & referees, and be responsible to their families and friends. JUFC players must remember that they represent their families and our Club when attending any team events, and should always display an attitude and behavior that represents us well. The use by players of alcohol/tobacco, profanity, physical violence, or verbally abusive language will not be tolerated and may be grounds for dismissal from the Club. Players who receive a red card/ejection from a game may be asked to confer with the coach(es) and the DOC or the Board to discuss the incident.

JUFC Parents

JUFC is proud and thankful that parents choose us for their player's training and development. We welcome parent involvement in our club, however, we feel that players develop best when there are some boundaries to parental involvement. The Club relies on parental support, including:

- Providing timely and reliable transportation for players to/from practice and games.
- Submitting paperwork and payments requested by the Club and/or your team managers or coaches in a timely fashion.
- Maintaining a positive, respectful and supportive environment for all players, parents, coaches, and referees.
- Encourage player autonomy – help your player help him/herself, rather than always rushing to solve his/her problems.
- In order to maintain a positive and constructive environment for all concerned, the Club has identified some parental behaviors that are detrimental and will not be tolerated. This list is not exhaustive, but is meant to be a common-sense guideline. Parents who do not follow this code of conduct may be banned from Club activities, including practices and games without additional formal warning.
- If a parent attends an event after being banned, the player may be removed from the Club immediately.

Parent/guardians of JUFC players agree to:

- Refrain from coaching from the sideline.
- Avoid degrading or berating any player, parent, opponent, coach, referee, or tournament official.
- Avoid using profanity during a game.

A parent /guardian who has a concern or complaint relating to a game situation (playing time, roster assignment, position, substitutions, etc.) is to wait 24 hours before asking to speak with the coach. At that time the parent should call or email the coach, briefly outline the area of concern, and ask for a conference. If there is an issue that cannot be resolved by conferencing with your player's coach, parents may request a conference with the Director of Coaching. If the issue cannot be resolved by the Director of Coaching, parents may then request a conference with the Director of Soccer Operations, or as a final resort, may reach out to the Board of Directors with their concern.

A PARENT/GUARDIAN SHALL NOT CONFRONT A COACH, REFEREE, PARENT, PLAYER, OR OTHER GAME OFFICIAL IN A PUBLIC FORUM.

Failure to allow the 24-hour cooling-off period may result in immediate dismissal from the Club.

ANY PARENT WHO WITNESSES OR BECOMES AWARE OF AN EVENT OR CIRCUMSTANCE THAT REPRESENTS AN IMMEDIATE AND SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SAFETY, HEALTH, OR WELL-BEING OF A PLAYER SHOULD IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE COACH, DIRECTOR OF COACHING OR A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. This includes but is not limited to concerns about physical safety, serious injury or the threat of serious injury, sexual misconduct, physical abuse, verbal abuse, bullying/taunting, and hazing.

Additional Information/Policies

Uniforms:

The official team uniforms will be decided by the Board of Directors and will be required to be purchased by every Club player and be worn at all team games. Any deviation from the official Club uniform must be approved by the Board.

Guest Players:

The regular use of guest players is discouraged. However, the Board recognizes that in some instances guest players will be needed, such to make an adequate roster for an event in which a number of regularly rostered players are not available or in an instance where a coach is recruiting a potential player to the Club. In cases where a guest player will be used, the coach or team manager should discuss this and obtain approval from the Director of Coaching. Also, the manager must work with the guest player to secure the guest player's pass card from his/her Club.

Scheduling and Use of Fields:

The Club will work with coaches to set a schedule of practice times and field locations. Any deviation from this schedule must be reported to and approved by the Club's Director of Soccer Operations. Use of JUFC fields and practice facilities is a privilege. We rely on all of our players, parents, and coaches to ensure that facilities are used respectfully and kept clean. Teams will be responsible for regular mowing and maintenance of goal mouths on their assigned practice field.

Payments, Delinquencies, and NSF Charges:

A variety of options are available for payment of annual Club dues. Those options can be found on the club website and will be sent by email to families of players offered a roster spot. Accounts not paid in a timely fashion are subject to late fees. Checks returned for non-sufficient funds will incur a service charge. Fees not paid in a timely fashion may result in player suspension from practices or games or, if necessary, dismissal from the Club. Payment plans are available and are outlined on the Club website. Questions about accounts and payments should be directed to the Club Administrator.

Fundraising:

From time to time, the Club may engage in fundraising activities for the benefit of the Club as a whole, in order to pay for equipment, field maintenance, etc. Individual teams are encouraged to undertake fundraising if they wish to offset some of their team costs, such as uniforms, travel, etc. The Club Administrator should be notified of all team fundraisers, including a description of the nature of the fundraiser. All fundraisers must comply with all applicable rules and regulations and must be appropriate fundraising activities for a youth sports organization. The Board of Directors reserves the right to disallow a team fundraiser if it deems it in appropriate or in conflict with Club standards.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

We have read the Player/Parent Handbook of Jaguars United FC. We agree to abide by its policies and procedures. We understand that failure to follow these policies may result in the player being dismissed from the Club without any refund of fees. We understand that by registering with JUFC, the player will be considered a player of the Club through the end of the current soccer year. We recognize that success of the individual players and of the teams is dependent upon a serious commitment by all of the players to faithfully attend practices, games, and tournaments.

We agree to submit required paperwork and payments when due and understand that failure to do so may result in dismissal of the player from the Club. This agreement must be signed once each soccer year for each player online through our commitment process.

Player registration will not be complete and the player will not be placed on a roster until the online handbook acknowledgement/agreement is submitted.