



Mid-State Soccer Club Parent/Player Handbook

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Mid-State Soccer Club
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INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been developed to communicate to players and parents the procedures, policies, and expectations of Mid-State Soccer Club. Each parent and player is 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 Club's policies. This document cannot fully cover every situation or question that may arise; in all instances the Board of Directors of Mid-State Soccer Club will be the final decision-maker in terms of Club operations.

THE CLUB

Mid-State Soccer Club is a Voluntary Association organized in Buckhannon, West Virginia as recognized by the State of West Virginia. Mid-State Soccer Club maintains membership in the West Virginia Soccer Association (WVSA) and as such follows the policies and rules of WVSA as well as the United States Soccer Federation, United States Amateur Soccer Association, and United States Youth Soccer Association. The Club's colors are royal, silver, black, and white. Its team name is "Mayhem." The Club's logo (shield) is considered to be intellectual property and is not to be utilized without approval of its Board of Directors.

Mid-State Soccer aims to field competitive soccer teams for boys and girls in the U-10 through high school age groups. Players must meet the eligibility requirements to be registered to the Club through WVSA. WV Secondary Schools Activities Commission policies prohibit players from participating in Club activities during seasons in which they are playing soccer for their school team. Accordingly, U-14 and higher teams are only offered by the Club in the winter/spring seasons.

The Club will select coaches, secure training locations, register players with WVSA and maintain player and coach credentials (pass cards), select events and register teams for tournaments and leagues, collect player fees, and conduct other activities as deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure proper operation of the Club.

Mid-State Soccer Club is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and non-office Directors. The names and contact information for the current directors will be listed at the end of this document.

COACHES (TRAINERS)

Trainers are selected by the Club and must agree to follow policies and procedures of the Club, WVSA, US Youth Soccer, and other applicable agencies. Otherwise, the Club trusts its trainers to run their teams as they see fit. Decisions about roster assignments, playing positions, and playing time are at the trainer's discretion. Each trainer is free to develop his/her own set of rules/expectations for the team and is encouraged to clearly share those expectations with players and parents.

The Club expects trainers to attend all practices, games, and tournaments in which his/her team participates. However, many of our coaches have obligations to college/high school or ODP (Olympic Development Program) teams that may occasionally preclude their participation in some Club events. In cases where a coach will be absent, it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that a suitable substitute coach/trainer will be present at the event.

The coach's primary responsibility will always be player safety and well-being. Accordingly, coaches are issued first-aid kits by the Club and will bring the kit to each team event, or will assign another responsible adult to bring the kit to each team event, including practices.

PLAYERS

Participation in travel soccer imparts an expectation that the player is serious and committed about his/her soccer career. This level is typically represented by players who have selected soccer as their primary competitive activity. Consequently, Mid-State players are expected to:

- Attend practice faithfully; notify your coach if you are to miss a practice. Be prepared to practice, including having: proper gear, inflated ball, and an appropriate drink. 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 cut or may be dismissed from the Club.
- Attend all scheduled events and tournaments.
- Accept training recommendations – be “coachable.”

- Be a good teammate; encourage others, respect your opponents, 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 for Mid-State Soccer runs from August-July. Any player who registers with the Club is expected to remain with the Club through the end of the soccer year. Releases for transfers to other clubs/teams will not be automatically extended, but will be considered after a conference including the player, parent(s), trainer(s), and at least two Board members. Players who wish to only play one season or part of a season (example – indoor only) will be accepted with the understanding that they will not be automatically released to play for another Club in the spring season.

Mid-State Soccer is committed to player development. We want every one of 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, and be responsible to their families and friends. 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 trainer(s) and/or Board to discuss the incident.

PARENTS

Mid-State Soccer is proud and thankful that parents choose us for their player's training. 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 in a timely fashion.
- Maintaining a positive and supportive environment for all players, parents, coaches, and referees.
- Encourage player autonomy – help the 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 Mid-State 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.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol at practices and games.

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. The Club strongly suggests that the parent and Coach notify and invite at least one Board member to attend this conference.

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 AND/OR 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.

TEAM MANAGERS

The team manager is a critical part of the success of Club teams. As soon as possible after a team is formed, the coach, in conjunction with the Board will identify a responsible parent/guardian to serve as team manager. The team manager will be the primary communication link between the team's parents and the coach. The team manager will notify team members about practice times and locations, and tournament schedules; this will require the manager to maintain an up-to-date contact list for all team members. The manager will also help the Club with other tasks such as collecting paperwork, getting parent signatures on releases, securing team hotel reservations, etc. The team manager will be given a team binder containing the official team roster and pass cards and will be responsible for checking in the team at tournaments as required; this often necessitates arriving early at the tournament site. The team manager should also transmit publicity information about the team to the Club's publicity manager; alternatively the team manager may arrange for another parent to do this task.

The team manager, in conjunction with the coach, may also make arrangements for their team to play in friendly games or additional tournaments. In this case the manager and/or coach will make all of the necessary registration arrangements and collect from team parents any fees associated with these additional events.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/POLICIES

Uniforms: The official team kit will be the Club approved kit consisting of: one home jersey, one away jersey, one pair black shorts, and one pair of black socks. The kit will be ordered directly from Eurosport (soccer.com) and billed/shipped directly to the player/parent. Additional items such as extra shorts, as well as warm-ups and bags will be offered but are not required. The jerseys will incorporate the official Club shield logo and will have no other insignia or sponsor names, unless specifically approved by the Board. Player names will not be allowed on official uniform components, but may be added to other items (warm-ups, bags, etc.)

Jerseys will have eight-inch numbers on the back. Before ordering kits, you must contact the Club Registrar for assignment of a number.

Jersey numbers are required on the rosters for many events. Therefore it is critical that all players wear their assigned number during games. Goalies also must have numbered jerseys but are not required to buy a dedicated Club kit. Goalies should buy a field player kit and may choose to buy an optional GK kit

offered by Eurosport (numbered 00, 0, or 1) or may wear any appropriate personal GK jersey, so long as it is uniquely numbered.

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. In cases where a guest player will be used, the coach or team manager should notify the Club Registrar no later than two weeks before the event. The manager must arrange for the guest player to borrow a uniform, and must inform the Registrar of the uniform number, as this information is required by many tournaments. Also, the manager must work with the guest player to secure the guest player's pass card from his/her Club. The Registrar will work with the manager to obtain the required Guest Player Roster from WVSA. The fee for Guest Player rosters is \$20 per player, per instance. This \$20 fee must be collected by the manager from the guest player before the event.

Scheduling and Use of Fields: The Club will set a schedule of practice times and locations. Any deviation from this schedule must be reported to and approved by the Club's Facility Coordinator. Cancellations of practices should also be communicated to the Facility Coordinator so that this information may be posted to the Club's website and Facebook page.

Use of 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.

Payments, Delinquencies, and NSF Charges: Charges for player fees will be billed each season (fall and winter/spring). Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to pay by credit card using the AFFINITY software link posted on the Club's website. Alternately, payment may be made via the PayPal link on the Club's website or by mailing a check to the Club's address. A \$100 registration fee (included in the total fees) is required to initiate player registration. Player registration will not occur until this fee is received. \$50 is non-refundable to cover registration and administrative costs. Checks or cash should not be hand-delivered to coaches, managers, or board members unless no other option is available. 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 dismissal from the Club. Payment plans are available and a limited number of scholarships are available. Scholarship information and applications are available on the Club's website.

Players are expected to attend all scheduled Club events. NO REFUNDS will be given to players who chose not to attend a training session, Club event, or to players who chose to drop out of the Club. Players who become injured during the season (with a signed medical excuse) may receive a partial refund for the

remainder of the events he/she will be unable to attend. Ad hoc team events will be billed separately.

Questions about accounts and payments should be directed to the Club's Treasurer.

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 tournament entry fees. All team fundraisers must be approved by the Board in advance and should be coordinated by the team manager. All fundraisers must comply with all applicable rules and regulations (WVSA, US Youth Soccer, IRS, etc.) and must be appropriate fundraising activities for a youth sports organization.

Photography: From time to time the Club uses photographs of players, staff, and fans for publicity, primarily via the Club's website and local newspapers. If you do NOT wish for photographs of your child(ren) to be used for these purposes, you must submit a written statement concerning your wishes to the Club's President at PO Box 2211, Buckhannon WV 26201.

Volunteers: Volunteers are the backbone of Mid-State Soccer. Please consider becoming a volunteer in support of the Club. If you have specific ideas or talents to share, please contact the Board.

MID-STATE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
President	Robert Greenough	304.439.0658	greenough@suddenlink.net
Vice-President	Sam Nolte	304.844.7305	sizza@aol.com
Treasurer	Renny Hall	304.476.7991	rhalltoo@suddenlinkmail.com
Secretary	Shanah Carpenter	304.613.5104	shanahcarpenter@yahoo.com
BOD member	Michael Tenney	304.642.3543	tenneymbt@yahoo.com
BOD member	Michael Walton	304.516.1337	michael.waltonwv@gmail.com
BOD member	Raymond Leonard	304.940.1841	raymondp.leonard@gmail.com
Registrar	Scott Hollen		midstatesoccer@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

We have read the Parent/Player Handbook of Mid-State Soccer Club. 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 Mid-State Soccer Club, the player will be considered a travel player of the Club through the end of the current soccer year (the soccer year runs Aug 1-Jul 31). 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 and must be submitted to: Mid-State Soccer Club, PO Box 2211, Buckhannon WV 26201. Player registration will not be complete and the player will not be placed on a roster until this form has been received by the Club.

PLAYER'S PRINTED NAME _____

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____