



## **PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT (PPA) for the 2023-2024 Season**

Welcome to the Soccer Club del Sol (SC del Sol). In order to help answer questions and avoid potential issues it is important that players and parents understand the philosophy, expectations, rules and policies of SC del Sol (Club), as outlined in the following pages. A signed copy of this document must be on file for all players who wish to play for SC del Sol.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

In keeping with the Club's mission statement, SC del Sol provides a comprehensive program for the youth soccer player. The Club's interest is the long-term development of each player, including ongoing improvement in technical skills and increased knowledge of the game, as well as personal growth and social growth as a valued team member. The Club and its coaches will sometimes make decisions and players may be instructed to do things that parents may not fully understand. Club and/or team interests, player development, and showcasing of players to college coaches will sometimes be given a higher priority than winning. Parents and players must understand this and should conduct themselves in a manner that fosters a healthy club and team environment. Playing *only* to win, without taking into consideration other factors, can sometimes have adverse effects on player development and team dynamics.

### **PLAYING TIME**

**Playing time is at the sole discretion of the coach.** Factors affecting playing time include: attendance at games and practice, effort at games and practice, the payment of Club and/or team fees, the event, ability level of the player. Playing time during major tournaments (e.g. State Cup, President's Cup or PDT) or major games (MLS NEXT, EA, ELITE 64, GA, DPL, APL games) where one of the primary objectives is to win, is not guaranteed.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

The Directors of Coaching will select tournaments for each team with input from the coaching staff, based on the perceived caliber of the team and the goals for the given season. These goals can range from player/team development (trying out new formations and tactics, equal playing time, confidence building), to ensuring players are showcased to college coaches, to going all out to win (State Cup, National League, PDT). No team is allowed to enter a tournament that has not been selected and approved by the Directors of Coaching. If a team enters a tournament that has not been pre-approved, the team will be pulled out of the event. Any costs incurred will be the team's. Some tournaments can involve major expenses and decisions need to be made many months in advance in order for teams to be considered for certain high-profile events. All teams within the Club are not of equal ability and may not be of the standard required to be accepted into major tournaments. Whenever possible, the majority of teams will play in common tournaments to foster team/club-building, as well as to contain costs.

## COACHES

The Director of Coaching assigns coaches to each team with input from the coaching staff. Decisions are made based upon what is right for the Club, the teams, and the players. There is no guarantee that coaches will be involved with a particular team for a given number of seasons with any team, nor is there an artificial limit placed on coaching longevity with a given team.

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

**SC del Sol does not permit coaching by parents of players or any other spectators whatsoever during games.** No one on the sidelines should instruct players or complain to officials before, during or after a game. Positive vocal support and encouragement is welcome during the game. Spectators should keep in mind that something as simple as “Shoot!” or “Pass it!” can be interpreted as instruction, not desirable, and may be contrary to what the coach is teaching or has instructed the team or player to do.

**The Club insists that members of the coaching staff be the only sideline voices at all games and practices.** No one other than those listed on official game rosters may sit on or near the team bench during games. All parents are required to act in an orderly manner when attending any SC del Sol game or event. Parents should sit at least 15 yards from the halfway line and cannot stand behind the bench/coaches. Parents are not allowed to follow the play up and down the sideline. Please respect the space and privacy necessary for your coach and team to carry out their game responsibilities.

At half-time parents are not allowed to approach the players or the coach for whatever reason. We expect players to be self-sufficient and they should have all drinks with them prior to the start of the game. The half-time team talk given by the SC del Sol coaching staff to the players will be done without parents being present.

At the end of the game, the SC del Sol coaching staff will address the players. The players are not free to leave until the coach dismisses them. Parents should not approach the players until the coach has dismissed them.

Parents and players should feel free to communicate with the coach and ask questions but should do so only at the appropriate time and in the proper place. Under no circumstances will dissatisfied parents approach the coach immediately after a game or a practice. We have a 24-hour rule in the Club that is strictly enforced. Players are encouraged to speak up and communicate for themselves as much as possible. Coaches are expected to communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with players about their progress. The Club encourages player-coach or player-parent-coach conferences at appropriate times during the year. Coaches will also provide an annual written evaluation of each player.

**Parents who break any rules with regard to game day behavior or inappropriate communication with the coach will be banned from games and practices.**

## THE CLUB, THE TEAM, AND THE PLAYER

The Club’s Board of Directors, Director of Coaching, and the Coaching Staff will prioritize their direction and decisions based on the following order:

- First, what is in the best interest of the Club;
- Second, what is in the best interest of a team;
- Third, what is in the best interest of a player; and
- Fourth, what is in the best interest of a coach or parent.

During the soccer season, players from the Club may have opportunity to try out and participate in the Olympic Development Program (ODP) or other identification programs. The player's decision whether to participate in an ODP or ID program will be left up to the player and parents. Be aware that players who are selected for the ODP at district, state, regional or national levels will encounter conflicts between Club events and ODP events or ID programs. **You agree and understand it is Club policy that Club events have priority over ODP or ID program in ALL circumstances unless your SC del Sol Coach and the SC del Sol Director of Coaching decide otherwise.** The ODP staff will be made aware of this Club policy.

## **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

The Club's success is based in great part on the efforts of many volunteers. During the course of the season, you will be asked to volunteer for responsibilities in various Club activities. **All parents will be required to volunteer at least four hours during the Club's three tournaments in November - the Thanksgiving Classic, February—the Desert Classic and Presidents' Day Tournaments.** The failure of parents to meet their required volunteer hours may affect a player's playing time. These tournaments do a great part to support the Club's programs and to keep fees for players at reasonable levels.

## **POLICY ON COMMUNICATIONS**

If a problem arises that a player and/or parent feel must be resolved, the Club has a policy that suggests how to effectively address it. All parents must observe the **"The 24-Hour Rule"**. Give one full day before initiating communications with coaches or the Directors of Coaching. It is amazing how much simpler a problem may seem after taking a day or two to consider. After waiting, if the problem still needs addressing, players and/or parents should:

- 1) Discuss the problem with their coach. If not resolved then
- 2) Discuss with one of the DOCs

Coaches are the primary decision makers and will work with their team managers to keep you informed of team plans and changes to plans when they occur. Team coaches not team managers are responsible for the channels of communication. Most team managers and coaches will communicate with team members via email. E-mails should be used only to distribute factual information. They should not be used to air problems or to express opinions.

Managers should not use e-mail when an *urgent* message needs to get out to the team, as a telephone call is the preferred means of sending urgent messages. Managers will also make sure that team members that do not use e-mail are contacted in another way. In the event of rain on training days, please check your e-mails and voice messages before leaving for the field. SC del Sol does not have final say on field closures due to rain. Very often the decision to close or leave open fields is made at the last minute by city of Phoenix personnel.

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

The Club bases its registration fees on a budget that is developed on an annual basis. Each player registering to the Club assumes a three-part financial obligation:

- a. **Club registration fees** which include ASA registration fees, insurance, coaching salaries, club office maintenance, equipment, facility rental fees, and other costs as determined by the Board of Directors.
- b. **Uniform/Kit fees** which cover the costs of uniforms, practice kits, backpacks and warm-ups.
- c. **Team Account fees** which include team entry fees to various tournaments as determined by the team's coach and the Director of Coaching, coaches' travel reimbursement costs, league registration, referee fees and miscellaneous team expenses.

The Club registration fee of **\$300** must be paid at the time of registration. The \$300 registration fee is non-refundable. The remaining Club fees are due in full at the beginning of the season, August 1. If you require a payment plan you have to request it and have it approved by the Club. Parents have the opportunity to pay said fees in separate payments. The payment plan is delineated on the Club's website during the on-line registration process. Parents of teams that participate in events such as regionals or summer tournaments may be required to pay additional fees to cover the costs associated with training for those events. Payment of fees may be done by personal check or by credit card on the Club's website. Payment of uniform/kit fees should be paid at the time of ordering. Team account fees will be coordinated through the team coach and team manager.

### **Financial Assistance**

The Club has a Financial Assistance program that may offset Club fees. Financial Assistance is based upon need not ability. Financial Assistance must be applied for by filling out the Financial Assistance application. Your past year's tax returns must be included with the Financial Assistance application. If not included, Financial Assistance will be denied. The Club has the right to review all Financial Assistance awards throughout the season. For further details about financial assistance, please contact your team's coach.

**Players deciding to transfer from SC del Sol prior to the end of the season are required to repay in full all assistance monies received by the player in order to be released from the Club in good standing.** Additionally, in the event that a player receiving financial assistance from the Club fails to pay any outstanding balance, the Club and/or Coach may request to place the player in bad standing.

Team fees remain the obligation of the individual player.

### **Arrears**

**Should a player fall in arrears for either Club registration fee payments or team account payments, the player may be suspended from practice and play until all accounts are brought current.** Players will receive an official Club warning regarding bringing payments current. If this warning does not have the desired effect, there will be a suspension of all playing privileges.

### **Suspension of Playing Privileges**

**Any player that falls behind in his or her financial obligations to the Club or the team they will have his/her playing privileges suspended until those obligations have been met or arrangements have been made.** Further, being in arrears could subject the player to an ASA hearing to determine the continuing status of the player. **Players removed from the Club for non-payment of Club and/or team fees will be placed into bad standing with Arizona Soccer Association for an indefinite period until the debt is settled.** This debt and the bad standing status will be carried forward from season to season until the debt has been settled.

### **Transfers**

Players may leave the Club and/or transfer in accordance with Arizona Soccer Association rules. When a player leaves the Club prior to the end of the season, a checkout procedure with the coach must be followed. Initially, all outstanding Club fees for the **entire season** must be paid. Also, any and all outstanding team fees must be paid and up to date. **A player is in good standing if he or she has met all financial obligations with the Club and his/her team.** Players who are not in financial good standing with the Club and his/her team will be placed in bad standing with Arizona Soccer Association. **There are no refunds for any player, irrespective of reason, who chooses to leave SC del Sol during the season.**

## THE CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

As a player, you are part of a team and a Club and your actions reflect not only upon yourself, but also on your team, the Club, and the rest of the SC del Sol organization.

Players and parents are expected to:

- Conform to the rules established by your team and the Club;
- Respect the coach's decisions and follow his/her instructions;
- Avoid inappropriate behavior during practice, games, team or Club-sponsored events, tournaments, and travel;
- Follow the Club's 24-hour rule on communication;
- Do not smoke, drink alcohol, or use illicit drugs;
- Attend practices, games, and tournaments to which your team is committed;
- Abide by travel rules of the team or Club, including attending team meals and team activities, traveling as a team, following nutritional guidelines, complying with team hotel room assignments, etc.;
- Treat teammates, members of the Club (including parents and family members), opponents, coaches, referees and other officials with respect;
- Care for your uniform, Club equipment and fields. When attending a practice or a game, be timely and wear the appropriate training gear and/or uniform;
- Remember that under the rules of soccer, a coach can be ejected from a game because of the conduct of a parent, or a team can forfeit a game because of the conduct of a parent.

Coaches are expected to:

- Set high standards for themselves and their players' conduct;
- Set team rules, including attendance rules, and fairly and equally apply these rules;
- Treat all players honestly, fairly, positively, and with respect;
- Be committed to helping each player develop soccer skills and game understanding;
- Communicate openly, honestly, and professionally with players and parents;
- Represent the Club in a professional manner with any actions being beyond reproach;
- Act professionally at all times; and
- Abide by team and Club rules.

## **TRAVEL POLICY**

**Players and parents can expect travel outside of the state and all players will be required to participate in every event unless injured.** Parents cannot pick and choose the events that are attended.

Certain travel rules are Club specific, but other rules and guidelines can and will be set by individual teams. Travel rules for the Club include:

- Players are expected not to smoke, drink alcohol or use illicit drugs;
- Respect fellow players, families, chaperones, and all others in authority;
- Respect the property of others, including hotel property, etc. as well as other guests and hotel staff;
- Players need to be accounted for at all times with either a parent, chaperone, coach, or designated person;
- Curfew will be set by team coach, and honored by all players, and supported by parents/chaperones;
- Team meetings, training, meals, and other activities set by the coach are mandatory and players are responsible for being punctual, with absence or tardiness limited to situations wherein specific permission has been given by the team coach;
- Teams are expected to stay together in the same hotel whenever possible;
- If rooming assignments are necessary, players are expected to honor assignments made by the coach;
- As representatives of the Club, decorum and manners are expected through the entire trip;
- Players are to travel as a team when instructed to do so;
- Players will not, under any circumstances, operate rental vehicles; and
- Dress requirements while traveling or at special events such as opening ceremonies at regional or national tournaments may be set and must be adhered to as instructed by the team coach.

Players and parents not observing the travel policy will be sent home from events. Additionally, families of Club players are also expected to observe Club travel rules and any other applicable Club or team specific rules while traveling and staying in hotels with a Club team.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Most minor violations of the Player/Parent Agreement should be resolved by the team and team coach. Serious or unresolved violations should be reported initially to one of the Directors of Coaching and the Executive Director. The Club may decide to institute a Discipline and Review Committee to review the situation to the final determination of what action, if any, may be appropriate. If action is necessary, the available options range from a caution or warning, to requiring a personal apology, probation, service work, suspension from playing or attending games as the case might be, or as a final step, expulsion from the Club. As a member of the Club, you are responsible for your own actions, and will be held accountable for same.

**Please sign the following page and return to your coach.**



**PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT (PPA) for the 2023-2024 Season**

Please keep a copy of the SC del Sol Player/Parent Agreement for your reference. Please sign below and return this page to your coach.

**We have read the 2023-2024 SC del Sol Player Parent Agreement. We understand and agree to the rules regarding (please initial):**

Playing time \_\_\_ Parent expectations \_\_\_ Club conflicts with ID programs \_\_\_ Volunteer hours \_\_\_ Financial obligations to the Club \_\_\_ Financial obligations to the team \_\_\_ Financial bad standing \_\_\_

I have read and understood the above on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert player name):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name and Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name and Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Name and Player Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date