

Elite

Club Policies

www.spokanesoccerclub.com

Team Registration Meeting

After teams are selected, families will receive a phone call or email congratulations or a phone call or email that they were not selected. The date of the meeting will be given at that time for everyone to register.

Every family should attend this meeting with their player. This is the time where parents and players will meet their teammates and fellow parents. All volunteer positions are filled at this meeting. Missing this meeting may leave you with a communication gap. Any additional registration paperwork is handled at this meeting. Each team is responsible for registering themselves for tournaments. Lists of tournaments are available from the Club Director and Administrator.



Club Equipment Sponsor

The Spokane Soccer Club has an exclusive apparel contract with Diadora. They agree to give us special pricing on all equipment and uniforms. In return we agree to have all of our teams wear Diadora exclusively throughout the year. **ALL field players and Goalkeepers are required to wear Diadora apparel (shorts, shirts, socks) for ALL games and tournaments. Players refusing to follow this will not play until they adhere to policy.** Players are not required to wear Diadora shoes or goalkeeper gloves.

Player Equipment

Every player is expected to come to practices and games prepared. Minimally, this means bringing an appropriate sized soccer ball (properly inflated), shin guards, and a water bottle. All players in all games and practices must wear shin guards. For all outdoor games and practices, soccer cleats are required. Wearing Spokane Soccer Club attire to training sessions and games as well ie practice shirts, SSC apparel, etc.

Eyeglasses, jewelry, and earrings may be deemed dangerous by referees and should not be worn during practices or games. Approved protective eyewear or contact lenses should be worn instead of eyeglasses.

Tax Breaks

The Spokane Soccer Club is a 501©3 non-profit organization. It is possible to write off your charitable contributions as deductions.

Club Dues and Payment of Dues

Dues are for a full soccer season. Registration dues are collected at parent meeting after tryouts. Registration dues cover professional coaching, administration, day to day operation, and any expenses related to furthering the SSC mission.

If payment has not been received by the designated date the player will be ineligible to play and may loose their spot on the team.

After a player makes a team:

Club dues are NON-REFUNDABLE.

Team Accounts

The team account is to be used for "required" expenses that all players owe. For instance, but not exclusively tournament fees, league fees, and coaches travel expenses. Overall goal is to provide full and fair disclosure to the parents, but also be respectful of personal financial situations.

SSC discourages the use of the team account to purchase benches, canopies, or gifts for the coach. Discretionary expenses like these can be a problem because families may not want to pay for such items by choice or because of financial constraints. If equipment though, is purchased through the team account, and all families have paid their share of the expense, the equipment is to stay with the team from year to year.

Team expenses will be divided equally among the players on the official team roster and, if applicable, guest players. Three exceptions:

1. Tournaments are posted prior to tryouts. At the time of tryouts, if a player is aware of a future tournament or game conflict they must notify the Director, Head Coach and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of accepting their place on the team roster.
2. If a tournament is added to the team schedule after tryouts and a player has a conflict, they must notify the Director, Head Coach, and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of the announcement of the added tournament.
3. SSC supports the further development of all players, especially for the next level of play. If a player has an ODP event, ODP is a legitimate excuse from missing a team event and therefore those players will not have to contribute to team expenses, regardless of when they were announced to the team.
4. All team expenses are to be paid in full to the Team Treasurer one week prior to the scheduled tournament or game departure. **If a player has an outstanding Team Expense balance one week after their payment was due, that player will not be allowed to practice or play in games until their payment is made or arrangements have been made with the Team Treasurer.**

SSC coaches are happy to be recognized for their time and efforts. Season-end gift-giving for all coaches is **optional** for every SSC player and team. If a team or player desires to give a gift to recognize their coach, the type of gift isn't what is important; a thoughtful one is.

Delinquent Accounts

When faced with a delinquent account, the Club Director/Administrator has the discretion to impose sanctions including restricting travel to tournaments and/or requiring the player to sit out games until payment is made in full or arrangements are made to pay the delinquent account in a timely manner. No player will be restricted to play based upon a delinquent account without adequate prior notice to the player and the player's parents. Adequate notice shall be defined as a minimum of 7 days and must be provided in written form (e-mail or letter).

Financial Aid

The purpose of the scholarship fund is to assist in providing partial financial aid to players who would not otherwise be able to play competitive soccer without such assistance. The scholarships are based on need *NOT* priority. Scholarships are available to SSC players on a first-come, first-serve basis after the Spokane Soccer Club Financial Aid Scholarship Committee has received a completed application from the parent(s) of the SSC player and the committee has reviewed and discussed the application. *Financial aid is intended to alleviate club dues. Financial aid is not intended to cover tournament fees or uniform costs.* Sponsors may be available to assist with this expense. Contact your team manager or a club administrator.

Fundraising

SSC understands that financial commitment required to play traveling and competitive soccer can be significant. We are committed to aggressive fundraising for both the club and individual teams. It has been our experience that a great percentage of costs are decreased with proactive fundraising. Parent volunteers are the primary drivers behind the

fundraisers and full participation by those players receiving scholarships is expected. Team fundraisers are allowed to offset the cost (ex: car washes, garage sales, etc). Teams must seek approval prior to fundraising planning and decide as a group what the funding raised will be used for (ex., tournament fees, travel, coach expenses, club fees etc), and how the funds will be divided (ex., split equally by all team members or only by those that participate in the fundraiser.)

Fundraisers require a proposal to SSC Administrator and Director for approval.

Tournaments

There are a few local tournaments throughout the year. We strive to get our teams in an environment that will help make them better. The director/assistant directors will work closely with all teams to recommend proper tournaments to attend. Generally, most teams go to two or three tournaments in the summer/fall and two to three in the spring. The club director or administrator should be able to help teams obtain tournament applications. Most applications are due five to six weeks prior to the tournament. When traveling to an out-of-state, state sanctioned tournament, travel papers might be needed. However, the coach and/or manager **MUST** be sure that the tournaments they are attending are sanctioned by United States Soccer Federation. International Travel Papers are only required for tournaments outside the United States. (i.e.: Canada) Parents are expected to pay for hotel and travel expenses for all head coaches at any tournament in which the team must stay the night..

Guest Players

Players may play as guest players within our own club with the approval of both team coaches and appropriate directors. Players wishing to play as guest players for another club must receive permission from the Club Director and coach.

Tournament Fees

Team tournament and travel fees must be paid in full before player is allowed to play in tournament. Teams are responsible for assessing each player sufficient funds to cover the travel expenses of the team's head coach (gas, hotel, airfare, etc.). These costs will be divided among all players on the team. When possible, coaches will share hotel rooms with other coaches to reduce expenses.

Prior to tryouts, SSC staff works diligently to plan and advertise all team tournaments for the year ahead. After a player makes a team and they are aware of a future tournament or game conflict they must notify the Director, Head Coach and Team Manager in writing or by e-mail within one week of accepting their place on the team roster.

If, after the first team meeting, a team chooses to add a tournament to their schedule and a player has prior conflicts and cannot attend, they are not required to pay their fair share of tournament registration fees and coaches travel expenses.

SSC supports the further development of all players, especially for the next level of play. If a player has a conflict with an Olympic Development Program (ODP) tournament, that player will not be required to pay their fair share of team tournament expenses. Whether that tournament was scheduled prior to tryouts or added later in the season.

If payment has not been received by the designated date the player will not be allowed to play in games and tournaments until payment has been made.

Practices

In general, teams will practice 2-3 times per week.

Appropriate training attire must be worn for practice. Uniforms are NOT appropriate training attire. Soccer clothing of SSC practice gear and apparel – shorts, socks, shin guards and t-shirts/practice jersey – must be worn for training. No tank tops or jeans allowed.

Day of the week and times will vary depending on the schedule of the coach and the field availability. Every effort will be made to maintain consistency in practice schedules to enable parents and players to plan accordingly.

Practices are normally held rain or shine. If you do not receive notice that a practice is cancelled, you should assume that practice is on. If necessary, the coach can cancel practice at the field. The coach and/or club director have the right to cancel any practice if he/she believes the safety of players are at risk.

Although teams can practice and play in all kinds of weather, lightning is another matter and can be cause for immediate suspension/termination of play. The '30/30' rule for lightning safety could save lives. The first '30' means that you need to take cover (in a sturdy building or a car) if you hear thunder within 30 seconds of the lightning flash ('flash to bang' ratio). Then wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or thunder in order to resume normal activity.

Practice days and times are decided by the coach. Younger teams typically practice two days per week while older teams may increase their practices to three days per week. The lengths of practices usually are one and a half hours for the younger teams and up to two hours for the older teams. This is approximately the same amount of time players will be on the field from start to finish during a game situation.

Playing Time

The Spokane Soccer Club is a *competitive* youth soccer program with the purpose of promoting and developing the game of soccer. As a competitive program equal playing time for all players will vary with the age, event and competitive level each individual player is playing at.

SSC's U-12 and below age groups are considered developmental, and shared playing time for all players is essential in their development. Every player should attend every practice and compete as if it is a game. Player MUST attend at least two practices per week to obtain quality playing time. Skill level, attendance and work rate at practices helps determine playing time. All players who attend practices, and work hard, need playing time to develop and increase their skills. It is very difficult to get everyone equal playing time on the field. The rules of the game, roster size and injuries can affect this. Throughout the overall season U12 and below players should be close to playing in at least 50% of games if the player has attended 95% of the training sessions.

As teams get older with increasing competition (U-13 and above), playing in 50% of the games by the end of the season is tougher to manage. For the Premier level teams (and) at these ages, coaches do not have to play every player in every game. (We recommend our coaches to achieve the 50% goal, but sometimes it is not met.

Regardless of age group, there is no guarantee of playing time for players on *any* team that advances to the State Cup or Regional, or Showcase Events.

If parents have a concern about playing time, please address the concern with your coach first. Hopefully everything will be satisfied with this conversation, if an agreeable outcome does not happen, please contact club Director. Please do not wait until the end of the season, by then it is too late to make a change.

Indoor

Winter indoor soccer leagues are not affiliated with or sponsored by Spokane Soccer Club. Indoor soccer is a great way to stay in shape during the winter months. We all know that the more a player plays the game, the better a player becomes.

Futsal

Winter futsal for all teams and players are encouraged to play in the Spokane Valley 5v5 league.

Academics

SSC expects all players to strive to perform their best on the field and in the classroom. The Spokane Soccer Club has a strong tradition of academic excellence and we encourage all players to organize their schedules to ensure they have adequate time to devote to their studies. Having homework is not an acceptable excuse for missing practice. Players who miss practice miss the opportunity to get better individually and hurt their team. All players have homework and as athletes they must manage their time wisely. If players are having issues in school they need to have their parents talk with the coach to work out an acceptable plan.

Multisport Athletes and Year-Round Soccer

The Spokane Soccer Club players are some of the most talented *multi sport athletes* in the state of Washington. We do support our multi sport athletes and we work with players and parents to work out a fair and equitable plan for those players that wish to pursue other sports and interests. SSC has always been willing to “share” its players with other sports and interests and have found that success comes in those situations that are fair and equitable for the player’s SSC team, the player and the competing activity. It must be known that playing time is significantly reduced for players unable to attend practices. However, for those players who wish to play full time soccer, the Spokane Soccer Club provides that opportunity as well on a year round basis with continued professional guidance.

Role of Parents

Derogatory remarks against the players of your team, the other team, or the referee is not acceptable behavior. Any criticism of players, by teammates, or by parents is destructive and not only hurts the individual, but ultimately the entire team’s morale. Any suggestions you may have for the Coaching staff should be handled on a one-on-one basis in a private setting. The coaching staff is always open to discussions of any subject. We are open to your opinions, feelings, and ideas. This, together, is our Club and we have to work together to keep it positive for the kids.

When game day rolls around it is time to let the players compete to their best of their abilities, without parent-coaching from the sidelines. Giving strategy to your child or your child’s teammate before, during, or any part of the game is not conducive for the team having the greatest chance of succeeding.

Teach your child to look at competition as an opportunity to fulfill personal goals. Do not coach your child during the game and training. Enjoy watching them while they are performing. Let your child know that it is okay to fail, and that he/she can grow from failure. When your youngster is on the winning side, encourage good sportsmanship. Teach your child that winners do not need to brag or hurt the feelings of the losing side.

Communication on Issues of Concern

When issues and concerns arise at the team level, SSC recommends the following process:

1. Players should be encouraged and expected to talk directly to the team coaches and discuss the specific issue of concern.
2. If this is not possible or is unsuccessful, then both the player and the parent should talk with the team coaches.

3. If the issue is still not resolved, the player and parent should contact the Club Director.

It is important that players and parents follow the enclosed lines of communication

Parent→Coach→Parent/coach/Director meeting

We also ask everyone (coach and parent) to follow the 24-hour rule:
The 24 hour is designed to protect the coach and parent from confrontations.

There is a time and a place to address a coach and parent. Unfortunately, competition often leads to issues with the parents and coach on your team concerning playing time, coaching style, playing formation, etc. At no time are parents of players or coaches allowed to discuss any issues they may have with a coach or parent before, during or immediately after matches. This includes face to face conversation, email, or phone communication. All coaches and parents need to contact the Club Director if a situation has occurred.

By allowing 24 hours for emotions to calm down, a more positive solution can be made to the problem that the parent or coach may need to address.

SSC asks that players and parents communicate directly to coaches about practices, questions, or concerns. Players and parents are expected to work directly with their Team Manager and Team Treasurer about game schedules, travel plans, etc.

In doing so, we ask that all remember **Mass Team Texting and Emails should only be used to communicate information; not be used to raise or answer questions of concern, offer up opinions, nor engage in written dialogue. Proper use of e-mail and texting is expected at all times.**

SSC regards all email addresses and personal registration information as private and confidential. SSC does not share or sell this information with other organizations.

Use of SSC e-mail addresses by players or parents for non-soccer related e-mails (political campaigns, religious messages, forwarded messages, etc.) is strongly discouraged. Please get confirmation from other SSC families that they would like to receive non-soccer related emails before sending them.

Copyrights, Trademarks & Logo Usage Guidelines

Copyrights

Unless otherwise noted, all materials and publications, including web sites and emails, are protected as the copyrights, trade dress and/or intellectual properties owned by Spokane Soccer Club (SSC.) Such intellectual properties may not be reproduced or used by others without the express written permission of SSC. All rights not expressly granted are reserved.

Trademarks

The SSC trademarks, logos, services marks, brand identities, titles, trade names, graphics, designs and copyrights (collectively the “Trademarks”) are protected intellectual properties that are both registered and unregistered Trademarks of SSC, its affiliates and others. Nothing used on clothing, uniforms, publications, web sites or other materials shall be construed as granting, by implication or otherwise, as a license or right to use any SSC Trademark by third parties.

Spokane Soccer Club Logo’s

The Spokane Soccer Club Logo (“SSC logo,” “Elite logo,” “Falcons logo” etc.) is available for certain authorized usage by SSC, the SSC Board of Directors, SSC-affiliated teams and certain pre-authorized suppliers and vendors. Unauthorized use of the SSC Logo is strictly prohibited, and may subject an infringing party to criminal prosecution.

Proper SSC Logo Usage

The SSC Logo is to be recognized as the official club logo, and if used, it must be presented in its entirety without modification, on such merchandise and/or materials including but not limited to the following:

- Soccer uniforms and other apparel, bags, hats, pins, patches, etc.
- Press releases and newsletters
- Posters, banners, field boards
- Print or broadcast ads
- Electronic mediums, websites, on-site signage
- Registration forms, applications, etc.
- Marketing or informational brochures and materials

Logo Usage by SSC and SSC Affiliated Teams

Current SSC employees and member teams of SSC are granted a limited license to use the Spokane Soccer Club Logo for newsletters and team web sites for identification purposes as long as the logo is not altered or combined with other symbols, nor used in a manner inconsistent with the goals and mission of SSC. This limited license may be revoked at any time by SSC for individuals or teams who, in the opinion of SSC, do not adhere to SSC policies. In such instances, and upon the written or oral request of SSC, all usage of the SSC Logo and SSC name must cease immediately.

All current SSC affiliated teams are further permitted to use the SSC Logo on Team Tents, Practice T-Shirts, Scrimmage Vests, Team and Team Sponsor banners and signs, as well as on Sponsor Recognition plaques and similar gifts without seeking prior approval from SSC.

Logo Usage for Commercial Purposes Requires Written Permission .The SSC Logo is a valuable property of the Spokane Soccer Club, and revenues generated by sales of SSC Logo-bearing items are strictly subject to the direction and control of SSC. SSC-affiliated teams may NOT use the SSC Logo for any commercial purpose whatsoever (i.e., the sale of shirts, jackets, caps, scarves, blankets, umbrellas or other items bearing the SSC Logo) without first receiving the prior written permission of the appropriate individual or individuals authorized to grant such permission by the SSC Board of Directors. Or the appropriate individual or individuals authorized to grant such permission by the SSC Board of Directors, ie: Club Administrator or Club Director.

If permission for a commercial purpose is granted, such as a team fundraising activity, all proceeds from those sales must go directly into Team accounts and not to an individual or individuals' personal bank accounts. Note - Teams should not place purchase orders with vendors for any SSC Logo bearing items prior to gaining written approval (which may be approved or denied) of SSC. Any written permission granted for such limited commercial purpose may be revoked at any time by SSC for individuals or teams who do not adhere to SSC policies.

Logo Use Specifications

The Spokane Soccer Club Logo must always be used in the same proportions. It is intended to be used as a unit, and it must not be altered or modified from its standard form. All applications of the Logo must use all colors properly as outlined. No other colors may be substituted in a color rendition. For non-color renditions, either 100% black or 100% white is acceptable. If Logo is presented in 100% white, it can only be placed on a solid dark background. If Logo is presented in 100% black, it can only be placed on a solid light background. A graphics free zone should be maintained around the perimeter of the Logo. No lettering, lines, or images may cross over or hide the elements of the Logo.

Club Sponsors

As SSC acquires Club Sponsors, use of the club sponsor's logo may be granted for marketing materials and apparel. Use/placement of the presenting sponsor's logo is subject to the following:

- Sponsor logo usage must be submitted for approval prior to any use in conjunction with the SSC Logo, SSC Team Uniforms, or Team Banners and Tents.
- The size of the presenting Sponsor's logo cannot be larger than the size of the SSC Logo.
- Placement of both logos must be indicated when submitted.

Branded Apparel

The SSC Logo is required on all club merchandise including but not limited to: Uniforms, T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, sweaters, hats etc. When screened or embroidered on apparel items, the Logo must be at least 2" wide. For all apparel purchases or for fundraising wearable items, club sponsor merchandise must be used and supplied by an authorized vendor.

REMINDER - All described uses of the SSC Logo in the foregoing guidelines for any commercial purpose whatsoever must receive the prior written approval of SSC. Please submit requests for using the SSC Logo to: Club Administrator or Club Director.