



# **Penn Fusion** **Soccer Academy**

## **Guidelines**

*Developing the Total Player*

[www.pennfusion.org](http://www.pennfusion.org)

2010/2011

Welcome to Penn Fusion Soccer Academy. As a member of Penn Fusion Soccer Academy you represent an elite group of players who are dedicated to continually improving their skills both on and off the field.

In order for the player's focus to remain on skill development at the highest possible level, it is up to the player, coach, club, and families to work together to establish an environment conducive to this continued growth.

These guidelines were established to clearly communicate expectations from player, coach, club, and families in order to establish the professional environment necessary for the elite player to develop their skills.

Please review these guidelines with your son/daughter to insure that they are fully aware of the environment Penn Fusion Soccer Academy is establishing to guide their development.

#### **A. Penn Fusion Soccer Academy Mission Statement:**

Penn Fusion Soccer Academy, a joint venture between West Chester United Soccer Club and Spirit United Soccer Club, will provide a professional environment for elite players to develop their skills and compete in the highest levels of soccer currently available, both regionally and nationally. The primary goal of the Academy will be the development of the *total player*, including the technical, tactical, physical, and psychological areas of our players' development. There will be an emphasis on extensive training time and participation in competitive matches so that each player can reach their full potential and enhance their enjoyment of the game.

#### **B. Mission Statement of the Coaching Staff:**

Our mission as coaches will be to produce high quality soccer players through personal commitment, diligence and team work. As coaches we will have a commitment to the development of the entire player, including the technical, tactical, physical, and psychological areas of our players' development within the team environment. We aim to create an environment in which players can reach their full potential. We want our players to gain the confidence and self-esteem necessary to be successful both on and off the soccer field. To make this possible we will address areas of individual skill, along with team tactics, to enable our players to compete at a high level. We will also assist our college-bound players in achieving their goal of playing collegiate soccer.



### C. Parent Guidelines:

Your child is a member of a professional environment where they can develop their skills both on and off the field.

No matter how good the intentions, parents will **not** instruct or coach the players from the sideline. Do not shout instructions to your child or other players on the field. This only causes confusion, and the players become resentful and do the opposite of what we are trying to accomplish. This behavior will not be tolerated at Penn Fusion Soccer Academy.

Encouragement is great; coaching from the sideline is not! Remember that your child is a member of a team. Let all the players know you support them too with encouragement. Set the tone for good sportsmanship and team harmony by adopting a positive attitude. Parents are encouraged to voice their support and encouragement. Passion and enthusiasm for the players, the team, and the club is great and welcome!

Suffer in silence! Parents cause problems by being critical of players that are not their own. Encouragement is great; being publicly critical of players on the team, including your own child, is not acceptable! This behavior will not be tolerated at Penn Fusion Soccer Academy.

Do not move up and down the sidelines. Parents embarrass their own children by making a spectacle of themselves. Find a comfortable place to put your chair, relax, and enjoy the match.

Shouting insults or verbally abusing a referee will not be tolerated. Violation of this simple edict can result in pulling a players pass or expulsion from the club.

Do not enter the field of play. Coaches and officials will deal with injuries or fighting.

Please notify the coach if your child cannot attend a scheduled game or training session before the event starts.

Be at the field an hour before a match ready to play. The players will warm-up 45 minutes before the match. If, for some reason you are running late, make sure your child is dressed and ready to go when he/she exits the car. There is an expectation of being prompt and early is always best. The coach may request an earlier time of arrival.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's role on the team and you wish to speak with the coach you need to schedule an appointment. **Coaches will NOT have a discussion with parents before or after matches or practice.**



Parental support and involvement with our teams is essential. We are not just a team of players; we are a team of families. Your child's playing commitment involves your commitment.

There may be times when conflicts occur. We are asking that players be proactive in speaking with their coaches. Player willingness to ask questions and inquire about playing time, positional play or player management issues are absolutely necessary in order to develop a good relationship with the coach.

Encourage your child to take the initiative to communicate with the coaching staff. This is a lifelong skill that is essential at the college and national level. Parents may attend meetings between coach and player, but dialogue is between the coach and the player. **Coaches will NOT have a discussion with parents before or after matches or practice unless it is scheduled.**

In summary, parents should memorize and use the following as a guide:

***Before the Match***

1. I love you.
2. Good luck.
3. Have fun.

***After the Match***

1. I love you.
2. It was great to see you play.
3. What would you like to eat?

**D. Apparel Guidelines:**

All members, coaches and players, of the Penn Fusion Soccer Academy must respect our relationship with NIKE as the official apparel/equipment sponsor of Penn Fusion by wearing Nike approved apparel. Footwear is the only exception.

Please make sure that your uniform and all accessories, including warm-ups, equipment bags, and cold weather undergarments are compliant with this policy.

We also ask that you support the club's apparel and equipment sponsor, Nike, by using Nike balls, shin guards and other products whenever possible.



## **Game Day Apparel**

ALL players are expected to wear the designated Penn Fusion NIKE uniform and apparel at ALL league games, tournaments and club-sponsored events and other activities. Game footwear is an exception.

Players are required to have the proper equipment including a properly inflated ball, shin guards, socks pulled up and the **correct shoes for the surface of play!**

When weather dictates, undergarments may be worn and will be the same color as the game day jersey.

Team administrators/coaches will dictate the game day color combination prior to the game. All players should arrive for games in the properly selected color and always bring the alternate color jersey/shorts to the game.

## **Training Day Apparel**

ALL players are expected to wear the designated Penn Fusion Nike training kit at all training sessions.

Players are required to have the proper equipment including a properly inflated ball, shin guards, socks pulled up and the **correct shoes for the surface of play!**

When weather dictates, undergarments may be worn and will be the same color as the training jersey.

## **Travel Dress Apparel**

When traveling, players are expected to adhere to the required dress code as dictated by the team coach. Travel attire must be appropriate and team apparel is suggested. Disrespectful slogans, symbols, political statements, and disrespectful wording shall not be displayed on the clothes. Clothes shall "fit" (nothing too tight & nothing too loose). No holes or tears in the clothing shall be present. No baseball hats.

### **E. Team Travel:**

Tournament and league selection is based on quality, not quantity. Our players will be required to travel outside the Philadelphia area. Your desire to play on a premier level team comes with certain expectations. Playing higher level competition helps the development process. Playing in a professional atmosphere against quality competition with different styles will only help your



child to grow as a player and prepare them for playing at the highest levels. It is important for our players to gain exposure. Participating in high-level events will help to advance the players. These are not family vacations, and the only person required to make the trip is your child.

The coach will determine a team curfew. Penn Fusion Soccer Academy's recommended curfew is to have players in their rooms no later than 10:30pm. Tournaments are not a family vacation but a way to help develop players. Adult supervision is expected for players when we are traveling and we encourage parents to volunteer to chaperone players.

Players are expected to participate with the team for the entire event. While traveling, the coach may request to have the team participate in a team activity or team meal and the player will be required to attend. Any exceptions will be granted and determined by the coach.

Do not leave the hotel without the coach's permission. Even if you are attending a pre-approved event with a family member, you must notify the coach. The coach must know where you are at all times.

At no time will any person of the opposite gender, other than family, will be allowed in players' rooms when team travel is taking place. Players are expected to stay in their assigned room with parents/guardians. No horseplay at the hotel. As far as common practice, all participants on the trip are expected to be well mannered and considerate of others.

Use of alcohol or drugs will result in the player being sent home at the parents' expense. After returning home, a hearing at PFSA will be set to determine the player's future with the Club. Expulsion is the most likely outcome. Please address this issue with your child.

All participants on the trip are expected to be well mannered and considerate of others. It is our expectation that each player upholds a high standard of excellence. Players must treat their teammates, coaches, manager, opponents and referees with decency and respect at all times.

*Take Pride: You represent Penn Fusion Soccer Academy!*

## **F. Arrival Times:**

### **Training Day Arrival Times**

Penn Fusion Soccer Academy training will last 1.5 hours and be scheduled by the team coach. Each player is expected to wear the appropriate training gear to all training sessions and to have all the necessary equipment for training.



Players should arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled training session in order to have enough time to put on footwear and appropriate attire.

### **Game Day Arrival Times**

Penn Fusion players are expected to arrive 60 minutes prior to each game for warm-ups. Players should arrive and have all the necessary equipment for games, including the required game day colored uniform and the alternate colored uniform. Always bring BOTH uniforms to all games. In addition, Penn Fusion players are expected to have all their equipment ready for play: shin guards, footwear appropriate for surface, properly inflated ball.

G. **Nutrition:** FIFA and the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) have developed a well written booklet, entitled *Nutrition for Football*, which can be found on the Penn Fusion website. This booklet highlights the importance of getting the right amount of energy and hydration levels for optimal performance.

H. **Financial Obligation:** Penn Fusion Soccer Academy relies on income from player fees to cover the costs and expenses of each team. Outlines of team budgets will be presented to all members for each new season at the initial team/parent meeting. These budgets will provide an outline of the events planned for each team. Please note that these budgets are subject to change at the coach's discretion. Changes in team event planning will be communicated to parents as soon as possible. All coaches understand and are aware that costs must be closely monitored and reduced if at all possible. Please note that team budgets do not include lodging and travel expenses for the player and/or family members. These costs are solely the responsibility of the family.

In addition to a budget, a payment plan will also be presented at the initial team/parent meeting. This payment plan will include a nonrefundable registration fee of \$375 to be paid once your son/daughter has accepted a position on a Penn Fusion team.

Fees are to be made payable to *Penn Fusion Soccer Academy* and sent to the Penn Fusion Administrator at the address below:

Diana Urbanski  
1824 Art School Road  
Chester Springs, PA 19425



Payments are due on the first of each month. Please note your son/daughter's team name in the memo line of your check.

It is important to note that several team expenses are incurred very early in the season and it is important that player payments are prompt.

Families who are unable to meet the financial obligations of the team may be eligible for special payment plans or financial assistance.

Nonpayment of fees can lead to playing or travel restrictions or expulsion from the Academy. The Academy Administrator will monitor player fee payments on a monthly basis. Once a family falls one month behind in player fee payments, the Academy Director will send an email reminding the family that fees are due. If the family does not make their account whole by the following month, the team coach will be notified that the family is in arrears and the following actions will occur until the family's payments are current:

- a. Player suspended from training.
- b. Player suspended from playing in games/tournaments/showcases.
- c. Player suspended from the team and EPYSA notified that player is in bad standing with Penn Fusion.

## **I. Financial Aid:**

### **Financial Aid Application**

In order to be eligible to receive financial aid, a Financial Aid Application must be completely filled out. Tax returns for the prior year must be included with the application.

Penn Fusion Soccer Academy only has a restricted amount of money for financial aid in the budget. Therefore, awards will not exceed this amount. The amount of the award offered to an applicant depends on family income, number of family members and the number of players requesting financial aid. Special circumstances are also taken into account.

Applications for each new season should be completed and forwarded to the Penn Fusion Administrator by August 30. The Penn Fusion Management committee will review each application and determine awards by October 30.

Please note that all documentation provided for consideration in the Financial Aid process will be held in the strictest confidence.

Please be advised that budget limits may not allow us to give the aid requested in every circumstance. If you need more help meeting expenses, special payment plans can be discussed with the Penn Fusion Administrator.



## **Special Payment Plans**

Budget limits may not allow us to give all the aid requested by a family. If additional help is needed in fulfilling your financial obligation to the club, special payment plans may be set up with the Penn Fusion Management Committee.

Please contact the Penn Fusion Administrator at [pennfusionadm@gmail.com](mailto:pennfusionadm@gmail.com) to set up a special payment plan with the Management Committee.

## **Multiple Player Families**

Families with more than one player on a Penn Fusion team are eligible to receive a \$50 per player discount off of the registration fee for the second and subsequent players. The first player to register will pay the full rate and the discount will be applied against the second and subsequent players in the family.

## **J. Problems and Concerns:**

As with any organization, there are times when conflicts arise that must be addressed. To help us focus on the exact problem and not on the emotion that accompanies the problem, please wait 48 hours before addressing a concern.

Please refrain from discussing your issue with other Penn Fusion players/families. This is extremely distracting and emotionally draining for all involved and does nothing to solve the problem. In fact, it can be very detrimental to the environment we are trying to establish.

After 48 hours, please make an appointment with the team coach to address your concern. If you are not satisfied with the events at the conclusion of your coach's meeting, please forward your concern in writing to the Directors of Coaching.

