

**Carolina Elite Soccer Academy**

**RULES & REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE I.**

**General**

**Section 1.**

Carolina Elite Soccer Academy does hereby adopt and publish such rules and regulations for youth players, in compliance with and as may be required by national or state associations with which the club has chosen to affiliate, as determined by the Club's Board of Directors to be necessary and appropriate for the operation of an organized soccer program.

**Section 2.**     *Age Groups, Affiliations, and Registration*

- A.     The Club shall make every effort to enter teams in the following age divisions, which are comprised, of players who are born, before the first day of August of the current season
- Under 19 years of age
  - Under 18 years of age
  - Under 17 years of age
  - Under 16 years of age
  - Under 15 years of age
  - Under 14 years of age
  - Under 13 years of age
  - Under 12 years of age
  - Under 11 years of age
  - Under 10 years of age
  - Under 8 years of age
  - Under 6 years of age
- B.     Each Player shall furnish proof of age at the time of initial registration with the club. Therefore, no further proof of age shall be required so long as uninterrupted year-to-year registration status is maintained with the Club. Acceptable proof of age shall be an official birth certificate, passport or alien registration card issued by the United States Government or Certificate of Naturalization issued by the Immigration and Naturalization service.
- C.     All Players must be registered with the Club and have paid all fees established by the Club's Board of Directors before participating in a practice or game with a Club team.
- D.     New player registration shall be limited by the Club's Board of Directors' determination of the number of teams, which it can properly sponsor during the current season.
- E.     The Club and all players will be affiliated with the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association. The Clubs Board will determine with which leagues and additional associations or recreation commissions the Club will affiliate.
- F.     The Board will annually set the amount of registration fees to be collected from each player registering with the Club.

**Section 3.**      *Roster Limitations*

- A.            The Club recommends as a guideline that all eleven-a-side teams be composed of not more than sixteen players at any given time.
- B.            No eleven-a-side shall be allowed more than eighteen players at any given time.
- C.            Under 6's playing 6-a-side recommended 9 on roster with no more than 14 at any-given time.
- D.            Under 8's playing 6-a-side recommended 9 on roster with no more than 14 at any given time.
- E.            Under 10's playing 8-a-side recommended 11 on roster with no more than 14 at any given time.

**ARTICLE II.**

**Recreation Teams**

**Section 1.**      *Purpose*

The Club hereby states its intention to enter teams in recreation league play to promote the training and competition for those players who desire to play soccer.

**Section 2.**      *Four- Year-Old Age Requirement*

It is hereby established that the Club will not allow registration of any child to participate on an Under-6-years-of-age division team who is not four years old before the first day of August of the current season.

**Section 3.**      *Age Group Coordinators for Respective Age Divisions*

It is preferred that the Age Group Coordinator not be a Head Coach in that division. The Recreational Director with the approval and ratification of the Academy Director shall appoint them.

**Section 4.**      *Responsibilities of Age Group Coordinators*

Each Age Group Coordinator shall:

- A.            Serve as the chairpersons of all meetings in their age division. Coordinate and represent their age division in all matters pertaining to it.
- B.            Establish committees and appoint committee chairpersons in order to administer and manage programs in the age division.
- C.            Assist all coaches in acquisition of practice time and fields, as necessary.
- D.            Coordinate any appeals by parents, players, or coaches to the Academy Director, Recreation Director or the Board.
- E.            Distribute and collect all player registrations and release forms for teams after all forms have been properly completed.

**Section 4.**     *Playing Above Age Division*

Recreation players are not allowed to play up an age division except where teams in the player's age division are full or there are not enough players to form a team in their age division. A player may not play in an age division below his or her proper division (so-called "playing down").

**Section 5.**     *Playing Time and Suspension*

**All Club players will play for a minimum one-half of each regular season game including play offs and recreation tournament games.** Exceptions to this rule are allowed only when a player misses two consecutive regularly scheduled practices without reasonable cause, as determined by the player's coach. In this instance, a player may be suspended by the coach from playing in the next scheduled game. A player may be suspended by a coach for one game for other justifiable reasons, including but not limited to, disciplinary reasons, fighting, etc., with the joint approval of the Age Group Coordinator who, in turn, will notify the Board of such suspension at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Section 6.**     *Uniforms*

Players will furnish their own Club-specified shirts, shorts and socks, as well as shoes and shin guards.

**Section 7.**     *Team Selection and Balancing Procedures*

The Recreation Director for Boys and Girls along with the Academy Director will determine how the teams are selected each season. The balancing of teams will be aided by adjusting schedules as seen needed by the Director or Age Group Coordinator.

The Age Group Coordinator shall be present at each meeting of the age division's coaches when teams are selected. All coaches or a coach's designated representative will indicate their acceptance of the final roster by initialing each agreed upon roster.

**Section 8.**     *Post Season Coaches' Meeting*

Each age division will have a coaches meeting for the purpose of reviewing the past season and evaluating the players. The Recreational Director and/or one Executive Director shall be present to conduct such meeting. An Age Group Coordinator or a majority of the coaches in an age division may call coaches' meetings at any time.

**Section 9.**     *Coaching Requirements*

Coaches at a minimum attend a National Youth Module (5 hour course) given by the club. Modules will be held twice a year. Modules must be taken within one year from the start of coaching. Modules must be renewed every three years.

**Section 10.**    *Tournaments*

All tournaments entry fees are the sole responsibility of the team. Prior to applying for any other Tournaments (except the CESA Fall and Spring Challenge) the Coach must first get approval from the Recreational Director or the Executive Director.

**Section 11.**    *Disciplinary Actions*

- A. Club referees have the authority and right to take disciplinary action against any coach, player or parent. Referees are the ultimate authority before, during and after games. Therefore, referees will use the following guide to maintain control of the fields and games:

**1. Parent infractions of the code of conduct:**

1<sup>st</sup> infraction: Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending parent.

2<sup>nd</sup> infraction: Referee should stop the game, give a verbal warning to the coach and ask the coach to warn the parent that the next infraction will be an ejection.

3<sup>rd</sup> infraction: Referee shall issue a caution to the coach and instruct the coach to direct the parent to leave the field. The referee will abandon the game if the parent does not leave the field.

**2. Coach and player infractions of the code of conduct:**

1<sup>st</sup> minor infraction: Referee should ignore.

2<sup>nd</sup> minor infraction: Referee should issue verbal warning to the coach or player.

3<sup>rd</sup> minor infraction: Referee shall issue a caution to the coach or player.

4<sup>th</sup> minor infraction: Referee shall issue an ejection to the coach or player.

1<sup>st</sup> major infraction: Referee shall issue a caution to the coach or player. Referee could issue an ejection depending on the seriousness of the infraction.

2<sup>nd</sup> major infraction: Referee shall issue an ejection to the coach or player.

**3. Serious infractions of the code of conduct:**

The referees have the right to skip items listed in one or two above if the infraction is deemed serious and issue an ejection immediately. The referee could abandon the game as well.

B. The Board will take appropriate disciplinary action against any coach, player or parent after an investigation of all facts and evidence surrounding an incident has been completed. A committee comprised of the club President, 1 Executive Director, and one coach will conduct all hearings and reviews. The committee will recommend to the Board the appropriate disciplinary actions to be handed out. The Board will meet and vote on the committee's report. At a minimum the following list of punishment will be imposed based on violations of the code of conduct:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Ejection from a game                       | Minimum one game suspension  |
| 2. Unsportsmanlike conduct                    | Minimum one game suspension  |
| 3. Profanity                                  | Minimum one game suspension  |
| 4. Threatening an official                    | Season suspension  |
| 5. Striking an official                       | indefinite suspension  |
| 6. Damaging an official's property            | indefinite suspension plus a report filed with Greenville County law enforcement |
| 7. Bringing alcohol or drugs into the complex | Season suspension  |
| 8. Fighting (players)                         | Minimum two game suspension  |
| 9. Fighting (coaches and fans)                | Season suspension  |
| 10. Repeat offender of minor violations       | Minimum three game suspension  |

**ARTICLE III.****Travel Teams****Section 1. Purpose of Travel Teams**

To provide a positive environment for the continuing development of players who demonstrate the necessary talent, commitment and good sportsmanship; and to develop teams that are competitive at the state, regional and national level.

The Club hereby states its intention to enter teams in the PMSL, SCSCCL and Region III Premier Leagues to further promote the training and competition levels for those players who excel in soccer.

It is the Club's intention to field minimum two (2) team per single age group Under 11 through 18. If there are enough players with ability to compete at the Premier, Challenge or Classic level to form additional teams in an age group the club will attempt to do so. The first team shall consist of the best players within that age category and the coach of the first team shall have preferential choice of the best players.

**A superior player who wishes to play up and out of his/her age group may do so only with the mutual consent of both Executive Directors of the club and his or her parents.** The best interest of the player and his/her development shall be the determining factor in considering any such request.

**Section 2. Coaches Advisory Board (CAB)**

- A. The Executive Directors will supervise all coaching related activities for the Club including but not limited to coaching selection, training, and conduct.
- B. The CAB will be a permanent committee comprised of the Executive Directors, the 4 age group coordinators, and the Director of Player Development.
- C. The CAB will be responsible to solicit, identify, interview and select head coaching candidates for each travel team. The Executive Directors shall make every effort to present the slate of the coaches to the Club Board of Directors for approval at the April board meeting.

**Section 3. Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers**

- A. The CAB will assign the Head Coach to a team.
- B. Coaches will be selected on criteria determined by the CAB Coaching Requirements Guidelines.
- C. The Head Coach should not be permitted to be the Head Coach of a team, which involves his or her son or daughter
- D. The Head Coach shall select assistant coaches and team managers. No team managers or assistant coaches will be selected from a pool of candidates whose children are involved in the try-out process of the team until after the team's players have been selected and notified.
- E. Team Managers shall be required to submit a summary Financial Statement following completion of the team's selection to the Classic Coordinator for review and approval. If the Classic coordinator has not received a Financial Statement by August 20th, the Board will take immediate and appropriate action up to and including possible replacement of the Team Manager.

**Section 4.**     *Player Eligibility*

Only those players who pay the registration fee established by the Board and who register properly prior to the season of play (August 1 through July 31) are eligible to play on the travel teams with the following exceptions:

- A)     Players of families moving into the Greenville County area
- B)     Players transferring from another Club or State organization (A Player Release Form must be signed by the player and player's parents or guardian and returned to the Club Registrar)

**Section 5.**     *Player Selection*

Each team's Head Coach will be solely responsible for selecting his or her team's players from among the outstanding players who are eligible (as prescribed above), on the basis of the prior seasons performance, tryouts observations, etc. Notice of selection to play on the team will be the responsibility of the Head Coach and will be handled according to guidelines set forth by the CAB.

**Section 6.**     *Replacements/Substitutions/Addition of Players*

Replacement, substitution or addition of players as the result of an injury, or otherwise will be made in accordance with the USYSA and SCYSA rules and regulations. For a valid transfer to take place a Player Release Form must be signed by the player and player's parents or guardian and returned to the Club Registrar.

**Section 7.**     *Play Time*

Players on a Travel teams are not guaranteed any amount of playing time. Substitutions during games are at the sole discretion of the Head Coach.

**Section 8.**     *Travel*

Games will be played both within South Carolina and outside of the state as scheduled by the Head Coach. The Head Coach is responsible to ensure the team travels with the proper forms as approved and required by SCYSA

**Section 9.**     *Costs*

Any funds provided from the Club's treasury shall require the consent and approval of the Board. Participants are to be made aware that extra costs can be substantial and are ultimately the player or player's parents' responsibility. Teams that advance to State ,Regional and National play will have their entry fees paid by the club. All other Tournament entry fees is the responsibility of the team

**Section 10.**    **Work Program (Scholarships)**

Those individuals requesting scholarship coverage must fill out a scholarship/financial aid form. The scholarship committee will approve or disapprove all scholarships and review them on a season /season basis. The forms will be turned into the Treasurer for record keeping and analysis of cost/value to the club. A report to the board of directors on all scholarships is required on a season-to-season basis. Applicants can also raise monies for paying dues through several of the clubs fund raising activities.

Should someone need additional aid then the Executive Directors of the club will handle such requests. The work program (Scholarships) will be available to all club members, however those families needing financial assistance will have priority in the program. Interested families will need to complete an application to be considered for the work program. Work program duties will include but not be limited to the following: field cleanup, field maintenance, referee CESA league, concessions, soccer shack, tournament volunteer, in kind volunteer work, and office assistance (as needed).

Families that are accepted in the program and then do not complete their assignments without prior coordination with the Executive Directors will result in the player's privilege being revoked. The family will need to re-apply in order for the player to be reinstated.

### **Section 11.**     *Uniforms*

Regular season Club uniforms (Jerseys, shorts and socks) will be purchased by each player and will be worn for all league and tournament games. All players (except Keepers) are expected to wear the "standard issue" red and or black uniforms while representing Carolina Elite Soccer Academy during the regulation game. The Head coach of each team may specify what color combinations of jersey, shorts and socks will be worn for a particular game. Failure of the team to wear club official uniform during games will result in the Head Coach been fined.

### **Section 12.**     *Practice*

Players who cannot attend regularly scheduled CESA practice sessions are asked not to accept a position on the team. Players who miss CESA practice(s) without good and acceptable cause may be dropped from the roster. Players may also be dropped because of disciplinary problems. Dropping a player from a team must be approved by the CAB and must comply with SCYSA Rules and Guidelines.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Section 1.**     *Coaches Conduct*

The conduct and attitude of the coaches shall at all times reflect the highest moral and sporting standards. Coaches are reminded that they are role models for our players and establish the values and behavior of their teams. Further, coaches are expected to always exhibit professional conduct in their dealings with game officials, opposing teams and fans. Coaches are, in fact, responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and supporters at any time CESA is being represented. All coaches will follow SCYSA rules regarding recruiting of players.

### **Section 2.**     *Player Conduct*

Players are expected to conduct themselves with honor and dignity. They are to control their tempers and resist the temptation to retaliate. Players are also expected to be fair no matter the cost or the result. All players are to be generous in victory and graceful in defeat. Lastly, players are expected to accept the decisions of your coach and the game officials. All players will follow SCYSA rules regarding recruiting of players.

### **Section 3.**     *Parent Conduct*

Parents and fans are responsible for their behavior; however, your coach will also suffer the consequences for your poor behavior. Parents and fans should never openly question the referee's judgement and must never question their honesty. You must always remember that the opponents are necessary friends. Without them, your child could not participate. Therefore, you must treat the opponent's coaches, players, parents and fans with respect. You are strongly encouraged to refrain from arguments with opposing coaches, players, parents and fans. Carolina Elite Soccer Academy is judged by your behavior as well as its coaches and players. All parents will follow SCYSA rules regarding recruiting of players.

### **Section 4.**     *Forms and Contracts*

All Coaches and Assistant coaches as well as any volunteers working with the Club must sign a Volunteer Disclosure Statement each year. All Travel Coaches shall sign a contract prior to current season. The Club Treasurer will issue a 1099 form at the end of each calendar year for monies paid to coaches and trainers.

All coaches and parents will sign a "Code of Conduct" form stating that you have read and that you understand the club's Rules and Regulations as well as the code of conduct

**Section 5.**      *Suspensions - Player or Coach*

- A.      A player suspended for one game for any reason shall be notified by his or her coach prior to the day of the game that the player will not play and should not attend the game in uniform.
- B.      Any player or coach who is suspended for any reason for more than one game shall meet with the Club's Sportsmanship Committee, in special session, to consider the matter and the appropriate course of action to be taken after full consideration of all the facts and circumstances.
- C.      A player or coach who habitually exhibits conduct or behavior not in keeping with "the spirit of the game" and defames the Club's reputation shall be subject to disciplinary action (including dismissal from the club).
- D.      Any fines handed down by the League due to coach or player having been ejection from a game shall be paid in full by the coach in question

**ARTICLE V**

**Fund Raising**

The Board shall coordinate the Club's fund raising activities. Travel teams may raise funds independently through methods approved by the Board specifically designated for their teams.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Amendments**

These rules and regulations will be reviewed annually by the Club's Board of Directors and any amendments will be made by a two-thirds vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board, duly held.