

## **SASA Youth Academy Player and Parent expectations**

Below are expectations that when signing up for the SASA Youth Academy both parents and players are expected to follow and abide by. Please note that this is not SASA Rec and should not be compared to rec, nor expected to be held to the same guidelines. This program is built to provide a more competitive playing and learning environment and is considered a step between Rec and club. Some of the things we are implementing will be to help prepare you for the club.

### **1) Players will attend most or all training and games.**

. We will be working on certain topics and elements that will build off each other week to week. When players miss this affects all players as extra time is needed to catch players up to speed which can impact the group as a whole. We understand that life happens and players will miss training or a game. Please note this is a bit more of a commitment than the Rec soccer program that SASA offers. Please note that when planning matches and training sessions having the appropriate numbers of players attending is crucial to the development of all players.

. Players should plan arrival no less than 15 minutes prior to the start of each training session or game with their gear on ready to go, not arriving at the fields then putting gear on at the last minute. We will start without those players and will not hold up the rest of the group.

### **2) Players will give effort and be respectful of peers and coaching staff**

. Players are expected to give effort at all training and games. The fact is that how you train is a direct result of how you will end up playing and progressing. When it comes to understanding and learning new things, and different aspects of soccer, a lazy attitude is not only detrimental to the individual player's progress, but can also affect the other players within that same environment. Each practice is prepared and planned to help illustrate certain themes or moments of the game. Good work ethic and effort will help recreate game-like speed and elements that are vital to learning and improving.

. Coaches also put time and effort into managing time, player numbers, and lesson plans. We ask that parents and players understand and respect that.

### **3) Players will bring all equipment to practice.**

SASA is not responsible to provide personal equipment for players. Players are expected to have the following items with them at all training and games. Club players typically have a "soccer bag" that they bring all their equipment with them to every event. This will be the same expectation for the Youth academy.

1. Soccer Specific cleats
2. Water or a drink
3. A soccer ball that is the correct size according to your players age group (size 4)
4. Shin Guards and socks that go over the shin guards
5. Goalie Gloves (if they play keeper)
6. Both SASA uniform tops
7. A positive attitude.

### **4) No foul language or bullying allowed.**

. Bullying of any form is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with on the spot. We do not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior towards other players.

We understand that young players can at times get frustrated with each other due to lack of effort or difference in skill level. We are working towards developing every player and not all players develop in the same way or on the same timeline. We also will not tolerate cussing or foul language. Please note that in the event players were ever to go on to play in higher leagues there are specific rules against foul language that we plan to adhere to as well. Please be sure to go over this with your player as this is the parents responsibility.

### **5) Communication**

**Player to coach communication** - If players are struggling to understand something or have issues of any kind during training, we ask them to please understand that communicating to their coach is key to resolving and improving the issues. We will do our best to provide a nurturing and welcoming environment to earn their trust.

**Parent to SASA staff communication** - In the event a player is going to miss a SASA Youth academy game or event they are expected to let their coaches know as soon as possible. You can also let the Youth Academy director know as well.

When speaking with the SASA staff via email, text, phone call, or in person please be respectful, and provide us with a timely notice asap or the morning of. In the event you are upset or dissatisfied with something we ask that you respect the 24 hour rule allowing you time to cool off before reaching out to voice concerns in person, email, phone call, or text message.

**Behavior issues** - Coaches will be instructed on how to properly handle this. In our experience we understand that sometimes there are reasons behind certain behaviors. We are not going to yell at players for their behavior or attention

issues but attempt to distract and redirect back to focusing on the game or training. In the event a coach is unable to get a handle on the situation the player will be expected to sit out away from the parents by themselves and the Youth Academy Director or the SASA Director will handle the issue. Please note our goal is to keep them engaged and not linger on behavior. In the event your player is asked to sit please do not go and talk with them until we have had a chance to attempt to get them back on track. Most times we find over involvement from parents in these moments are more hurtful than helpful.

## **6) Parent behavior and sideline behavior**

. **Training** - Parents are allowed to be present at training but asked not to coach. This is the most frustrating and distracting thing for coaches. Too many times do you see the coaches trying to get players to focus on certain things linked to recent games only for parents to over communicate and coach them from the sidelines. This also causes frustration for the players as well as they hear 2 different voices often telling them 2 different things. In the event this issue arises you will be asked to refrain from coaching and potentially leave the field for the duration of training. Also please do not sit directly on the sideline or the or on the field. When we play we will be as game-like as possible and will need the entire field.

**Games**- During games we encourage parents to cheer on their players. Please leave it at that no coaching.

. **Seating** - There will be a parents side of the field and a player side of the field and this will be enforced. Players and coaches will sit across the field from the spectators. This is how it will work at the club level and prevents the players from being distracted during a match.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FAMILY MEMBERS OR ADDITIONAL SPECTATORS THAT YOU INVITE TO ADHERE TO THESE RULES AS WELL.**

**NO SMOKING, DRINKING, VAPING, TABACO USE OF ANY KIND, OR ANY DRUGS OF ANY KIND.**