



GulfSouth Soccer Club Parent Expectations

Thank you for entrusting your child with GULFSOUTH Soccer Club. Parental support is of paramount importance to the foundation of the GULFSOUTH program.

To have a successful program, there must be mutual understanding, cooperation, open communication and shared expectations between parents, players, and coaches. We have a common goal, to develop skilled soccer players and to foster winning life-long skills well beyond the game. We look forward to this opportunity to work with you in concert to develop the full potential of each and every GULFSOUTH player.

With that in mind, the Parent is expected to:

- **Support GULFSOUTH Soccer Club's philosophy on youth development:** Understand and respect the different roles of parents, players and coaches.
- **Review the Player Duties and Responsibilities with your child:** Support their commitment to honor this important agreement. Encourage independence, individual discipline and personal responsibility. Please encourage your child to live a soccer lifestyle by becoming a dedicated student of the game, becoming informed on necessary rest, proper nutrition/hydration for competitive athletes.
- **Support the Coaches:** Allow the coach to run the team. A player develops best when he/she trusts and respects the coach. The coach's job is to motivate, teach, evaluate, and constructively criticize each player's performance. Please recognize that our coaches use their extensive experience to best develop each player. The Club's first concern is to the long-term development of your player's soccer skills under pressure, and there will be times when players are instructed to do things that parents do not understand. Please be aware that player and team development will sometimes be given a greater priority than winning.
- **Respect the coach's space during training sessions/games:** While you are welcome to attend training sessions/games as often as you like and are encouraged to observe your child and learn more about soccer, please disengage entirely from your child. They are in the care and under the supervision of the coach and their attention should be fully committed to the coach during these times. Attempting to coach or instruct your child from the sideline is distracting and counterproductive for the player. Parents are not allowed on the field during training sessions and games. If a coach requires your presence, he will let you know.
- **Represent the Club:** Please demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and be aware that we are making a valiant effort to have our players learn to respect authority and be disciplined in their efforts to advance in their development. Be a role model. No matter how good your intentions are, we insist that there will be no coaching or refereeing, shouting instructions, yelling, complaining, criticism or unfavorable remarks directed at your player, the team, the coach, the opponents, or the officials. The Club will not tolerate indiscretion, inappropriate language, and poor sportsmanship during training sessions, games, and tournaments. Soccer games are full of mistakes. Players, referees, and coaches will make mistakes. They are part of the game, and should be considered a good learning experience and help strengthen player development. Be positive and applaud good effort by your player's team as well as the opposing team. Set expectations for your player to work hard and do their personal best. Supply plenty of

unconditional support, encouragement and recognition. This will allow your player to be more confident, perform better in training and in competition and in life.

- **Communicate:** The Club will utilize parent volunteers as Team Managers to assist in the dissemination of non-player specific information and to share details regarding general Club policy, team specific training, and game information. In an effort to keep information consolidated and direct, the Team Manager will serve as a liaison between the coaches and players/parents. Team communication will be passed through a Team App. Please keep your contact information current and notify the Team Manager with any changes or modifications. If you need information or wish to ask questions concerning team management, please contact the Team Manger first to obtain the required information. The Team Manager will arrange a meeting with the coach as necessary, or as requested. Concerns or criticisms are welcome, but should be directed to the coach specifically and at the appropriate time, away from other players/parents, and apart from training sessions and games. Please allow a 24 hour “cool down” period before contacting the Team Manager or Coach with any controversial issues.
- **Practice Good Attendance and Punctuality:** Training sessions and games are mandatory. Provide notice to the Team manager if you anticipate that your child will be absent or tardy for training sessions and games.
- **Please fulfill your financial commitments with regard to Club participation.** Remain in good standing by staying current on registration dues and any extra tournament fees.