

Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club

Academy Player Code of Conduct and Expectations



Welcome to Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club and Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority! We are happy to have you in our Club and look forward to helping you become the best soccer player you can be. To assist in our mission of strong player development, it is important that you understand the expectations and standards required of each member of TUSC. It is vitally important that you follow these standards in a timely and responsible fashion so that every player's experience in our Club is as positive and enjoyable as possible. Please read the following very carefully so you can understand what is expected.

1. Behavior

All players for the Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club must act with the utmost respect to all individuals while involved in Club activities. Behaving in a violent, or abusive manner (physically or verbally) towards anyone while representing the Club will not be tolerated. Possible suspension and dismissal from the Club may result for any individual who behaves in this manner. Please understand that negative behavior reflects badly not only on the individual in question, but also on the team, the coach, the manager, and the Club's reputation. The Club will not allow its reputation to be tarnished by anyone. Please act according to these standards.

2. Commitment to Excellence

Academy teams provide the talented youth soccer players of Alabama a great competitive environment. To be part of this excellent group requires an incredible amount of time, dedication, and a commitment to the development of each soccer player as they learn to play on a team. For player development, the Club expects the following from each player:

- Be dedicated to becoming the best soccer player that you can physically be.
- Be coachable by listening to and implementing your coach's instructions quickly and effectively. Ask questions of the coach if you do not understand the instructions.
- Be an unselfish team player who puts the team's needs first, before your own. Your team will be more successful if all the players play together. Try to make your teammates look good.
- Be committed to practicing on your own to help develop your soccer abilities. Ask your coach for extra material that you can do on your own at home.
- Be a good example to younger players.

3. Practice and Games

Each player is expected to adhere to the following guidelines regarding practice sessions and games:

- Participation in every practice and game is mandatory. Excused absences, for academics, illness or other reasons must be approved by the coach.
- Arrive at practice before the scheduled practice time so that practice may start on time. Be at games before the scheduled arrival time so that warm up may start on time.
- Notify both the coach and your team manager of any absences from practices and or games due to illness or injury as soon as possible. If the illness or injury is serious, see a doctor as soon as possible. Your team needs you at full strength as quickly as possible so, always take care of your health. Also, keep your coach informed of your rehabilitation and expected date of return to full fitness.

4. Equipment Responsibilities

Practice – Each player must have the following at every practice – all items are mandatory:

- Ball: Properly inflated, this is essential!
- Shin guards: Mandatory at every practice!
- Gray training jersey, black shorts, and black socks
- Soccer Cleats
- Water Bottle

Games – Each player must have all the above at every game in addition to the game uniforms. Always bring both game uniforms to each game in case we must make a change.

5. Playing Time

Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club is dedicated to the development of the soccer player. In fact, the Academy was created to increase the focus on development, not wins and losses. We coach to win; however, our goal is a minimum of 50% playing time for each player. The coaching staff will provide sufficient playing time over the length of a season, but not necessarily the same amount of time in each game. Please understand that there are frequently circumstances that affect the amount of playing time a player gets in a game. For example, a coach may ask a ten year old to get in the game and for some reason, that player does not want to go right then or play that position or put down their snack, etc. All substitutions are at the discretion of the coaching staff of each team. That said, each player must be aware that the following will affect their playing time:

- Behavior – This includes but is not limited to, abusive behavior to the sidelines, coaches, players or fans
- Missing practices and games
- Not being coachable, a lack of hard work or dedication or a lack of desire to become a better soccer player

These are the expectations asked of every soccer player in the Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club so everyone can enjoy their experience while a member. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director at bspitzer@tcpara.org. TUSC coaches and staff are looking forward to helping you develop your soccer skills and abilities over the coming years! By working together, we will assist you in realizing your soccer goals!

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