

Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club

Competitive 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) toward 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. Yellow and Red Card infractions will also be monitored by the Executive Director and consistent offenders put themselves at risk of suspension and dismissal. 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

Division I and II teams provide the talented youth soccer players of Alabama the best competitive environment in and around our state. To be part of this elite group of soccer players requires an incredible amount of time, dedication, and a commitment to excellence. To reach this level of excellence, the Club requires all players to be dedicated to producing a high quality, game intensive practice environment so their practice sessions will develop them to play at game speed. To this end, the following is expected 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. Arrive at games before the scheduled arrival time so that warm up may start on time. The determination of arrival time for games is at the discretion of each coach and may differ from team to team depending on his or her preferences for preparation and warm up.

- 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, yet, at the Competitive Soccer level, it is the responsibility of the coaching staff to provide playing time without sacrificing the ability to win the game. The coaching staff will provide adequate playing time over the length of a season, but not necessarily the same amount of time in each game. For example, a reserve player may not play a single minute in a final game, while starting and playing an entire game when the opponent is anticipated as weak. All substitutions are at the discretion of the coaching staff of each team. 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, or a lack of hard work or dedication, or a lack of desire to become a better soccer player
- Consistent red or yellow card offenders will have their playing time reduced at the discretion of the coach

These are the expectations asked of every soccer player in the Tuscaloosa United Soccer Club so everyone can enjoy their experience while a member. 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! If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director at bspitzer@tpara.org.

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