



## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF PARENTS

Parents, there are some specific expectations of you within the Synergy organization, as well as for your children.

1. Volunteer to help with either team or club activities. Assistance is needed with try-outs, registration, team or club events, uniforms and spirit wear, publicity, team or club administration, and field maintenance, to name a few. Offer your skills and services to your team or to the organization as a whole.
2. Assist your child in keeping his/her soccer gear in good order and ready to use. Each player will need soccer shoes and shin guards which fit well, a soccer bag, and their alternate jersey in his/her bag at all times. Each player will need to have adequate clothing for cold weather and a water bottle at all games and practices. In addition, each player should have a properly inflated and sized ball at home for practicing. Each child should bring a soccer ball to practice, unless instructed differently by your coach or trainer.
3. We are all dependent on parents for punctual drop-off and pick-up from games and practices, as well as notifying the team coach in the event of any absence, planned or unplanned, or an injury which affects your child.
4. Please offer support and encouragement to your child at all times. Please do not critique your child, coach them, or criticize them. The skills learned in soccer are many and they generally take time to acquire and develop fully. Players are not assessed on goals scored or speed alone, but also on team play, attitude, and enthusiasm for the game. Remember, too, that Synergy Soccer Club asks parents not to yell, scream or “coach” from the sidelines. We ask parents to watch, cheer for the team, and enjoy the game.
5. Club fees are collected for each player. The fees are set for each team/age level and include designated items that are provided by the Club for all players on that team. Club fees relate to an entire soccer year (July 1 – June 30). In the event that a player becomes unable to play due to injury or for some other reason, the fees are not prorated for that player.
6. Please pay your bills on time. This is very important. No one should need to be reminded to pay. It is club policy that all players are required to be current with all payments unless other arrangements are made in advance. In addition, should a check be returned for insufficient funds, any fees charged to the club by the bank, will be charged back to the family as an additional charge that must be paid by the family.
7. Please be respectful of your team coach, assistant coach, team manager and trainers at all times. In addition, parents and other family members are expected to remain positive with all comments to other parents or players or members of opposing teams. We need to all remember that we represent Synergy Soccer Club in both our actions and our words.
8. Parents and any other spectators are bound by the Synergy Soccer Club “Zero Tolerance” Policy. Parents are expected to read and be familiar with this policy and to make sure that all spectators accompanying parents are aware of and abide by this policy. Parents should also discuss and explain this policy with/to their children.
9. This is your club ... take ownership of it and pride in it. It can be as good as you make it.

### MISSION:

Synergy Soccer Club was founded in 2009 as an organization dedicated to the physical and mental development of high-level youth soccer players in a fun and competitive environment.

### PHILOSOPHY:

#### U8-U12

Synergy Soccer Club emphasizes the technical development of young players whose great fundamental ability will allow each player to be successful in any system of play. Our strong commitment to develop highly skilled and confident young players will translate into more success, and therefore, fun later in the playing careers of our players.

#### U13-U18

Synergy Soccer Club develops premier level teams for dedicated soccer players, particularly those looking to play in college and beyond. The devoted training staff continues to emphasize individual player development, with an increasing focus on tactical team awareness. We also strive to educate our players in the areas of work ethic, teamwork, and goal-setting.

## **CLUB EXPECTATIONS**

### **GAMES**

The fall season league games generally start the weekend after Labor Day and run for 10 weeks. The spring soccer season generally begins the first or second weekend in April and runs for 8 to 10 weeks. Each team will also play one indoor session during the winter. Teams play their regularly scheduled fall and spring games on Saturdays and Sundays, typically between the hours of 9AM and 5PM. Make-up games can be played on Saturdays or on weekday evenings, with the agreement of both teams. Half of the league games are “home” games and the other half are “away” games. Winter indoor games are played at a local indoor facility with game days/times varying with the league and facility selected for your team.

### **PRACTICES**

Practices will generally begin two to four weeks prior to the start of the fall and spring playing seasons. Each team will practice two or three times a week (based on age level). During the summer, teams may either have scheduled practice times or will have options for summer soccer camps hosted by our trainers. During the winter, teams will have indoor practice at least one day per week for a portion of the winter.

### **COMMITMENT**

The higher level of commitment required of traveling players and parents includes the expectation that all players are to attend all practices and games. Late arrival to or absence from a game, as well as missed practices, prevent the team from playing at the team’s best. Please be aware that traveling soccer cannot be a casual commitment and that attendance is one of the most crucial ingredients to developing a successful team.

### **TEAM GUIDELINES**

1. Attendance at all practices and games is critical to the development of the individual player and to the team as a whole. As such, the following apply:
  - Players are expected to attend all practices and games.
  - Players are expected to arrive on time, dressed appropriately and prepared to play. Players are expected to arrive on the field 30 minutes prior to game start time (home or away game), unless otherwise set by your coach.
  - It is the responsibility of the player and his/her parents to notify the coach in advance if they are unable to attend a game or practice.
2. Players master new skills and playing strategies at different rates and player confidence usually increases with these masteries. Practice at home is critical to the development of the player’s potential. Please encourage your child to learn and understand the various skills and strategies taught by their coaches and trainers. Coaches will make decisions when, where, and if players play in games. This is a competitive league and all players may not have equal playing time, particularly as the teams move up in age and ability level. Parents should encourage the players to practice and continue to try hard in order to increase their playing time, not to get discouraged.
3. During games, the teams are designated one side of the field and the parents are designated the other. This separation should exist the entire game, including pre-game and post-game activities.
4. Parents are requested not to yell from the sidelines. They are asked to remain quiet, cheering when appropriate, never coaching. They are asked not to direct the players in any way. It is important that the players be able to listen to their trainers, coaches, and teammates. Coaches should not have to yell to be heard over the parents. Please watch and enjoy the game, while allowing the team to play and listen to each other and their coaches.
5. Under no circumstances may any parent direct comments to the referee. There will be times when the referee’s calls will not seem fair to our team. Any unfairness can be addressed by our coaches in their referee evaluation card, which can be completed at the end of every game. Coaches, parents, and players must respect the role of the referees and the calls they make. Under no circumstances may a parent enter into discussion with a referee about a call they make.
6. The coaches and trainers are positive role models for the players. They have responsibility for the physical and mental development of all the players. Under no circumstances will the coaches or parents enter into discussions about coaching decisions.
7. Each team will have a team coach, an assistant coach, and a team manager, as well as a trainer. Team meetings are encouraged for team strengthening, information sharing, and social purposes.
8. Players are provided with an alternate jersey as part of their uniform. This numbered jersey is to be kept in the player’s backpack or sports bag and available at all times. In the event of a uniform color conflict, Synergy players are expected to always have both jerseys with them.
9. At the discretion of the coach and trainer, teams will participate in tournaments locally and tournaments that may require travel and overnight stay. This information will be communicated to parents as soon as any potential tournament dates are identified.
10. For the late-fall and winter season, players will play in an indoor league and attend weekly training. Generally, Synergy youth teams (U8 – U14) play in the January-March indoor session, which includes about 10-12 weeks of play. High-school aged teams (U15 – U18) will play in a league that runs from November-February, which includes about 11-13 weeks of play.
11. All players, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and trainers are bound by the Synergy Soccer Club “Zero Tolerance” Policy. Coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and trainers are responsible for knowing, following and enforcing this policy with your players.



## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

Synergy Soccer Club fully endorses and supports good sportsmanship and fair play. Furthermore, Synergy Soccer Club seeks to provide its players, referees, parents, and fans with a healthy, educational, and supportive environment. Due to the increase of abusive and intimidating behavior towards referees and in too many cases, our youth referees, we have adopted a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**.

Coaches, players, parents and all members of the Synergy Soccer Club community shall maintain a respectful attitude to the referee at all times. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and may potentially create a hostile environment for the players, coaches, spectators, and the referee.

It is the responsibility of ALL coaches, players, and parents to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves and those associated with Synergy Soccer Club. Abusive, confrontational, and/or obscene language; violent play or conduct; and other detrimental behavior will not be tolerated. Synergy Soccer Club requires its coaches, players, and parents to uphold their responsibility for respecting the referee prior to, during, and after the game, both at the field and in the surrounding areas.

No player or parent is to address the referee or make comments on or about a referee's call or non-call while present at any Synergy Soccer Club game (home or away).

### **COACHES/PARENTS**

Coaches for Synergy Soccer Club will treat all players with respect and professionalism. No coach is ever to give instruction to his/her player that would intentionally bring harm to an opponent, nor will the club tolerate berating, insulting, use of profanity or physical contact with regard to any of his/her players. Any of these will be considered extremely serious and may result in immediate removal from the club.

Furthermore, parents and coaches are to treat each other with respect at all times. Negative, condescending or insulting remarks will not be tolerated at any time and may result in dismissal or removal from participation in all future events.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NON-ADHERENCE TO ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

Failure to comply with Synergy Soccer Club Policy will be reviewed by Synergy Soccer Club and may result in additional sanctions upon the offending individual(s) including:

1. Suspension or dismissal of coach or player from team
2. Banishment of the offender from participation and/or attendance at events
3. Banishment of offender's family from participation in or attendance at events

### **FOR THE PLAYERS**

Coaches and parents are reminded that Synergy Soccer Club was designed for the children. It is important to remember that children are impressionable, and the example of how the club conducts itself may have a lasting effect. Please help Synergy Soccer Club act as a model for our players, the referees, and opposing clubs of which we can all be proud.